



EUROPEAN UNION

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**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 928
Vienna, 1 November 2012**

EU statement on the death penalty in the USA

It is with deep regret that the European Union has learnt that the execution of Mr Garry Allen is set to be carried out in the State of Oklahoma on 6 November, 2012.

There is evidence to suggest that Mr Allen has suffered from a lifelong series of serious mental health issues including a personality disorder related to schizophrenia.

The EU strongly believes that the execution of persons suffering from a mental disorder is contrary to widely accepted human rights norms set out in several international instruments.

The EU opposes the use of capital punishment in all cases and under all circumstances, and calls for a global moratorium as a first step towards its universal abolition, in line with resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007, 2008 and 2010.

We further urge all States maintaining the death penalty not to impose it on a person suffering from any form of mental disorder or to execute any such person.

The EU recognizes the serious nature of the crimes involved, and wishes to express its sincere sympathy to the surviving family and friends of the victim. However, the European Union does not believe that the use of the death penalty can ever be justified.

While we are aware of the suffering of the victims of violent crime, we recall that, with capital punishment, any miscarriage of justice, from which no legal system is immune, represents an irreversible loss of human life. Furthermore, no reliable evidence supports the argument that the death penalty is a deterrent to serious crime.

The EU believes that the abolition of the death penalty is essential to protect human dignity and to the progressive development of human rights. While the EU fully respects the democratic process of other countries, the concern for human integrity and human dignity, which has inspired us to abolish capital punishment, obviously applies to all human beings.

The EU recalls its full support to the United Nations General Assembly resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty, which will be considered during its current session, and calls upon participating States of the OSCE to support it.

Taking these factors into account, the EU urges the appropriate authorities in the State of Oklahoma to grant Mr Allen relief from the death penalty.

The EU trusts that the Government of the United States of America will ensure that the appropriate authorities in State of Oklahoma will be informed of this statement.

The Acceding Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland+ and Serbia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.