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Delegation of Spain

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN
AT THE 966th MEETING OF THE OSCE PERMANENT COUNCIL**

10 October 2013

Regarding the European and World Day Against the Death Penalty

Mr. Chairperson,

Spain fully subscribes to the statement read out by the delegation of the European Union on the occasion of the European and World Day Against the Death Penalty.

At the national level, I am pleased to report that the Government of Spain has also approved a statement in this regard, in addition to having promoted, as you know, the recent holding in Madrid of the 5th World Congress Against the Death Penalty in June 2013.

The abolition of the death penalty is a priority for Spain's foreign policy in the field of human rights. In recent years, Spain's firm stance against the death penalty has been reflected in the establishment of and support for the International Commission against the Death Penalty.

In its statement, the Government "reiterates its opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances, regardless of the crime committed. It considers the death penalty to be a cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, which not only entails serious violations of human rights, but also has no proven deterrent effects on criminal behaviour and causes irreparable harm in the event of judicial error. Spain is part of a broad coalition of States which have promoted the adoption of United Nations resolutions in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012 calling for a worldwide moratorium on the application of the death penalty. The support embodied in these resolutions, with 111 votes in favour of the last resolution, of 20 December 2012, confirms the ever-widening international trend against the death penalty. Of the 193 United Nations Member States, 150 have abolished capital punishment or introduced a moratorium on executions."

The recent Madrid Congress demonstrated this global trend in favour of abolishing the death penalty. The OSCE also clearly supports this assertion, as we saw in Warsaw last week.

The Council of Europe played a key role in ensuring that, with a single exception, Europe today is free of capital punishment. We are very pleased that the death penalty debate is receiving growing attention from the OSCE, and we hope that it will contribute to our final goal – the abolition of the death penalty by all participating States.