



PC.DEL/887/10  
9 September 2010

ENGLISH only

## EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 828  
Vienna, 9 September 2010**

### **EU statement on the death penalty in the United States**

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The EU is of the firm view that states that have not as yet abolished the use of capital punishment should not impose this punishment when a de facto moratorium has been in place for an extended period.

It is therefore with deep regret that the EU has learned that an execution is set to be carried out in the State of California on 29 September 2010. The execution of Mr Albert Greenwood Brown would break the de facto moratorium in the State of California, where the last execution took place in January 2006. The EU particularly regrets that Mr Albert Greenwood Brown is scheduled to be executed after nearly 30 years on death row.

The EU opposes the use of capital punishment in all cases and under all circumstances. We recall the resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 18 December 2007 and on 18 December 2008, which expressly call upon all states that still maintain the death penalty to establish a moratorium as a first step towards abolishing the death penalty.

While we are aware of the suffering of the victims of violent crime and their families, we recall that, with capital punishment, any miscarriage of justice, from which no legal system is immune, represents an irreversible loss of human life. The EU believes that the abolition of the death penalty is essential to protect

human dignity and to the progressive development of human rights. The EU considers capital punishment cruel and inhuman. Furthermore, it has not been found to act as a deterrent. 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.

Taking account of these factors, the EU calls upon the appropriate authorities in the State of California to continue the moratorium on executions and urges them to grant Mr Brown relief from the death penalty.

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

The candidate countries TURKEY, CROATIA\*, the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\* and ICELAND, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries ALBANIA, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO and SERBIA, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, AZERBAIJAN and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

\*Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.