



**PERMANENT DELEGATION
OF NORWAY TO THE OSCE**

STATEMENT ON CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN THE BELARUS

As delivered by Ambassador Robert Kvile
to the Permanent Council
Vienna, 12 May 2016

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

I am also speaking on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Mongolia, San Marino and Switzerland.

We strongly condemn the execution of Mr Syarhey Iwanow in Belarus. We particularly regret the fact that he was executed while his case was pending with the UN Human Rights Committee.

Another death sentence, against Mr Sergei Khmelevsky, has been confirmed.

Mr. Chairman,

Death penalty undermines human dignity. Our countries oppose the death penalty in all cases and without exceptions, and we are constantly calling for its abolition. Capital punishment is not a deterrent against crime and makes miscarriage of justice irreversible.

Mr. Chairman,

In the international community there is an increasing support for the view that the death penalty constitutes a violation of the prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment.

We strongly urge all OSCE participating States to jointly close the chapter on the death penalty in our region.

Mr Chairman,

Norway will be hosting the sixth World Congress Against the Death Penalty in Oslo in June this year. The objective of the Congress will be open and constructive discussions on various aspects of the death penalty. We hope Belarus will accept the invitation to participate.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.