



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council No 1198 Vienna, 18 October 2018

EU statement on the abolition of the death penalty in Washington State, USA

The European Union warmly welcomes the fact that on 11 October, the Supreme Court of the US State of Washington ruled to ban the death penalty, bringing the number of US States that have now abolished the capital punishment to twenty.

The EU strongly hopes that this decision will further encourage other US States and the US Federal Government to follow this growing national and global movement towards abolition.

The EU again reaffirms its strong and unequivocal opposition to the use of the death penalty at all times and in all circumstances. The death penalty is cruel, inhuman and degrading in nature and makes any miscarriage of justice irreversible and fatal. Furthermore, the death penalty does not have any proven deterrent effect.

The EU will continue its long-standing campaign against the death penalty, including within the OSCE. We call on those participating states that maintain the death penalty in law and in practice, as well as on relevant OSCE Partners for Cooperation, to introduce a moratorium on executions as a first step towards full abolition.

Thank you.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.