



## United States Mission to the OSCE

### **Response to the EU statement on Oregon's *de facto* moratorium on the death penalty**

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
December 1, 2011

We note the European Union's commendation to Oregon's Governor John Kitzhaber for introducing a *de facto* moratorium on the death penalty in his state. We are aware of the EU's concern regarding the use of the death penalty in the United States.

We reiterate that use of the death penalty in the United States is authorized by democratically elected governments at the federal and individual state levels, and that its use is not prohibited by international law. The imposition of the death penalty, in appropriate circumstances, has been upheld by the United States Supreme Court.

The death penalty continues to be the subject of open discussion among the American people. We note the actions of the Oregon governor within the context of this broader debate.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.