



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1000 Vienna, 15 May 2014

EU Statement on the Death Penalty in Belarus

The European Union would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the statement of the Spokesperson of the High Representative on 14 May:

"We strongly condemn the recent execution of Hryhoriy Yuzepchuk, who was sentenced to death in April 2013. This is already the second execution of death penalty in Belarus this year.

We are conscious of the serious nature of the crimes for which he was convicted. The European Union opposes capital punishment as it cannot be justified under any circumstances. The death penalty is a cruel and inhuman punishment, which fails to act as a deterrent and represents an unacceptable denial of human dignity and integrity.

We urge Belarus, the only country in Europe still applying capital punishment, to join a global moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards its universal abolition."

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

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

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.