



PC.DEL/239/11

17 March 2011

ENGLISH only

EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 854
Vienna, 17 March 2011**

Declaration by EU High Representative on behalf of EU on the abolition of the death penalty in the state of Illinois, USA

The EU would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the 'Declaration by the EU High Representative on behalf of the European Union on the abolition of the death penalty in the state of Illinois, USA', issued on 11 March:

“The European Union warmly welcomes the signing by Governor Patrick Quinn on 9 March 2011 of the legislation abolishing the death penalty in the State of Illinois.

The European Union congratulates the Governor and the Illinois State Legislature on this historic decision, making Illinois the 16th state in the United States to end the death penalty.

The European Union strongly hopes that this decision will encourage other US States to follow suit in joining the growing national and worldwide movement towards the abolition of the use of capital punishment.

The European Union considers that the abolition of the death penalty contributes to the enhancement of human dignity and the progressive development of human rights.

The European Union reaffirms its objective of working towards the universal abolition of the death penalty.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro* and Iceland+, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro 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.”