

Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

**Permanent Council No. 613
15 June 2006**

EU Statement on Death Penalty in the USA

1. The EU reiterates its longstanding and firm opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances.
2. We remain particularly concerned by the imposition of the death penalty in cases of persons suffering from mental or intellectual disabilities and consider this practise contrary to widely accepted human rights norms. We urge states not to impose the death penalty in such cases.
3. We wish to express our concern about two imminent cases of execution in the United States of persons suffering from mental illness. The EU has learned that Mr. Angel Resendiz, who has been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia, is to be executed in the State of Texas on 27 June this year. We appeal to the appropriate authorities in the State of Texas to grant Mr. Resendiz relief from his death penalty.
4. The EU is equally concerned that Mr. Paul Reid, who has been diagnosed with chronic paranoid schizophrenia as well as a cognitive disorder, is to be executed in the State of Tennessee on 28 June this year. We appeal to the appropriate authorities in the State of Tennessee to grant Mr. Reid relief from his death penalty.
5. The EU trusts that the appropriate authorities in Texas and Tennessee will be informed of this statement.

The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia ¹ and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, EFTA countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

¹ Croatia and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process