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Présidence française du Conseil de l'Union Européenne

**Conseil Permanent No. 733
18 septembre 2008**

EU statement on the death penalty in the USA (Mr Davis' and Mr. Alderman's cases)

The EU opposes the death penalty in all circumstances and calls for a global moratorium on its use as a first step, in line with the resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 2007.

The EU has learned with deep regret that Mr. Troy Davis is scheduled to be executed in the State of Georgia on September 23. The EU, like many others, had urged the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles to commute Mr. Davis' sentence to life imprisonment. However, at its meeting on September 12, the Board decided to deny clemency to Mr. Davis.

Convinced that, throughout the proceedings, many serious doubts were raised on his culpability and recalling that any miscarriage of justice in the application of the death penalty represents an irreparable and irreversible loss of human life, European public opinion and members of the European Parliament in a resolution dated July 10, 2008 have solemnly called on the competent American authorities not to execute Mr. Troy Davis and to grant him a retrial.

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The EU reiterates its urgent appeal to the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles to commute Mr. Davis' death sentence and to the relevant courts to grant him a retrial.

The EU has also learned with deep regret that Mr. Jack Alderman was executed in the State of Georgia on September 16. Where States insist on maintaining the death penalty, it should be based upon clear and convincing evidence. The EU has noted that various groups had raised grave concerns over Mr. Alderman's conviction. We particularly regret that Mr. Alderman was executed after 33 years on death row, in conditions of anguish and uncertainty.

While the EU is aware of the suffering of victims of violent crime and their families, we believe that the abolition of the death penalty is fundamental to the progressive development of human rights.

The EU trusts that the government of the United States of America will ensure that the competent authorities be informed of this statement.

La Turquie, la Croatie* et l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine*, pays candidats ; l'Albanie, la Bosnie - Herzégovine, le Monténégro et la Serbie, pays du processus de stabilisation et d'association et candidats potentiels ; l'Islande et le Liechtenstein, pays de l'Association Européenne de libre-échange et membres de l'Espace économique européen ; ainsi que la République de Moldavie, l'Arménie et l'Azerbaïdjan se rallient à cette déclaration.

*La Croatie et l'ancienne République yougoslave de Macédoine continuent à participer au processus de stabilisation et d'association.

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