



PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF PORTUGAL
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Statement of the European Union on the establishment of a European Day against Death Penalty

On 7 December 2007, European Union Justice Ministers approved, by unanimity, the establishment of a European Day against the Death Penalty. From 2008, October 10 will be remembered all over Europe as a day that symbolises the defence of human rights and the need for a more humane justice.

The EU is firmly opposed to the death penalty in all cases, and with the establishment of a European Day against the Death Penalty is showing its firm resolve and commitment to continue promoting its universal abolition. The European Union wishes to see the death penalty abolished in law and in practice in every country in the world, including in those OSCE participating States where it is still applied. The EU welcomes the final abolition of the death penalty in Kyrgyzstan this year. The abolition of the death penalty contributes to the protection, promotion and enhancement of human dignity. The death penalty provides no added value in terms of deterrence and any miscarriage of justice would be irreversible.

The EU recalls that, in the framework of a cross regional alliance, it has introduced a resolution on a moratorium and the abolition of the death penalty at the 62nd United Nations General Assembly.

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

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.