

**EUROPEAN UNION****OSCE Permanent Council No 994
Vienna, 10 April 2014**

EU Statement on the execution of Ramiro Hernández Llanas

The European Union would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the statement of High Representative Ashton of this morning on the execution of Ramiro Hernández Llanas.

“I was deep regret that I learnt that Mr Ramiro Hernández Llanas was executed in the State of Texas on 9 April 2014. The European Union had called for the commutation of his sentence out of concern as regards his mental competence at the time of his offence.

I recognise the serious nature of the crimes involved and express my sincere sympathy to the surviving family and friends of the victim. However, the European Union is opposed to the use of capital punishment in all cases and under any circumstances, based on the conviction that the death penalty is cruel, inhumane and irreversible, and its abolition is essential to protect human dignity. In particular, the execution of people with mental disorders, including limited mental competence, is contrary to widely accepted human rights norms and is in contradiction to the minimum standards of human rights set forth in several international human rights instruments.”

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 the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, MONACO 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.