



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1070 Vienna, 8 October 2015

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#### **EU Statement on the death penalty in the USA**

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It is with deep regret that the European Union learnt of the execution of Alfredo Prieto on 1 October 2015 in the US State of Virginia, which was carried out despite indications that he was suffering from a mental disability. Executing persons with intellectual disabilities or mental illnesses is contrary to widely accepted human rights norms and to the minimum standards set forth in several international human rights instruments, as well as being prohibited by the US Constitution. We regret that the numerous calls for clemency, including from the European Union, went unheeded.

We recognise the seriousness of the crimes involved and extend our sympathy to the families and friends of the victims.

The European Union is opposed to the use of capital punishment under all circumstances and aims at its universal abolition, seeking a global moratorium as a first step.

We are encouraged by the growing momentum towards abolition worldwide, and we welcome the adoption of a resolution on the question of the death penalty at the UN Human Rights Council on 1 October.

We also welcome the US Delegation's intention, as stated in its closing statement at HDIM, to invite a non-governmental expert to come to Vienna to share perspectives on the use of the death penalty. We look forward to continuing these discussions in the OSCE.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA\*, MONTENEGRO\* and ALBANIA\*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

\* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.