



**EUROPEAN UNION**

**OSCE Permanent Council No 1145  
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**EU statement on the Execution in Belarus of Siarhei  
Vostrykau**

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Yet another execution has taken place in Belarus: that of Siarhei Vostrykau. The European Union again reaffirms its strong opposition to capital punishment in all circumstances. The death penalty constitutes inhuman and degrading treatment, does not have any proven significant deterrent effect, and allows judicial errors to become irreversible and fatal.

The continued application of the death penalty runs counter to Belarus' stated willingness to engage with the international community, including the European Union and the UN special rapporteur Miklos Haraszti, on the matter and to consider the introduction of a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. We also echo ODIHR Director Michael Link's concerns about the secrecy surrounding executions in Belarus.

The European Union again urges Belarus, the only country in Europe still applying capital punishment, to commute the remaining death sentences. We call on the OSCE participating States that still apply the death penalty to introduce without delay a moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards its abolition.

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

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