



EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 982
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EU Statement on the Death Penalty in the USA

It is with deep regret that the European Union has learned that Mr Edgar Tamayo Arias was executed on 22 January in the State of Texas. The following day, on the 23rd of January, the EU High Representative, Catherine Ashton, issued the following statement:

“Although Mr Tamayo was a Mexican citizen, the Texas authorities failed to notify him of his right to contact a Mexican consulate at the time of his arrest, as required by the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. The execution of Mr Tamayo Arias, before receiving the remedy to which he was entitled, is a breach of an undisputed international obligation.

I recognise the serious nature of the crime involved and express my sincere sympathy to the 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. The death penalty is cruel, inhumane and irreversible, and its abolition essential to protect human dignity.”

Likewise, it is with deep regret that the European Union has learned that Mr Dennis McGuire was executed on 16 January in the US State of Ohio. We are particularly disturbed by reports indicating that Mr McGuire was killed by a lethal injection, which contained a new combination of drugs that caused suffering.

The European Union holds a strong and principled position against the death penalty; its abolition is a key objective for the Union’s human rights policy. We reiterate our call for a global moratorium as a first step towards universal abolition of the death penalty in line with resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012.

The European Union trusts that the Government of the United States will ensure that the appropriate state authorities in Ohio and Texas will be informed of this statement.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and SERBIA*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidates ALBANIA and BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country NORWAY, a member of the European Economic Area, as well as the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA 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.