



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council Nr 1024 Vienna, 6 November 2014

EU Statement on the Death Penalty in Belarus

The European Union strongly condemns the recent execution of Aliaksandr Hrunou, who was sentenced to death by the Supreme Court of Belarus in April 2014. This is the third execution to take place in Belarus this year.

We are conscious of the serious nature of the crimes for which Mr Hrunou was convicted. Nevertheless, the European Union opposes capital punishment as it cannot be justified under any circumstances. The death penalty is a cruel and inhumane punishment, which fails to act as a deterrent and represents an unacceptable denial of human dignity and integrity.

We urge Belarus, the only country in Europe still applying capital punishment, to join a global moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards its universal abolition.

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, ICELAND+, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA and SAN MARINO 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.

+ Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.