

Spanish Presidency of the European Union

**OSCE Permanent Council No. 798
Vienna, 18th March 2010**

Declaration by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on behalf of the EU on the parliamentary and presidential approval of the Kyrgyz law on accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR on the abolition of the death penalty

The European Union would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the “Declaration by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on behalf of the EU on the parliamentary and presidential approval of the Kyrgyz law on accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the abolition of the death penalty”. The Declaration, issued on 17 March 2010, includes the list of countries that aligned themselves with it in Brussels:

“The European Union welcomes the parliamentary and presidential approval of the Kyrgyz law on accession to the 1989 Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the abolition of the death penalty on 11 February 2010. The European Union congratulates the Kyrgyz Republic for reinforcing the country’s commitment not to use the death penalty. In 2007, the Kyrgyz Republic abolished the death penalty by

enshrining abolition in the Constitution. By the law on humanisation of the criminal legislation of 25 June 2008, the death penalty was excluded from the Criminal Code and replaced by life imprisonment.

The European Union reaffirms its objective of working towards universal abolition of the death penalty. It hopes the accession to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights by the Kyrgyz Republic might encourage other countries to follow suit so that abolition becomes even more secure.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this declaration.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process”.