

## Spanish Presidency of the European Union

**OSCE Permanent Council No. 806**  
**Vienna, 22 April 2010**

### **EU statement on the death penalty in the United States**

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The EU opposes death penalty in all cases and under all circumstances and calls for a global moratorium as a first step towards its universal abolition, in line with resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 18 December 2007 and on 18 December 2008.

The European Union takes note of the recommendation for clemency of 25 March 2010 by the Oklahoma Pardon and Paroles Board in the case of Mr. Richard Smith. The basis for the clemency recommendation was the passing of a law by the Oklahoma legislature shortly after Mr. Smith's conviction, making life without parole a sentencing option.

As the Board's recommendation is non-binding, we urge the authorities of Oklahoma to grant Mr. Smith relief from death penalty.

While we are aware of the suffering of the victims of violent crime and their families, we recall that with capital punishment, any miscarriage of justice from which no legal system is immune, represents an irreversible loss of human life. The EU believes that the abolition of the death penalty is essential to protect human dignity and to the progressive development of human rights. The EU considers capital punishment cruel and inhuman. Furthermore, it has not been found to act as a deterrent. While the EU fully respects the democratic process of other countries, the concern for human integrity and human dignity, which has inspired us to abolish capital punishment, obviously applies to all human beings.

The EU trusts that the Government of the United States of America will ensure that the appropriate authorities in the State of Oklahoma will be informed of this statement.

Los países candidatos TURQUÍA, CROACIA\* y la ANTIGUA REPÚBLICA YUGOSLAVA DE MACEDONIA\*, los países del Proceso de Estabilización y Asociación y los países candidatos potenciales, ALBANIA, BOSNIA Y HERZEGOVINA, MONTENEGRO y SERBIA, los países de la Asociación Europea de Libre Comercio y los miembros del Espacio Económico Europeo, ISLANDIA, LIECHTENSTEIN y NORUEGA, al igual que la REPÚBLICA DE MOLDAVIA, AZERBAIYÁN y GEORGIA se suman a esta declaración.

\*Croacia y la Antigua República Yugoslava de Macedonia siguen perteneciendo al proceso de Estabilización y Asociación.