



## EUROPEAN UNION

### OSCE Permanent Council Nr 951 Vienna, 9 May 2013

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#### **EU statement on the abolition of the death penalty in Maryland, USA**

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The European Union would like to draw the attention of the OSCE Permanent Council to the 2 May declaration on behalf of the EU, by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on the abolition of the death penalty in Maryland, USA:

“The European Union warmly welcomes the signing by Governor Martin O'Malley of the legislation abolishing the death penalty in the State of Maryland.

The European Union congratulates the Governor, the Senate and the House of Delegates on this historic decision, making Maryland the 18th State in the United States to abandon capital punishment.

The European Union strongly hopes that this decision will encourage other US States to follow suit in joining the growing national and worldwide movement towards the abolition of the use of capital punishment.”

The Acceding Country Croatia\*, the Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Iceland+ and Serbia\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Andorra and San Marino, align themselves with this statement.

\* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia 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.