



United States Mission to the OSCE
**Response to the European Union's
Statement on the Death Penalty**

As delivered by Ambassador Julie Finley
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
June 5, 2008

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The use of the death penalty in the United States is a decision reached by the democratically elected governments at the federal and individual state levels.

The United States judicial system provides exhaustive protections to ensure that the death penalty is not applied in an extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary manner, and the United States Supreme Court has ruled it unconstitutional to execute the insane and mentally retarded.

We will pass on the concerns of the European Union to our capital.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.