



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Permanent Council 892
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EU statement on the *de facto* moratorium on the death penalty introduced in Oregon, USA

The European Union would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the statement by the EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the *de facto* moratorium on the death penalty introduced in Oregon, USA, in which she stated:

"I wish to salute the principled stance adopted by Governor John Kitzhaber of Oregon, in announcing a *de facto* moratorium on the use of the death penalty, and issuing a reprieve to an individual scheduled to be killed by lethal injection.

Where the death penalty is involved, any miscarriage of justice or failure of the judicial system can lead to the irreparable loss of human life.

This is why the EU opposes capital punishment in all circumstances. The elimination of the death penalty is fundamental to the protection of human dignity. I welcome the courageous step by Governor Kitzhaber, and urge others to follow his example."