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EUROPEAN UNION

**OSCE Permanent Council Nr 935
Vienna, 13 December 2012**

EU statement on the death penalty in the USA

It is with deep regret that the European Union has learnt that the execution of Mr Manuel Pardo was carried out in the State of Florida on Tuesday, 11 December 2012. We are aware that Mr Pardo suffered from psychotic episodes when he committed the crime he was convicted of. We are also concerned about the state of his health at the time of the execution.

The EU opposes the use of capital punishment in all cases and under all circumstances. We call for a global moratorium as a first step towards its universal abolition, in line with resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007, 2008, and 2010. A new resolution calling for a global moratorium on the use of the death penalty, presented by 91 States, has just been adopted with a large majority by the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly in New York and is expected to be adopted by the plenary of the General Assembly next week. We call on all participating States to support this resolution.

The EU recognises the serious nature of the crime involved, and wishes to express its sincere sympathy for the surviving family and friends of the victims. However, the EU does not believe that the use of death penalty can ever be justified.

With capital punishment, any miscarriage of justice, from which no legal system is immune, represents an irreversible loss of human life. Furthermore, no reliable evidence supports the argument that the death penalty is a deterrent to serious crime.

The EU believes that the abolition of the death penalty is essential to protect human dignity and to the progressive development of human rights. While the EU fully respects the democratic process of other countries, the concern for human integrity, 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 Florida will be informed of this statement.

The Acceding Country Croatia*, the Candidate Countries 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, Georgia, 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.