



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA  
TO THE OSCE

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## STATEMENT

**on the European and World Day against the Death Penalty  
delivered by Ambassador Andranik Hovhannisyan  
at the 1538<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Permanent Council**

*16 October 2025*

Mr. Chairman,

We thank the Delegation of Denmark for raising this current issue on behalf of the European Union.

We take this opportunity to reaffirm Armenia's firm and principled position in favor of the complete abolition of the death penalty.

The unconditional prohibition of the death penalty is enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia, reflecting our longstanding commitment to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Armenia continues to pursue the abolition of capital punishment through both universal and regional international mechanisms.

In this context, we would like to recall that in 2021, Armenia ratified the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty. This was followed in 2023 by the adoption of the Law on the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, including the ratification of Protocol No. 13 to the European Convention on Human Rights, which abolishes the death penalty in all circumstances.

Furthermore, Armenia regularly co-sponsors resolutions on the death penalty in the UN General Assembly and the Human Rights Council. We also strongly support the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, which plays a vital role in monitoring and addressing violations of the right to life.

In 2024, Armenia also joined the International Criminal Court (ICC), reinforcing our commitment to international justice and accountability.

These most recent measures reaffirm Armenia's unwavering stance against capital punishment and underscore our belief that its abolition contributes to the advancement of human dignity, justice, and the rule of law.

Our position is grounded in the belief that justice must protect human rights not violate them. Capital punishment has not been proven to effectively deter crime. On the contrary, its continued use undermines efforts to build fair, humane, and effective criminal justice systems. We therefore emphasize the critical importance of strengthening democratic institutions and upholding international human rights standards throughout the OSCE region.

In closing, we express our strong support for continued dialogue and cooperation within the OSCE aimed at promoting the abolition of the death penalty.

Thank you.