

Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

**Permanent Council No. 607
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EU Statement on Death Penalty in the USA

1. The EU reiterates its longstanding and firm opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances.
2. While aiming for the universal abolition of the death penalty, we seek a moratorium in all countries which retain capital punishment as a first step towards this end.
3. The EU is therefore concerned about an imminent breach of the de-facto moratorium in the State of Tennessee. The EU has learned that Mr. Sedley Alley is to be executed on 17 May. This would be the first execution in that state for six years and only the second since the re-enactment of the death penalty in 1974. In light of recent developments and debate on this issue, the EU wishes to encourage the appropriate authorities in the State of Tennessee to continue the moratorium on the death penalty and urges them to grant clemency to Mr Alley.
4. The EU trusts that the appropriate authorities in Tennessee will be informed of this statement.

The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, EFTA country Norway, a member of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

*Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process