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PC.DEL/355/19  
29 March 2019

ENGLISH only



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Reply to the European Union on the Death Penalty**

As delivered by Acting Political Counselor Lane Darnell Bahl  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
March 28, 2019

I just would like to remind our colleagues on our position, which was stated before, that the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights specifically recognizes the authority of countries to impose the death penalty for the most serious crimes. In accordance with the law in force at the time of the commission of the crime, when carried out pursuant to a final judgment rendered by a competent court and in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Covenant, including requisite safeguards and fair trial guarantees.

Once again, United States law and the U.S. judicial system provide an exhaustive system of protections at both the federal and state levels to ensure that the death penalty is not applied in a summary or arbitrary manner, or in any manner inconsistent with the United States Constitution.

Mr. Chair, we reaffirm our longstanding position on the legality of the death penalty, when imposed and carried out in a manner consistent with a state's international obligations. The United States is committed to complying with our Constitution, other domestic laws, and international obligations, and we encourage other countries that employ the death penalty to comply with their international obligations as well.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.