



EUROPEAN UNION

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EU Statement on the Death Penalty Moratorium in California

On 13 March, Governor Gavin Newsom formally declared a moratorium on executions in the State of California, bringing the number of U.S. States that have now a formal moratorium on capital punishment in place to four, in addition to the 20 States that have already abolished the death penalty by law.

This decision is particularly relevant in California where 737 inmates are on death row, the highest number in the US.

This positive step further encourages the growing trend to abandon capital punishment. Over two thirds of the countries in the world have already, by law or de facto, abolished the death penalty.

The EU again reaffirms its strong and unequivocal opposition to the use of the death penalty at all times and in all circumstances. The death penalty is cruel, inhuman and degrading in nature and makes any miscarriage of justice irreversible and fatal. Furthermore, the death penalty does not have any proven deterrent effect.

The EU will continue its long-standing campaign against the death penalty, including within the OSCE. We encourage the United States of America and

Belarus, the only two participating states that still maintain the death penalty in law and in practice, as well as relevant OSCE Partners for Cooperation, to follow the global trend towards abolition.

The Candidate Countries NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND and LIECHTENSTEIN, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.