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Declaration by the High Representative, Catherine Ashton, on behalf of the European Union on the death penalty of Troy Davis

The European Union has followed the latest developments in the case of Mr. Troy Davis, a U.S. citizen sentenced to death in the State of Georgia, with great concern. He may now be at risk of imminent execution following the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court on 28 March 2011 not to consider his final appeal and the announcement by the State of Georgia to change to an alternative drug that is more readily available in its three drug combination for executions.

The EU has repeatedly intervened on behalf of Mr. Davis and notes that serious and compelling doubts regarding his culpability continue to persist. The EU therefore calls for a commutation of his death sentence.

The European Union reaffirms its principled and longstanding opposition to the use of capital punishment under all circumstances.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro* and Iceland[+], the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and the EFTA countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

* Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro 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.