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**Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union  
on the abolition of the death penalty in Azerbaijan**

The European Union welcomes the adoption by the parliament of Azerbaijan, on 10 February 1998, of a law abolishing the death penalty in Azerbaijan.

This is a significant step forward. The Union encourages Azerbaijan to persevere in strengthening democracy and the rule of law with a view to accession to the Council of Europe.

The Union reaffirms its support for the Council of Europe's position regarding the abolition of the death penalty and remains in favour of the abolition of the death penalty world-wide.

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