

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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

The European Union welcomes the adoption by the Bulgarian Parliament of the amendment to the Bulgarian Penal Code, with which the death penalty was abolished, on 10 December 1998.

The abolition of the death penalty on the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is considered as a further commitment by Bulgaria to the promotion of human rights. In this context the EU also notes that the overwhelming majority of Bulgarian parliamentarians voted in favour of this amendment.

The EU reaffirms once again its support for the Council of Europe's position calling for the universal abolition of the death penalty and insisting on the maintenance, in the meantime, of existing moratoria on executions in Europe.