

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 President Putin's statement supporting the abolition of the death penalty in the Russian Federation

The European Union welcomes the comments made on 9 July 2001 by President Putin opposing the reestablishment of the death penalty in the Russian Federation.

The European Union calls on the Russian Federation to abolish the death penalty both *de facto* and *de jure*, and to ratify Protocol No 2 to the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Protocol No 6 to the European Convention on Human Rights as soon as possible.

The European Union repeats its opposition to the death penalty, and reaffirms that it considers that the abolition of the death penalty contributes to the enhancement of human dignity and the progressive development of human rights.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus and Malta, and the EFTA countries, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.

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