

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 Nepal**

The European Union welcomes the decision to abolish the death penalty taken earlier this month by the Nepalese authorities.

The EU considers that the abolition of capital punishment contributes to the gradual growth of human dignity and to the development of human rights.

The EU regards the decision of the Nepalese authorities as a gesture by Nepal towards the furtherance of human rights. It fits perfectly into the democratic process that has taken place in Nepal in recent years.

Nepal's decision lends support to the worldwide movement for the abolition of the death penalty.

The European Union once again reasserts its firm commitment in favour of universal abolition of the death penalty or, initially, the introduction of moratoria on executions.

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