Statement by the Spokesperson of High Representative Catherine Ashton on the execution of Mr Daniel Cook in Arizona

The spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the Commission, issued the following statement today:

"The High Representative learnt with deep regret that Mr Daniel Cook was executed on August 8 in the State of Arizona. The EU had called for the execution to be commuted, based on evidence that Mr Cook was suffering from a severe mental illness.

The High Representative recognises the serious nature of the crime involved and expresses her sincere sympathy to the surviving family and friends of the victims. However, she does not believe that their loss has been mitigated by Mr Cook's death.

The EU opposes the use of capital punishment in all cases and under all circumstances and calls for a global moratorium as a first step towards its universal abolition. With capital punishment any miscarriage of justice, from which no legal system is immune, represents an irreversible loss of human life."

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