



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Head of Delegation

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Commissioner Tena M Pate, Chair
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Subject: Death Penalty Case – Konstantinos Fotopoulos

Dear Commissioner,

The European Union respectfully refers to its letter of 17 April 2014 and would like to reiterate its urgent humanitarian appeal as regards an inmate of Greek nationality, Mr Konstantinos Fotopoulos, who has spent 24 years in death row.

The European Union recognizes the extremely serious nature of the crimes involved, and wishes to express its sincere sympathies to the surviving victim and to the deceased victims' families and friends.

However, the European Union is opposed to the use of capital punishment under all circumstances and aims at its universal abolition, seeking a global moratorium on the death penalty as a first step. We believe that the elimination of the death penalty is fundamental to the protection of human dignity, and to the progressive development of human rights. In this vein, the United Nations General Assembly adopted in December 2014 a resolution on the death penalty, which reaffirms its Resolutions of 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012, expressly asking all countries that still use the death penalty to institute a moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty.

With the application of the death penalty, any miscarriage of justice, or failure of the judicial system, represents an irreparable loss of human life. No legal system is immune from error, nor is there any reliable evidence to support the argument that the death penalty is a deterrent to serious crime. We also would like to bring to your consideration the hardship of Mr Fotopoulos very lengthy death row incarceration, and that Mr Fotopoulos' co-offender was resentenced to life.

Therefore the European Union respectfully urges you to exercise your power of mercy by commuting the death sentence of Mr Konstantinos Fotopoulos.

Yours sincerely,

David O'Sullivan
Ambassador