



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Head of Delegation

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The Honourable Terry McAuliffe
Governor
Commonwealth of Virginia
State Capitol, 3rd Floor
Richmond, VA 23219

Fax: 804 371 6351

Subject: Death penalty case of William Charles Morva, a Hungarian-American dual national

Dear Governor,

Following our letter sent to you on August 17, 2016, the European Union respectfully requests you to use the clemency proceedings initiated on behalf of Mr. William Charles Morva, a Hungarian-American dual national who has been sentenced to death and is facing execution on July 6, 2017, to commute his sentence to life imprisonment without parole.

The EU recognises the serious nature of the crime involved, and wishes to express its sincere sympathy to the families and friends of the victims, but we do not believe that the use of the death penalty could bring relief to their suffering. We also note with deep concern that there is evidence to show that Mr. Morva is suffering from severe mental illness. The EU strongly believes that the execution of persons suffering from mental illness or mental disorder is contrary to widely accepted human rights norms and is in contradiction to the minimum standards of human rights set forth in several international human rights instruments as well as prohibited in the U.S. Constitution.

In that regard, I am very grateful for the possibility your services granted to the EU Delegation and the Hungarian Embassy to further discuss the case of Mr Morva during a meeting in Richmond on May 31. The fact that the European Union was represented in such a meeting is an exceptional step that we have decided to take to underline the importance we give to the case of Mr. Morva. The depth of the discussion and the assurances that were given to us that you will evaluate all factors when making a final decision were comforting, as you are the last person who could take the issue of severe delusional disorder into consideration while deciding on the fate of Mr. Morva.

While I would like to stress that the European Union has no intention to interfere in any way with the legal procedures and verdicts of the United States justice system, I respectfully request you, Governor McAuliffe, to use the clemency proceedings initiated on behalf of Mr. Morva to commute his sentence to life imprisonment without parole.

Yours sincerely,



David O'Sullivan
Ambassador