

# 9<sup>th</sup> MAY 2014 EUROPE DAY EUROPE IN THE WORLD



Division Functional mailbox: VI-A1@eeas.europa.eu

**HUMAN RIGHTS**  
Death Penalty

## Priorities

To work towards universal abolition as a strong held policy agreed by all Member States.

Where death penalty still exists, the EU advocates the immediate establishment of a moratorium on executions.

## Top 3 Facts

Under international law, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights commits each State to take all necessary measures to permanently abolish the death penalty within its own jurisdiction.

Article 2 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights of 2000 provides that no one shall be condemned to the death penalty or executed.

The Council of Europe decided in September 2007 to declare a "European Day against the Death Penalty" which is to be marked each year on 10th October.

## Did you know?

**141 countries** - more than 2/3 of the countries of the world - are abolitionist in law or practice.

Of the retentionist countries, in 2013, **21 countries/territories** were known to have carried out executions and at least 60 to have imposed death sentences.

The EU issues statements and carries out demarches all over the world on both general/individual cases, on the basis of **EU Guidelines on Death Penalty**.

The EU is the world's lead donor, financing abolitionist nongovernmental organisation (**NGO**) projects under the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (**EIDHR**).

