

# EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



The Head of Division

**Directorate** : Russia, Eastern Partnership, Central Asia, Regional Cooperation & OSCE

**Division**: Eastern Partnership -bilateral

Brussels, EEAS/ST/ 08 DEC. 2011  
1325197

Dear Petitioner,

Thank you of your message of 2 December 2011 addressed to High Representative Catherine Ashton, to which I have been asked to respond.

The EU is acutely aware of the two death sentences pronounced on 30 November 2011 by the Supreme Court of Belarus against the Belarusian citizens Dzmitry Kanavalaw and Uladzislaw Kavalow.

On 1 December 2011, High Representative Catherine Ashton issued a statement regretting the decision of the Supreme Court and urging Belarus - the only country in Europe still to apply the capital punishment - to join a global moratorium on the death penalty as a first step towards its universal abolition.

The EU opposes the application of the capital punishment under all circumstances and considers the death penalty to be a cruel and inhuman punishment. Please rest assured that the EU will continue to follow developments as regards the two above mentioned death sentences closely and react as appropriate.

Sincerely,



John Kjaer