Dear Chairman Gutiérrez,

The European Union regrets that the State of Texas plans to execute Mr. Ruben Gutierrez on October 30, 2019. We would like to make an urgent appeal for clemency on his behalf.

The European Union recognizes that the murder of Ms. Escolastica Harrison was a terrible act deserving of harsh punishment and wishes to express its sincere sympathy to the family and friends of the victim. However, the European Union also firmly believes that capital punishment does not serve the memory or bring compensation for the victims of heinous crimes. We believe that it has no proven deterrent effect and carries the risk of irreversible punishment in cases of fatal judicial errors, which are inevitable in any court proceeding no matter how thorough.

Therefore, the EU is opposed to the use of capital punishment under all circumstances and accordingly seeks its universal abolition. We believe that the elimination of the death penalty is fundamental to the protection of human dignity and the advancement of human rights.

In this particular case, Mr. Gutierrez is seeking DNA testing of evidence that has not been previously tested. Under these circumstances, we believe it would be particularly harsh to proceed with the execution without allowing for those tests.

With this in mind, the European Union respectfully urges the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles to grant clemency for Ruben Gutierrez.

Yours sincerely,

Stavros Lambrinidis