

Press Release

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Council of Europe Secretary General Terry Davis welcomes the UN call for a worldwide moratorium on executions

Strasbourg, 19.12.2007, "The vote in the General Assembly of the United Nations is a milestone on the irreversible path towards the abolition of the death penalty everywhere in the world" said Terry Davis.

"The resolution calling for a worldwide moratorium on executions was adopted with an overwhelming majority of 104 votes and with a strong support from all continents. This is significant progress since the issue of capital punishment was last discussed in the UN in 1999. There is no doubt that we are moving steadily towards the day this cruel and barbaric form of punishment will be eradicated. The Council of Europe, which has achieved a legal ban on the death penalty in Europe, is committed to work with the United Nations and other abolitionist countries in the world to accelerate this process" concluded the Secretary General.

Europe is a *de facto* death-penalty-free zone since 1997, on the basis of two Council of Europe legal instruments outlawing the death penalty:

- [Protocol No. 6](#) to the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the first legally-binding instrument providing for the unconditional abolition of the death penalty in peacetime;
- [Protocol No. 13](#) to the ECHR concerning the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances.

For more information www.coe.int/deathpenalty

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