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Death Penalty Day: Europe underlines its firm opposition to capital punishment

Strasbourg, 09.10.2015 – Ahead of the World and European Day against the Death Penalty (10 October), the 47-nation Council of Europe and the 28-member European Union have issued a [joint declaration](#) underlining their firm opposition to capital punishment and calling on countries across Europe to move towards abolition.

The declaration from Council of Europe Secretary General Thorbjørn Jagland and the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, points out that no Council of Europe or EU member states have carried out executions since 1997.

It also calls on those European countries which have not yet done so to ratify two protocols to the European Convention on Human Rights which aim to abolish the death penalty.

Notes:

- [Protocol 6 to the European Convention on Human Rights](#), concerning the abolition of the death penalty in peacetime, has been ratified by 46 of the 47 Council of Europe member states. Russia signed the protocol in 1997 but has yet to ratify it.
- [Protocol 13 to the convention](#) outlaws the use of the death penalty in all circumstances, including wartime. Armenia signed the protocol in 2006, but has yet to ratify it. Azerbaijan and Russia have not yet signed the protocol.
- All 28 EU member states are also members of the Council of Europe and have signed and ratified both protocols to the human rights convention concerning the death penalty.

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