



Joint European Union/Council of Europe Declaration
establishing a "*European Day against the Death*
***Penalty*"**

Recalling that the death penalty is contrary to the fundamental rights on which the European Union and the Council of Europe are founded; that the abolition of the death penalty is enshrined in Protocols Nos 6 and 13 to the *European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms* and reflected in Article 2 of the *European Union Charter of Fundamental Rights*;

Recalling that since 1997 there has been no instance of capital execution in any part of the geographical area made up by the 47 Member States of the Council of Europe, including the 27 European Union Member States;

Emphasising that abolition of the death penalty is a condition which States are required to meet in order to become members of the Council of Europe or the European Union;

Inviting Member States of the Council of Europe and the European Union to continue to explain the importance of abolishing the death penalty in Europe for the respect of human dignity;

Recalling the central place held in the European system of human rights by Protocols Nos 6 and 13 to the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, which respectively abolish the death penalty in peacetime and in all circumstances, and stressing the importance of their ratification by all the Member States of the Council of Europe;

Recalling the importance of the ratification and promotion by the Member States of the Council of Europe and the European Union of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which is the principal universal instrument aimed at abolishing the death penalty;

Stressing the importance of persevering in the pursuit of actions aimed at abolishing the death penalty in the world, by making representations to third countries, acting within multilateral arenas and supporting the action of civil society towards this end ;

Inviting European citizens to support the abolition of the death penalty in the world and thereby contribute to the development of fundamental rights and human dignity;

Recognising the importance of the "*World Day against the Death Penalty*", which has taken place on 10 October every year since 2003, and to strengthen this initiative of non-governmental organisations by the involvement of the European Institutions:

The European Union and the Council of Europe,


approve the establishment of the "*European Day against the Death Penalty*" on 10 October each year.

For the European Union

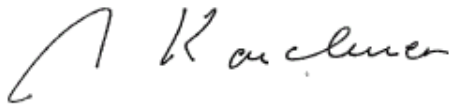


Hans-Gert Pöttering
President of the European Parliament

For the Council of Europe




Lluís Maria de Puig
President of the Parliamentary Assembly



Bernard Kouchner
President of the Council of the European Union



Carl Bildt
Chairman of the Committee of Ministers



José Manuel Barroso
President of the European Commission



Terry Davis
Secretary General