



**EUROPEAN UNION**  
DELEGATION TO BANGLADESH

PR/- 11 /10

Dhaka, 11 October 2010  
POL/2010/D/01412/AAcd

### **Press Release**

For immediate release

#### **EU continues efforts to achieve universal abolition of death penalty**

10 October is the World and European Day against the Death Penalty.

Despite a marked trend towards abolition and restriction of the use of capital punishment in most countries, numbers and manner of death penalty application worldwide remain alarming. While 139 countries - more than 2/3 of the countries of the world - are abolitionist in law or practice, still at least 5,679 executions were carried out last year. Where capital punishment remains in force, there are serious problems with regard to the respect of international norms and standards, notably in the limitation of the death penalty to the most serious crimes, the exclusion of juvenile offenders from its scope, and guarantees of a fair trial.

The European Union considers the death penalty to be a cruel and inhuman punishment, which represents an unacceptable denial of human dignity and integrity. Actively supported by States from all regions of the world, the EU uses all available means – diplomatic channels and raising public awareness - in working towards the goal of abolishing the death penalty throughout the world. The EU also acts against the death penalty in multilateral fora, such as the United Nations.

Global abolition of the death penalty is one of the main objectives of the EU's human rights policy. The 58 countries/territories retaining the death penalty are invited to abolish the death penalty, or at least introduce a moratorium as a first step.

For more information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/external\\_relations/human\\_rights/adp/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/human_rights/adp/index.htm)  
[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/worldwide/eidhr/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/worldwide/eidhr/index_en.htm)

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