

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union
on the abolition of the death penalty in Georgia

The European Union welcomes the adoption by the Georgian parliament on 11 November 1997 of a new penal code abolishing the death penalty in Georgia.

This is an important step in strengthening democracy and the rule of law in Georgia. The Union encourages Georgia to persevere in that direction in particular with a view to early accession to the Council of Europe. The Union also supports the statement made by the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe on 21 November 1997.

The associated countries Bulgaria, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, the Czech Republic, the associated country Cyprus and the EFTA countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.