

3 May 2012

Original: ENGLISH



United States Mission to the OSCE

Response to the EU Statement on Connecticut's Repeal of the Death penalty

As delivered by Ambassador Ian Kelly
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
May 3, 2012

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

We note the European Union's and Norway's commendation of Connecticut's Governor Dannel P. Malloy for signing legislation repealing the death penalty in his state. We are aware of the continuing concern regarding the use of the death penalty in other jurisdictions.

We reiterate that use of the death penalty in the United States is authorized by democratically elected governments at the federal and individual state levels, and that its use is not prohibited by international law. The imposition of the death penalty, in appropriate circumstances, has been upheld by the United States Supreme Court.

The death penalty continues to be the subject of open discussion among the American people. We note the actions of the Connecticut governor within the context of this broader debate.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.