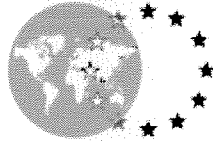


## EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



AMERICAS Americas  
AMERICAS.1 United States and Canada Division  
Head of Division

Brussels, 3 October 2017

Dear Petitioner,

The Commission takes note of the petition regarding the case of Clinton Lee Young in the United States.

The European Union is strongly and unequivocally opposed to capital punishment, which fails to act as a deterrent to crime and represents an unacceptable denial of human dignity and integrity.

For States which insist on maintaining the death penalty, there are internationally recognised minimum standards that must be respected. There needs to be clarity on the entire procedure of executions carried out and we follow this closely.

Numerous representations and interventions have been made by the EU and its Member States vis-à-vis the United States and single States in the US to halt the executions of condemned prisoners, and reinstate a moratorium on all executions as a first step towards full abolition, thus following the positive example of the so far 19 US States and the District of Columbia who have abolished the death penalty.

The EU will take forward its long-standing campaign against the death penalty, including within the OSCE, where we call on the United States and Belarus, the only two countries in the OSCE who still apply the death penalty, to introduce a moratorium on executions as a first step towards full abolition.

Over the last decades, numerous countries have understood that the death penalty cannot be justified under any circumstances and is furthermore not efficient as a deterrent and have stopped its application. More than 140 countries are now abolitionist in law or in practice. The abolition of the death penalty worldwide is one of our main objectives, and we will continue to raise this in our discussions with the US at all levels.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Tibbels

Cc. Head of Delegation Washington