

INVITATION TO THE SIDE EVENT

Abolishing Death Penalty in the OSCE Region : the Role of Civil Society and Intergovernmental Organizations

Wednesday 2 October, 13h00 – 15h00

Since the last HDIM, two major international events concerning the abolition of death penalty have taken place : in December 2012, the UNGA adopted by a vast majority unseen in earlier votes a resolution calling for a moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its universal abolition. This was followed by the 5th World Congress against the Death Penalty which united in Madrid, from 12 to 15 June 2013, members of international civil society, politicians, and legal experts in an effort to elaborate abolitionist strategies for the years to come at the national, regional, and international levels, and to send out a clear message : that universal abolition is essential for a world where human dignity and justice must prevail.

The OSCE should not stand on the sidelines in this debate. All but six participating States of the Organization have abolished the death penalty. Executions are carried out in two participating states while four participating states are de facto abolitionist. At the same time, there have been encouraging developments in the OSCE area lately such as the abolition in Connecticut (2012) and Maryland (2013), US, and the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR by Mongolia on March 13, 2012. How can abolitionists capitalize on these developments? What stumbling stones remain on the way towards universal abolition? What role can both intergovernmental organizations and civil society play in this regard? These are some of the questions that the panel of civil society actors and representatives of IGOs will address in this side event.

Refreshments will be offered.

Speakers: *Mr Raphael Chenuil-Hazan*, Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort, *Mrs. Saule Mektepbayeva*, Regional Director of "Penal Reform International" INGO for Central Asia, *Ms Hanne Sophie Greve*, International Commission against the Death Penalty, *Ms Hanna Machinska*, Head of the Council of Europe Office in Warsaw

Moderator : *M. Snjezana Bokulic*, Head of the Human rights Department, ODIHR/OSCE

Co-organized by **Andorra, the European Union, Norway, San Marino, Serbia and Switzerland**



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