



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Ambassador

Washington, 25 March 2019
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The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor of the State of California
Office of the Governor
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

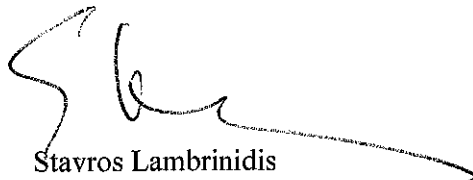
We warmly welcome your principled decision and steadfast leadership in placing a moratorium on executions in California, in repealing the lethal injection protocol, and in closing the execution chamber at San Quentin State Prison.

As you know, the European Union holds a strong position against the death penalty in all circumstances. This is a position shared by all our 28 Member States, who have fully abolished the death penalty in law and practice and who nevertheless continue to fight effectively the most serious crimes in our territory. While the European Union recognizes the serious nature of the crimes committed, we do not believe that capital punishment serves the humanity or the memory of victims, nor brings compensation for the victims of heinous crimes. The death penalty is a cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, it has no proven deterrence effect, and it carries the risk of irreversible punishment in cases of fatal, and sadly inevitable, judicial errors.

We are encouraged by the growing number of states that have abolished the death penalty in law in addition to practice and we hope that California will also soon join their ranks. We continue to believe that the elimination of the death penalty is fundamental to the protection of human dignity and human rights. The European Union will continue to work for the complete abolition of the death penalty, and we hope that your decision will encourage other states to follow in California's footsteps.

Dear Governor, we greatly value the close relationship between the State of California and the European Union, from trade and investment to people to people contacts. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you every success during your mandate, and to assure you that you can continue to count on the excellent cooperation between the European Union and the State of California. I very much look forward to meeting you soon during my next official visit to the State.

Yours sincerely,



Stavros Lambrinidis