



EUROPEAN UNION
DELEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The Ambassador

Washington, 22 March 2019
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The Honorable Greg Abbott
Office of the General Counsel
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Governor Abbott,

The European Union regrets that the State of Texas plans to execute Mr. Patrick Murphy on March 28, 2019. We would like to make an urgent appeal for a reprieve on his behalf.

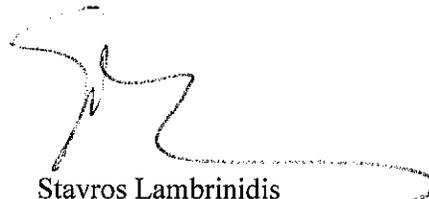
The European Union recognizes that the murder of Officer Aubrey Hawkins was a terrible act deserving of harsh punishment and wishes to express its sincere sympathy to the family and friends of the victim. However, the European Union also firmly believes that capital punishment does not serve the memory or bring compensation for the victims of heinous crimes. We believe that it has no proven deterrence effect and carries the risk of irreversible punishment in cases of fatal judicial errors, which are inevitable in any court proceeding no matter how advanced.

The Texas State Legislature is concurrently considering Senate Bill 929 and H.B. 4113, legislation that directly addresses the circumstances under which Mr. Murphy was sentenced to death. If enacted, this legislation would expressly prohibit a death sentence for the verdict the jury reached in his case and allow Mr Murphy's counsel to file a pleading asking the Court of Criminal Appeals to review his conviction or sentence in light of in the new law. Under these circumstances we believe it is particularly rash to proceed with his execution while the Texas legislature considers this legislation.

We greatly value the close relationship between the State of Texas and the European Union, from trade and investment to people to people contacts. The European Union will continue to work for the complete abolition of the death penalty and it will actively encourage the national and worldwide trend that is ending the use of capital punishment.

Taking the above considerations into account, Mr. Governor, we respectfully urge you to exercise all powers vested in your office to grant a reprieve to Patrick Murphy while the legislature considers the aforementioned bills.

Yours sincerely,



Stavros Lambrinidis