

KEITH TAYLOR
Green Party
for the South East of England



Commissioner Catherine Ashton
High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels

18th October 2011

Dear Commissioner Ashton,

The tragic execution of Troy Davis on Wednesday 21st September shocked the world. I was horrified and deeply saddened by Troy Davis' execution, which was carried out despite serious doubts about his guilt. The death penalty fundamentally breaches an individuals' right to life and can never be justified.

I am proud that the EU condemns the death penalty, but shocked that despite many years of campaigning there are still significant loopholes in the EU regulations on the export of torture and death penalty equipment. These loopholes allow US authorities to continue to kill people using drugs that have been sourced from EU countries. I find this completely abhorrent and feel it is a breach of the EU's policy to strongly oppose the death penalty in all circumstances.

Since tabling written question *P-002188/2011: Addition of end-use control to Torture Regulation* on this issue, I have also been contacted by numerous constituents who are also deeply concerned about that the EU's stance on the exports of torture and death penalty equipment. I therefore urge the Commission to:

- Update Annex III of EC Regulation No 1236/2005, to include controls on those drugs currently being sourced in the EU for executions with immediate effect.
- Introduce a new catch all clause into this regulation to control any item where it is known or suspected it will be used for capital punishment, torture or cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment.

I very much look forward to hearing from you on this crucial matter.

Kinds Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Keith Taylor - Green Party MEP, South East England.