

The European Union takes a principled stance against the death penalty in all cases and in all circumstances. In the Statement of 31 March 2026¹ by the High Representative on behalf of the European Union, the EU noted that the Israeli Parliament's approval of the Death Penalty Bill marked a serious regression from Israel's long-held practice of a *de facto* moratorium on both executions and capital punishment sentencing, and expressed its deep concern over the *de facto* discriminatory character of the bill. In keeping with the EU's global efforts towards universal abolition of the death penalty, the EU urged Israel to abide by its previous, principled position and by its obligations under international law, as well to honour its commitment to democratic principles, which are also reflected in the provisions of the EU-Israel Association Agreement.

As regards the Commission proposals related to the EU-Israel Association Agreement, the Council recalls its reply to Written Question E-002313/2025, and that the Foreign Affairs Council has addressed the matter in the context of its discussions on the situation in the Middle East.

¹ https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2026/03/31/israel-statement-by-the-high-representative-on-behalf-of-the-european-union-on-the-approval-of-the-death-penalty-bill-by-the-israeli-parliament/?utm_source=brevo&utm_campaign=AUTOMATED%20-%20Alert%20-%20Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_id=3318