

Statement by Belgium on behalf of the European Union- Third Committee

Adoption of Third Committee Report - USA amendment on sexual orientation for Resolution on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions Statement in support of the USA Amendment as contained in A/65/L.53 delivered by Mr. Nicolas Burniat, Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations at the 65th General Assembly - Adoption of Third Committee Report - Agenda Item 68. b Resolution on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions - A/C.3/65/L.29

21 December 2010

I have the honor to speak on behalf of the EU, the Candidate Countries Croatia* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and Serbia, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

The European Union is a convinced supporter of the resolution on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions which addresses serious violations of human rights. The EU considers that the amendment introduced by the delegation of the USA and contained in A/65/L.53 significantly improves the text. The amendment seeks to modify OP 6b, which lists several vulnerable groups, in order to add a reference to persons that can be victim of extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions simply because of their sexual orientation. The UN Special Rapporteur has repeatedly noted that sexual orientation was often a motive for such crimes. For this reason a specific reference to this vulnerable group was indeed present in previous General Assembly resolutions on extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary executions. The USA amendment therefore simply reintroduces an important element that was already endorsed by the General Assembly in the past. The European Union opposes all forms of discrimination, including discrimination against persons on the basis of their sexual orientation; LGBT people have the same rights as all individuals and this principle is in enshrined in numerous international instruments. The European Union therefore strongly supports the amendment proposed by the USA and respectfully invites all Member States to extend the same support.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

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