



Paris, 18 August 2008

**STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
ON THE IMMINENT EXECUTION OF BEHNOOD SHOJAEI**

The Presidency of the Council of the European Union expresses its deep concern over the announcement of the imminent execution of Behnood Shojaee who was sentenced to death for crimes he committed when he was a minor.

The Presidency of the Council of the European Union reminds Iran that juvenile death sentences are a gross breach of its international obligations and commitments, specifically as set out in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention of the Rights of the Child, both clearly prohibiting the execution of minors or people who have been convicted of a crime committed when they were minors.

The Presidency urges Iran to comply with its international commitments and to take the immediate measures required to grant a stay of execution to Mr Shojaee and all other minors facing death sentences. It calls on the Iranian authorities to consider alternative sentences that are first and foremost educational and geared towards the social rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents.

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES ÉTRANGÈRES ET EUROPÉENNES

DIRECTION DE LA COMMUNICATION ET DE L'INFORMATION

SOUS-DIRECTION DE LA PRESSE

37 Quai d'Orsay - 75007 PARIS

www.diplomatie.gouv.fr

01 43 17 52 04/52 01/57 57