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**HUNGARY**

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
BY H.E. MR GYULA SÜMEGHY  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF HUNGARY TO THE OPCW  
AT THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairman,  
Mr Director-General,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. The candidate countries Turkey, Croatia,<sup>1</sup> the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Iceland,<sup>2</sup> and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Andorra, San Marino, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this statement.

Mr Chairman,

On behalf of the European Union I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back Ambassador Jean-François Blarel to the chair of the Executive Council. As always Ambassador, you can count on the full support of the European Union.

I would also like to avail myself of this opportunity to express my warm welcome to our new Deputy Director-General, Ambassador Grace Ammal Asirwatham. We are very much looking forward to working with you.

Allow me to begin by stating that the European Union is gravely concerned about the status of the declared chemical weapons stockpiles located within the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. We call upon the Libyan government to fulfil its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention by ensuring the security of the chemical weapons that remain to be destroyed, providing adequate information as required by the OPCW, and by recommencing the destruction activities as soon as possible.

As destruction of existing stockpiles is well under way, we consider it is timely to focus on ways in which the OPCW can further develop its contribution to global collective security.

<sup>1</sup> Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

<sup>2</sup> Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.



Advances in science and technology progress exponentially, in respect of which the potential of recent discoveries is not yet fully comprehensible. Furthermore, the chemical industry continues to grow rapidly, entering a new realm the boundaries of which are as yet unclear. These developments need to be better observed in order to enable the Organisation and its Member States to, if necessary, adapt the implementation of the Convention.

The threat of dangerous chemicals falling into the hands of terrorists is a threat that should be addressed adequately and swiftly.

In this regard, the European Union welcomes the recent two-day seminar organised by the Technical Secretariat on the OPCW's contribution to security and non-proliferation of chemical weapons. We are of the opinion that the event contributed significantly to the understanding of the challenges that await the Organisation in the near future, and provided new insights as to how to meet these obstacles.

The European Union is ready to constructively engage in discussions regarding the future of this Organisation.

Until all chemical weapons are disposed of, destruction remains a key objective of the Convention. The European Union is concerned about the fact that the two major possessor States indicated that they will not be able to meet the final extended deadline. We hold the view that a consensual solution has to be found within the framework of the Convention and on the basis of the measures on confidence-building and full transparency, that will be presented by the Executive Council Chairperson to the Council for adoption by the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. Such an approach will maintain the integrity of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the credibility of the Organisation.

The lack of results in discussions on reaching a decision on the verification of chemical weapons production facilities which have been converted for more than ten years, despite the best efforts of the facilitator, the distinguished Ambassador of the Netherlands, is extremely disappointing. The absence of verification at a growing number of these sites must be resolved as soon as possible. The European Union therefore looks forward to, and is ready to engage in, substantial discussions during this session of the Executive Council. We have great confidence that under your guidance, Mr Chairperson, the issue will be resolved in accordance with the Convention's requirements for this specific category of facilities.

The strengthening of the industry verification regime is of prime importance and, in the years ahead, will remain a core activity of the Organisation. This includes developing an OCPF site-selection methodology that directs inspections towards sites of greater relevance and towards a geographically more equitable distribution, thereby increasing the effectiveness of the regime. We commend and fully support the work of the distinguished Ambassadors of the Netherlands, Malaysia and of Peru as facilitators of these interrelated issues.

The European Union wishes to stress that all States Parties play a key role in preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons. States Parties need to ensure the control of transfers of relevant chemicals. The functioning of the transfers declaration regime is an indicator by which performance in this regard can be measured. We assign the highest importance to seeing all necessary measures in place worldwide, in order to ensure that toxic chemicals and their precursors serve legitimate purposes only.

Therefore, the European Union promotes the full implementation of Article VII and the effective enforcement of these measures. The latest update given by the Office of the Legal Adviser again highlighted the significant shortfall in progress made on the national level.

The European Union reiterates its commitment and support for the OPCW in this particular field, as it has done in the past, but at the same time urges States Parties to make every effort to meet the Convention's standards. In addition, we feel that creating an action plan could certainly be of use in benchmarking and evaluating progress made.

The European Union is pleased to note the continuing efforts that are being made in order to achieve universality of the Convention. We commend the Technical Secretariat's efforts in engaging all States not party to the Convention and in bringing their attention to the importance of universal adherence to the Convention on every possible occasion. We also commend the efforts of the facilitator on this topic, Ms Raja Rabia of France, and we look forward to the conception of the new action plan later this year.

The European Union equally attaches great importance to the implementation of Article X. We emphasise the importance of national programmes related to protective purposes and the importance of capacity building, which is promoted by the OPCW and by the European Union in all four corners of the world. As such, we welcome the Director-General's report of 28 March on the status of implementation of Article X, and commend the Technical Secretariat in its undertakings in the field. Along the same lines, the European Union will continue to support international cooperation as enshrined in Article XI of the Convention. Programmes which promote security and safety of the chemical industry in developing countries must be invested in, so as to enhance the effectiveness of non-proliferation and counter-terrorism efforts, and strengthen national controls of toxic chemicals.

Since 2005, the European Union has expressed its support for the work of the OPCW by the substantial financial backing provided by way of its Joint Actions, and most recently through its 2009 Council Decision. We will remain committed to assisting and funding the activities of the OPCW.

We are looking forward to working with delegations in a constructive and open manner, and we trust that this session of the Executive Council will be yet another success.

I thank you and I would like to ask this document to be treated as an official document of this session of the Executive Council.

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