



OPCW

Executive Council

Seventy-Third Session
16 – 19 July 2013

EC-73/3^{*}
10 July 2013
Original: ENGLISH

**REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEM
IN THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
16 – 19 JULY 2013**

By letters dated 3 July 2013, and pursuant to Rule 16(c) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”), the Permanent Representatives of Canada, France, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America have requested the Chairperson of the Council and the Director-General to include an additional agenda item entitled “Concerns About Use of Chemical Weapons in Syria” in the provisional agenda for the Seventy-Third Session of the Council. The cover letters and explanatory memorandum are annexed hereto.

Annexes (English only):

- Annex 1: Letter to the Chairperson of the Executive Council from the Permanent Representatives of Canada, France, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, Dated 3 July 2013
- Annex 2: Letter to the Director-General from the Permanent Representatives of Canada, France, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, Dated 3 July 2013
- Annex 3: Explanatory Memorandum Regarding the Request for an EC-73 Agenda Item Entitled “Concerns About Use of Chemical Weapons in Syria”

* Reissued for technical reasons.



Annex 1

**LETTER TO THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FROM THE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF CANADA, FRANCE, GERMANY, THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, AND THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, DATED 3 JULY 2013**

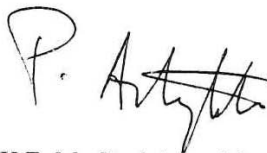
July 3, 2013

H.E. Dr. Olexandr Horin
Chairperson of the Executive Council

Dear Ambassador Horin,

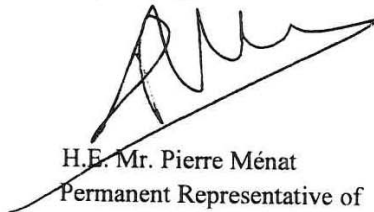
We respectfully request that you add to the formal agenda of Executive Council session 73 (EC-73) the following agenda item: "Concerns about Use of Chemical Weapons in Syria".

We have attached an explanatory memorandum, as required by Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council. Please distribute this request to the members of the Executive Council.



H.E. Mr. Paul Arkwright
Permanent Representative of
The United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland to the OPCW

Respectfully,



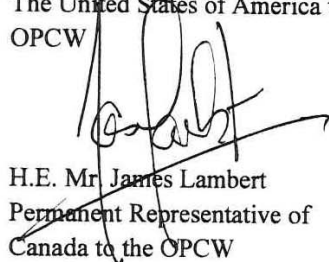
H.E. Mr. Pierre Ménat
Permanent Representative of
The French Republic to the OPCW



H.E. Dr. Robert Mikulak
Permanent Representative of
The United States of America to the OPCW
OPCW



H.E. Mr. Eberhard Schanze
Permanent Representative of
The Federal Republic of Germany to the



H.E. Mr. James Lambert
Permanent Representative of
Canada to the OPCW

cc: H.E. Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü
Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Annex 2

**LETTER TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVES OF CANADA, FRANCE, GERMANY, THE UNITED
KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, AND THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA, DATED 3 JULY 2013**

July 3, 2013

H.E. Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü
Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Dear Director-General Üzümcü,

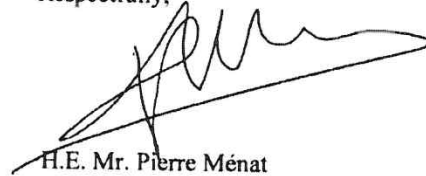
We respectfully request that you add to the formal agenda of Executive Council session 73 (EC-73) the following agenda item: "Concerns about Use of Chemical Weapons in Syria".

We have attached an explanatory memorandum, as required by Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council. Please distribute this request to the members of the Executive Council.

Respectfully,



H.E. Mr. Paul Arkwright
Permanent Representative of
The United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland to the OPCW



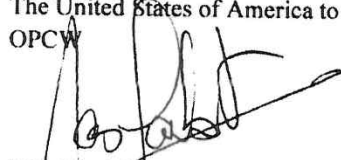
H.E. Mr. Pierre Ménat
Permanent Representative of
The French Republic to the OPCW



H.E. Dr. Robert Mikulak
Permanent Representative of
The United States of America to the OPCW



H.E. Mr. Eberhard Schanze
Permanent Representative of
The Federal Republic of Germany to the



H.E. Mr. James Lambert
Permanent Representative of
Canada to the OPCW

cc: H.E. Dr. Olexandr Horin
Ambassador of Ukraine and Chairperson of the Executive Council

Annex 3

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM REGARDING THE REQUEST FOR AN EC-73
AGENDA ITEM ENTITLED “CONCERNS ABOUT USE OF CHEMICAL
WEAPONS IN SYRIA”**

(corrected)

10 July 2013

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

RE: REQUEST FOR AN EC-73 AGENDA ITEM

ENTITLED “CONCERNS ABOUT USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN SYRIA”

The Permanent Representatives to the OPCW of Canada, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States respectfully request that the issue of “Concerns about Use of Chemical Weapons in Syria” be added to the agenda of EC-73.

At the Third Review Conference in April 2013, the States Parties reiterated their deep concern that chemical weapons may have been used in the Syrian Arab Republic. Since then, reports of the use of chemical weapons have intensified. The United Kingdom, France and the United States have now publicly stated that they have high confidence that chemical weapons have been used in Syria.

The Third Review Conference also stressed that “the use of chemical weapons by anyone under any circumstances would be reprehensible and completely contrary to the legal norms and standards of the international community.” The Preamble of the Chemical Weapons Convention makes clear the determination of the States Parties “...for the sake of all mankind, to exclude completely the possibility of the use of chemical weapons, through the implementation of the provisions of this Convention, thereby complementing the obligations assumed under the Geneva Protocol of 1925...” Thus, the reported use of chemical weapons by anyone is directly related to the object and purpose of the Convention.

For the sake of the credibility and relevance of the OPCW as the international body with the responsibility “to exclude completely the possibility of the use of chemical weapons,” the Executive Council must demonstrate that it is seriously addressing the Syrian issue by including it in its formal agenda for EC-73.

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