



OPCW

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THE NETHERLANDS

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR JAN LUCAS VAN HOORN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NETHERLANDS TO THE OPCW
AT THE SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairman,

The Netherlands associates itself with the statement by Greece on behalf of the European Union.

My delegation, like other speakers, is grateful to the Director-General and to the Special Coordinator of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission, for their comprehensive briefings on the developments regarding the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme.

I should also like to take the opportunity to reiterate my delegation's respect and appreciation for the work being done by the staff of the Joint Mission in implementing the mandate of the mission.

Since I took the floor during the Council's meeting on the Syrian Arab Republic on 21 February, we have again seen some progress in the transport of chemical agents from the Syrian Arab Republic. Particularly the removal of mustard is a positive development, as this is the first shipment of liquid Priority 1 chemicals. However, in terms of quantities much remains to be done. The total Priority 1 agent thus far removed now stands at a still rather lowly 7 percent.

And the most important goal is yet to be achieved, that is, the actual complete destruction of the Syrian Arab Republic's chemical weapons, precursors and other chemicals.

The Syrian Arab Republic has committed itself to do this by joining the Convention and declaring its chemical weapons programme. And all parties to the Convention, including the Syrian Arab Republic, are committed to do this by the 30 June 2014. As I stated on 21 February, only four months remain to get the job done.

Council decision EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November leaves no doubt that destruction of all chemicals needs to be completed by 30 June of this year. This is a very firm deadline.

The Syrian Arab Republic has submitted a revised plan for the removal of chemical agents according to which the transfer will be done in sixty days. This therefore is a commitment the Syrian Arab Republic has taken upon itself and I call on the Syrian Arab Republic to



implement its plan without further delay. My delegation is expecting substantial movements of priority chemicals in the next few weeks.

The Netherlands reiterates its call for a swift agreement on the methods of destruction of the 12 remaining chemical weapon production facilities (CWPFs). The Convention leaves no doubt about the obligation to destroy all CWPFs. There can be no doubt as to the meaning of the words “physical destruction”.

According to the decisions of this Council EC-M-35/DEC.2, dated 29 November 2013 and EC-M-36/DEC.1, dated 17 December, the destruction of all twelve CWPFs is to be completed not later than 15 March 2014, less than two weeks from now.

It is therefore imperative that the Syrian Arab Republic proceeds to destroy all CWPFs, within agreed timelines.

Furthermore, it is important that this Council adopts a report reflecting the opinions expressed during this session.

In closing, I request that this statement be issued as an official document of this Seventy-Fifth Session of the Executive Council.

Thank you Mr Chairman.

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