



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Thirty-Eighth Meeting  
30 January 2014

EC-M-38/NAT.2  
30 January 2014  
ENGLISH and FRENCH only

**FRANCE**

**STATEMENT BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION AT THE THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairman,

France shares the concerns raised by the European Union regarding the considerable delay in the transport of chemical agents to the port of Latakia, and the consequences mentioned this morning by the Director-General for the implementation of the further steps of the plan agreed on 27 September 2013. These transport operations are first and foremost the responsibility of the Syrian authorities. Thanks to the support of the international community, the Syrian authorities now have the equipment required to carry out the transfers. Consequently, they should uphold their obligations as soon as possible, without resorting to all manner of excuses to try and escape their responsibilities. As mentioned in the report submitted by the United Nations Secretary General, the States in a position to influence the stakeholders should exercise this role so that all parties cooperate with the OPCW-UN Joint Mission.

France further recalls that, according to decision EC-M-36/DEC.1, dated 17 December 2013, and whatever the outcome of the consultations on methods of destruction, which started mid-January and are due to continue in February, all chemical weapons production facilities on Syrian territory should be physically destroyed by 15 March 2014; France calls upon Syria to abide by its obligations.

I would like to request that this statement be considered an official document of the Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Executive Council.

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