

STATEMENT BY AUSTRIA
AT THE 45th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE OPCW

Mrs. Chairperson,

Permit me to add Austria's voice to the concerns being expressed by so many – a quasi-general outcry against the continued use of chemical weapons in Syria, a member state of the OPCW. Our Italian colleague has, in the name of the EU and a great number of MS expressed in very clear terms our preoccupation about the shocking findings of the FFM in its second report and our determination to assure that the appropriate consequences are being drawn.

The findings of the 2nd report of the FFM which also the DG found “deeply disturbing”, have to be seriously addressed by the EC. It has to consider the report expeditiously also in light of the apparent continued use of chemical weapons. Today's meeting therefore is very timely. It would be appropriate that the discussion was to be reflected in the outcome of the meeting and certainly necessary that the steps to be taken will be seriously considered in the following meetings of this Council.

Extraordinary work being done by the Joint Mission and particularly by the TS of the OPCW. As has been pointed out, work is far from being finished – be it in relation to the destruction of the PF and the verification of discrepancies in Syria's declarations. We are confident, that our Organization will - as in the past - do its utmost to assure full implementation of the various resolutions. We also do welcome the UN-SG decision to continue to exercise his good offices and the readiness of Mrs. Kaag to assist him in this regard

As to the main item of today's meeting, the credibility of the OPCW is at stake. It is therefore of greatest importance, that the FFM continue its work and that the necessary conclusions are going to be drawn from its findings.

Thank you, Mrs. Chairperson.