

Statement by H. E. Jana Reinišová, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the OPCW, at the 59th meeting of the Executive Council

- Mr. Chairman, Mr Director General, distinguished delegates
- I was in fact hesitating whether to take the floor today because the Czech Republic fully aligns itself with the statement made by the Ambassador of Bulgaria on behalf of the European Union. But in light of today's discussion I would like to make a few points.
- First of all, we would like to thank the Director General and Mr. Blum for their opening statements and for all the steps the Organisation has taken in response to the request for technical assistance by the UK.
- We would also like to express our appreciation to the UK for its transparency during this whole process and for promptly sharing the TAV report with all states parties.
- The TAV report clearly confirms previous assessment by the UK as to the nature of the toxic chemical used in the attack. We express full confidence in the findings of this report which was prepared by independent experts.
- The Czech Republic repeatedly rejects all the accusations that it could be involved in the research or development of toxic chemicals “connected to the Skripal case” as was mentioned earlier today. The Czech Republic has never developed, produced or possessed an agent of this type.
- It is well known that the Czech Republic has a long tradition in the field of military medicine and, in particular, that of protection against weapons of mass destruction. That is in fact one of the main reasons why the NATO Joint Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Defence Center of Excellence was established in the Czech Republic.
- Its mission is very transparent and for everyone to see on the website. It does not include research and development of toxic chemical agents. All the activities are undertaken strictly in full compliance with international law and the national legislation.
- We call on Russia, instead of diverting attention in other directions, to answer all the legitimate questions of the UK and the international

community and to disclose to the OPCW its relevant chemical weapons programme.

- I would like to ask for this statement to be made an official document of this meeting and be posted on the OPCW website.
- Thank you, Mr. Chairman

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