



OPCW

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ALBANIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ADIA SAKIQI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE FIFTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Albania fully aligns with the statement given by Ambassador Kostov on behalf of the European Union (EU).

We thank the OPCW and the Director-General for the rapid deployment of the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) in response to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's request under Article VIII of the Chemical Weapons Convention and update us accordingly.

We would like to express full confidence in impartial findings of this report, drawing on the conclusions of the OPCW technical assistance visit (TAV).

Albania took note of the descriptions of the nerve agent mentioned in this report, which constitutes a serious breach of international norms. At the same time we express our solidarity with the United Kingdom and wish full recovery of the affected ones.

Albania supports the international legal framework in place and especially in accordance with the Chemical Weapons Convention, the holding accountable and potential prevention of the use of chemical weapons.

We took into consideration also the findings of the Government of the United Kingdom on the source of the chemical agent and we believe that it would help to identify the nature of the nerve agent used during the Salisbury attack.

The use of a nerve agent for the first time in Europe (allied territory) constitutes a security threat to us all. In the spirit of a coordinated international effort on shedding light on this issue at the OPCW level, we would encourage the Russian Federation to disclose the OPCW of any programme with relevance to the case, in conformity with the Convention.

I would kindly ask that this statement be issued as an official document and placed on the OPCW public website.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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