



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

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**FINLAND**

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR PÄIVI KAUKORANTA  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FINLAND TO THE OPCW  
AT THE NINETY-FIRST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**UNDER AGENDA ITEM 6(G)**

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

The European Union acknowledges the professionalism and work of the OPCW Technical Secretariat (“the Secretariat”) under the leadership of its Director-General Fernando Arias. We have full confidence in the capacity of the Secretariat to implement the decisions and tasks given by the States Parties. We reiterate our firm support for the Secretariat’s efforts to effectively implement the Chemical Weapons Convention.

In the same vein, the European Union reiterates its strong support for the work of the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM). Its report S/1731/2019 (dated 1 March 2019) concludes that the evaluation and analysis of all information gathered by the FFM provide reasonable grounds that the use of toxic chemical as a weapon took place. We commend the work and professionalism of the FFM. This work is essential for paving the way for further steps to identify the perpetrators of these reprehensible attacks.

I would kindly ask you, Mr Chairperson, to register this statement as an official document of the Ninety-First Session of the Executive Council.

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