



**STATEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
BY H.E. AMBASSADOR GUDRUN LINGNER
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GERMANY TO THE OPCW
AT THE 94th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(The Hague, 7-10 July 2020)**

Agenda Item 6 (f) – Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to deliver a statement on behalf of the European Union (EU).

The Candidate Countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Turkey, and the EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries Iceland and Norway, members of the EEA (European Economic Area), as well as the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine align themselves with this statement. San Marino also associates itself with this statement.

The European Union welcomes the release of the first report of the OPCW Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) to the OPCW Executive Council and to the Secretary General of the United Nations on 8 April 2020. The European Union strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons by the Syrian Arab Air Force as concluded by the report.

In response to the findings of the IIT report, the Executive Council has just taken a crucially important decision on addressing the possession and use of chemical weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic. This decision has been carefully drafted in accordance with the Convention. It sets clear and verifiable parameters for action that the Syrian Arab Republic needs to take in order to return to full compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The European Union strongly supports the Decision and urges the Syrian Arab Republic to take all the measures required to redress the situation in the specified timeframe. As set out in the Decision, it will now be the duty of the Conference of the States Parties to decide the further course of action, in accordance with Art XII of the Convention. We call on all States Parties to fulfil their responsibility and uphold the credibility of the Convention.

I would kindly ask you, Mr Chairperson, to consider this statement as an official document and post it on the OPCW External Server and public website.