

**GERMANY****STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF
GERMANY TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY TO THE STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE OPCW**

With regard to the Statement by the Russian Federation (C-25/NAT.48, dated 19 February 2021 and circulated on 9 April 2021), Germany would like to note the following:

The Russian Statement contains a number of allegations directed against Germany concerning the poisoning of Mr Alexey Navalny. These allegations are neither new nor do they have any foundation. Germany has made its view on this affair clear on many occasions. In reply to the Russian statement Germany once again underlines that there are well established facts about the poisoning of Mr Navalny which have been confirmed beyond any doubt. It is up to the Russian Federation now to investigate and disclose the circumstances of the attack on Mr Navalny instead of denying the facts.

Germany would like to emphasise once again that our findings on the poisoning of Mr Navalny were repeatedly and independently confirmed by laboratories from Sweden, France and two OPCW designated laboratories. These findings were based on the investigation of bio samples taken from Mr Navalny securing a clear chain of custody. The idea that all these laboratories were wrong or that there has been any undue collusion among all these experts is far-fetched at best.

In this context Germany wishes to point again to the Secretariat's classified report on the technical assistance provided to Germany which is accessible to all State Parties of the Chemical Weapons Convention, including the Russian Federation. It confirms clearly that Mr Navalny was poisoned by a cholinesterase inhibitor of the novichok group. The report does not and cannot answer the question on what exactly happened to Mr Navalny in Russia, more specifically regarding the exact circumstances of Mr Navalny's poisoning, i.e., how and by whom the above-mentioned nerve agent was administered to him within the Russian Federation. Again, only Russia can answer these questions. Russia, in its statement, is asking for witnesses and plausible explanations regarding the poisoning of Mr Navalny; as does the international community. It is important to emphasise once again that the poisoning took place on the territory of the Russian Federation and was directed against a Russian citizen. It is up to Russia to do its utmost to investigate and to hold those responsible for this crime accountable. Against this background it is remarkable that up to now, the Russian Federation has not even started a criminal investigation.



Germany has extensively answered repeated Russian requests for legal assistance despite the fact that Russia has the best evidence at its own hands and on its own territory. Germany is—in the same way as Russia—bound by the European Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters, as well as by national law, when determining the scope of the legal assistance can be provided.

In conclusion, Germany once again calls upon the Russian Federation to accept the facts: there was a poisoning of Mr Navalny with a toxic chemical substance belonging to the novichok group. The poisoning happened on Russian territory, the victim was treated in a Russian hospital for two days. Russia has all the evidence, the necessary material and the expertise to investigate the circumstances of the poisoning of Mr Navalny.

We kindly ask that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and published on the OPCW external server and website.

--- 0 ---