



OPCW

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ENGLISH and RUSSIAN only

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE
OPCW AT THE NINETY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY**

We have noted the continued insinuations of a number of NATO countries regarding the “poisoning” of Mr Navalny with a certain military-grade toxic agent. This issue has become a permanent fixture among the running anti-Russian theses that have apparently become obligatory subjects of discussion at each session of the policy-making organs of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. And it is no surprise: so much effort was put into hyping this issue up.

It is also clear that the self-proclaimed “warriors against impunity” do not, in fact, expect any investigation from the Russian side. All of their actions, in spite of their verbal declarations, point to the fact that their task is to keep this issue at the forefront in order to exert further political and economic pressure on our country. The Euro-Atlantic allies, who consider themselves both judges and prosecutors, decided who the guilty parties are long ago and introduced sanctions against them. Now they are stubbornly trying to cover up their tracks and use any means possible to prevent the truth from coming to the surface.

And so, German law enforcement bodies have not provided even one substantive response to our total of eight requests from the Prosecutor General of the Russian Federation regarding international legal assistance in the situation with Mr Navalny. The situation is similar with France and Sweden. The Russian Federation’s requests under Articles VII and IX of the Chemical Weapons Convention have also gone unsatisfied, even though they clearly stipulate that States Parties are to provide legal assistance to one another and take measures to clarify any ambiguous matters via consultations and the exchange of information.

We would recall that the information and materials that we requested are necessary in order for the Russian Ministry of the Interior to complete its pre-trial investigation into the reasons behind the emergency hospitalisation of a Russian citizen in Omsk on 20 August 2020. Without it, in keeping with Russian legislation, it is impossible to open a potential criminal case. Our colleagues know this and still intentionally hide data that they say they possess.

We categorically reject the distortion of the cause-and-effect links to the breakdown in the negotiations of the OPCW Technical Secretariat on the modalities of the provision to Russia of technical assistance under paragraph 38(e) of Article VIII of the Convention. We saw the main task of this assistance as working jointly with OPCW experts to analyse the samples collected from Mr Navalny in Omsk and comparing them with the results of the analysis obtained through the OPCW. This would make it possible to clarify the main issues: where, by what means, and



under what circumstances did the detected chemicals appear in the blogger's biomaterials. We are deeply concerned that the parameters of the planned visit were rejected.

New gaps, ambiguities, discrepancies, and inconsistencies keep turning up in this story, which was clearly orchestrated—and not without external participation.

The information contained in the Draft Report of the OPCW on the Implementation of the Convention in 2020 (EC-97/CRP.1, dated 17 May 2021) essentially confirms that what took place with the Russian blogger was the result of a provocation that was carefully planned outside the borders of Russia. In paragraph 1.41, it clearly states that at the request of Germany, the Secretariat deployed a team to provide technical assistance in connection with the suspected poisoning of a Russian citizen back in 20 August 2020! Yet at that very time, Mr Navalny, who was onboard flight No. 2614 of the Russian airline S7 on the Tomsk – Moscow route, had only just begun to experience the first signs of worsening health, after which he was hospitalised in Omsk. We demand rational explanations as to how this is possible and why States Parties were previously misled regarding the deployment to Germany of Secretariat experts on 4 – 5 September 2020.

In light of all the above, we see any claims and demands addressed to us regarding any investigation into the incident with Mr Navalny as completely unfounded, hypocritical, and leading to increased politicisation of the work of the OPCW. It is time to put an end to this. At the same time, the Russian side confirms its readiness to return to working together to clarify all the circumstances of what happened with the Russian citizen after the authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as France and Sweden, fulfil their obligations under the Convention, as well as in the field of international law enforcement assistance, and provide us with all of the information and material evidence that we requested.

We request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Ninety-Seventh Session of the Council and published on the Organisation's extranet and website.

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