



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

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ESTONIA

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ESTONIA
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9(D)**

Mr Chairperson,

The Republic of Estonia aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. We also co-sponsored the joint statement delivered by the Ambassador of the Czech Republic. Estonia *joins earlier speakers* in strongly condemning the use of a military chemical nerve agent of the novichok group to poison the prominent Russian opposition figure Mr Alexei Navalny. Impunity cannot be an option when we talk about the use of weapons of mass destruction. Those responsible for their use must be held accountable. All States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”) must do their utmost to ensure full compliance. Clearly, the Russian Federation has chosen a different path.

The withdrawal of the Russian Federation’s request for an OPCW technical assistance visit (TAV) is a step away from bringing perpetrators to justice. Altogether, the Russian Federation’s unwillingness to cooperate with the OPCW in ensuring an impartial international investigation and to hold accountable those responsible is in violation of obligations under the Convention.

Estonia requests this statement is issued as an official document of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and posted on the OPCW External Server and public website.

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