



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-Sixth Session
29 November – 3 December 2021

C-26/NAT.4
3 December 2021
ENGLISH and FRENCH only

BELGIUM

**REQUEST FOR CIRCULATION OF A DOCUMENT AT THE TWENTY-SIXTH
SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

The Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of Belgium to the International Organisations in The Hague has requested that a note verbale addressed to the Technical Secretariat, dated 3 December 2021, be circulated as an official document of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Annex: Note Verbale No. OIAC/WRS/BM/55 from the Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of Belgium to the International Organisations in The Hague Addressed to the Technical Secretariat, Dated 3 December 2021



Annex

**NOTE VERBALE NO. OIAC/WRS/BM/55 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATION OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM TO
THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE HAGUE ADDRESSED TO
THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT, DATED 3 DECEMBER 2021**

Permanent Representation of the Kingdom
of Belgium to the International Organisations
in The Hague

Johan van Oldenbarneveltlaan 11
2582 NE Den Haag
T: +31.70-3 123 416
E-mail: int.TheHague@diplobel.fed.be
www.netherlands.diplomatie.belgium.be

Our reference
OIAC/WRS/BM/55

NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of Belgium to the International Organisations in The Hague presents its compliments to the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and has the honour to transmit to it the statement of Belgium concerning the aerosolised use of central nervous system-acting chemicals for law enforcement purposes, made under agenda item 26 (Any other business) of the agenda of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

The Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of Belgium to the International Organisations in The Hague should be grateful if the Technical Secretariat would circulate this note verbale and its annex as an official document of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and publish it on the internal server and public website of the OPCW.

The Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of Belgium to International Organisations in The Hague takes this opportunity to renew to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW the assurances of its highest consideration.

Done at The Hague, 3 December 2021

[signature and seal]

Annex: 1 document

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
Technical Secretariat
Johan de Wittlaan 32
2517 JR The Hague

Annex

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR WILLIAM ROELANTS DE STAPPERS
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN THE HAGUE
CONCERNING THE AEROSOLISED USE OF CENTRAL NERVOUS
SYSTEM-ACTING CHEMICALS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES
AT THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE STATES PARTIES (C-26/DEC.10)**

Belgium opposes the aerosolised use for law enforcement purposes of chemical agents commonly referred to as central nervous system-acting chemicals (CNSAC). It is indeed important to take into account the scientific developments that have been made since the adoption of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and to integrate this knowledge into our practice of implementing our obligations under the Convention. Accordingly, Belgium agrees with the spirit and purpose of the draft decision presented today, and voted in favour of it.

Nevertheless, Belgium would like to point out that it is important that we agree on a clear definition, a shared understanding, and an approved list of chemicals that fall under the definition of CNSAC. In order to provide clarity to all of the Contracting Parties, and to avoid any conceptual confusion, a clarification of the agents considered harmful for riot control purposes would allow for uniform application of this decision. The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) has a role to play in this discussion.

Belgium is in favour of continuing the debate on this issue within the OPCW. This requires a shared willingness on the part of all of the Contracting Parties to have an open discussion on the matter. We hope that we will be able to continue the debate in a constructive manner in order to delve deeper into the issue and to facilitate the raising of awareness around this subject. Indeed, a shared awareness will help the States Parties to implement this decision at the national level.

I would be grateful if this statement could be considered as an official document of the Conference of the States Parties.

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