



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Ninety-Ninth Session  
8 – 10 March 2022

EC-99/NAT.42  
8 March 2022  
ENGLISH and FRENCH only

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
DELIVERED BY MS TIPHAINE JOUFFROY  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC TO  
THE OPCW AT THE NINETY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 7(E)**

I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the European Union.

The candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Turkey, the European Free Trade Association countries and members of the European Economic Area Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway, as well as Georgia and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

Andorra and San Marino also associate themselves with this statement.

Madam Chairperson,

Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use is a key item on the agenda of the Executive Council (“the Council”), and is central to upholding international norms related to chemical weapons use. The European Union reiterates its strong concerns that the Russian Federation still has not responded to international calls, including those repeated during the Ninety-Eighth Session of the Council and during the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties in December 2021, for a thorough and transparent investigation into the assassination attempt against the Russian opposition politician Alexei Navalny. The August 2020 poisoning of Mr Navalny in Russia with a military nerve agent of the novichok group—a substance developed by Russia—has been confirmed, beyond any doubt, by specialised laboratories in Germany, France, and Sweden, as well as by the OPCW. The European Union has condemned this poisoning in the strongest possible terms.

Impunity for the use of chemical weapons must and will not be tolerated. On 15 October 2020, the European Union introduced a sanctions regime dedicated to fighting the proliferation and use of chemical weapons. Under the regime, the European Union has designated five Syrian officials and one entity involved in the Syrian chemical weapons programme, as well as 10 Russian nationals and one entity linked either to the Salisbury attack or the poisoning of Mr Navalny with the novichok nerve agent. Furthermore, fully in line with the findings of the report on the poisoning of Mr Navalny, issued on 10 January 2022 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), the European Union Member States join PACE in calling upon the Russian Federation to “fulfil its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention, including by investigating the alleged development, production, stockpiling, and use of a chemical weapon on Russian territory, and by providing substantive replies to questions posed by other States parties”, including the questions posed by 45 States Parties on 5 October 2021 within the framework of paragraph 2 of Article IX of the Convention.



The European Union once again urges the Russian Federation, in full transparency and without further delay, to disclose and provide credible explanations regarding the circumstances of the assassination attempt against Mr Navalny.

I would kindly ask that the necessary arrangements be made for this statement to be considered as an official document and to be posted on the OPCW external server and public website.

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