



OPCW

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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(C)**

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

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

Andorra, Monaco, and San Marino also associate themselves with this statement.

Madam Chairperson,

The European Union welcomes the publication of the latest Fact-Finding Mission reports and takes note of their conclusions, which confirm the use of chemicals as a weapon, respectively in Marea on 1 September 2015 and in Kafr Zeita on 1 October 2016.

The European Union expresses its deep concern regarding these conclusions and reiterates its strong condemnation of the use of chemical weapons.

No matter who, where, when, and under which circumstances: the use of chemical weapons is always a violation of international law and may constitute a most serious crime of international concern, including a war crime and a crime against humanity.

The European Union reiterates its full confidence in the OPCW Technical Secretariat, and knows that its professionalism, impartiality, and technical expertise are well established.

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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