



OPCW

Executive Council

Ninety-Seventh Session
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**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SANJA ŠTIGLIČ
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA TO THE
OPCW AT THE NINETY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 17**

Mr Chairperson,

Since this is the first time I take the floor, let me warmly congratulate you on your election as the Chairperson of the Executive Council. I would like to assure you of our full support in steering the work of the Executive Council in the months to come.

I have asked to take the floor to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU).

We take this opportunity to commend the leadership of Director-General Fernando Arias, at the helm of the OPCW Technical Secretariat since 2018. The Director-General's successful tenure is characterised by his dedication to work and serving the States Parties. We also appreciate the efforts to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention under the exceptional circumstances caused by the pandemic.

The European Union reiterates its full confidence in Director-General Arias and supports his re-appointment for a second term of office.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

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