



STATEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
BY H.E. AMBASSADOR KATEŘINA SEQUENSOVÁ
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC TO THE
OPCW
AT THE 101st SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(The Hague, 4-7 October 2022)

Agenda item 6 (g) – Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use

I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU).

Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine is an attack on our common principles. It grossly violates the UN Charter. It undermines the international rules-based international order and multilateralism. It damages the global economy and aggravates global food and energy security, which, across the globe, hit the most vulnerable.

The EU resolutely condemns the Russian aggression and demands that Russia immediately, completely and unconditionally withdraws all its troops and military equipment from the entire territory of Ukraine and fully respects Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognised borders. The European Union is unwavering in its support to Ukraine and its people in its inherent right to self-defence against the Russian aggression and to build a peaceful, democratic and prosperous future. Russia bears full responsibility for this act of aggression and all the destruction and loss of life it will cause. It will be held accountable for its actions.

Moreover, as part of its aggression against Ukraine, Russia has engaged in a campaign of disinformation and state-controlled propaganda in spreading unsubstantiated and unfounded allegations against Ukraine and others regarding chemical weapons while risking exposure of the Ukrainian population to toxic chemicals through their deliberate attacks against civilian industrial facilities.

Let us recall that Russia, the country responsible for the ongoing war and violations of international law and international humanitarian law in Ukraine, has a track record in the use of chemical weapons in assassinations and assassination attempts as well as in sowing disinformation.

It is well established that Ukraine is a responsible member of the Chemical Weapons Convention and in full compliance with the Convention. In this context, we also remain steadfast in defending the OPCW Technical Secretariat against baseless accusations and attacks on its integrity and credibility through deliberate campaigns of state-sponsored disinformation. Following the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, the EU has adopted massive and unprecedented sanctions packages against Russia. On 3 June 2022, the list of sanctions was amended to ban the export of chemicals to Russia that could be misused for the manufacturing of chemical weapons.

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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