



OPCW

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GERMANY

**REQUEST FOR CIRCULATION OF A DOCUMENT
AT THE 104TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**


The Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the OPCW has requested that a note verbale addressed to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (dated 6 October 2023) be circulated as an official document of the 104th Session of the Executive Council.

Annex (English only): Note Verbale from the Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW
Dated 6 October 2023



Annex

**NOTE VERBALE FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY TO THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT
OF THE OPCW DATED 6 OCTOBER 2023**



Permanent Representation
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the OPCW

File No. CW 370.45/09
Verbal Note No. 41/2023

Note Verbale

The Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), on behalf of seven States Parties (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America), presents its compliments to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW and has the honour to request it to convey a copy of this Note Verbale to the Russian Federation's Permanent Representation to the OPCW, pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 2 of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (hereinafter "the Convention").

We recall that under Article I, paragraph 5, the Convention states that "Each State Party undertakes not to use riot control agents as a method of warfare."

We express our grave concern about reports that indicate riot control agents may have been used repeatedly by Russian armed forces in combat operations against Ukrainian forces in Ukraine.

Referring to the Note Verbales No. 61219/35-196/50-61363 of 28 May 2023 and No. 61219/35-196/50-107892 of 11 September 2023 from the Embassy of Ukraine in the Netherlands, and a report televised by the Russian First Channel's news journal "Vremya" in its 9 pm edition on 2 May 2023 on the use of tear gas by Russian armed forces in combat action in the Donetsk region, we request answers to the following questions:

1. Have Russian armed forces used riot control agents in combat operations in the conflict in Ukraine?

Technical Secretariat of the
Organisation for the Prohibition of
Chemical Weapons

The Hague

2. How does the Russian Federation explain the First Channel TV report, and has there been any investigation of the reported case in order to ensure that obligations under the Convention are being strictly observed?

We note that Article IX, paragraph 2 of the Convention provides that a response shall be provided as soon as possible, but in any case not later than 10 days.

We would be grateful if the Technical Secretariat could circulate a copy of this Note Verbale to all States Parties and make it available on the OPCW public website and Catalyst as an official document to EC-104.

The Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the OPCW avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW the assurances of its highest consideration.

The Hague, 6 October 2023

