



STATEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CONSUELO FEMENIA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SPAIN TO THE OPCW
AT THE 28th SESSION OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CWC
(The Hague, 27 November- 1 December 2023)

Agenda item 13 – Biennial Programme and Budget 2024-25

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

The OPCW needs a predictable and solid financial base to meet States Parties' expectations regarding its programmatic work in support of the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The European Union supports Director-General Arias' revised draft bi-annual programme and budget for 2024-25. However, under the currently challenging financial conditions, the Technical Secretariat is required to continue to practice strict budgetary discipline in order to proactively decrease expenditure where possible. This responsible approach should also be applied to the use of extra budgetary funding by the Secretariat.

In this context, we call on States Parties to meet their obligations and pay their assessed contributions in full and on time. For its part, the European Union will continue to support the work of the Organisation with voluntary funding worth EUR 5,350,000 until 2026. This contribution will help finance key activities such as capacity building and laboratory twinning as well as the organisation of the first Table-Top Exercise (TTX) on chemical terrorism.

The Candidate Countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Türkiye, Ukraine, the potential candidate country Georgia and Armenia, as well as the EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the EEA (European Economic Area) align themselves with this statement. Andorra, Monaco and San Marino also associate themselves with this statement.

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

Thank you.

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