



**STATEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MARKUS LEINONEN  
EU LIAISON OFFICER TO THE HAGUE  
AT THE 28th SESSION OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CWC  
(The Hague, 27 November- 1 December 2023)**

**Agenda item 17 – Fostering of international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities**

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

The European Union would like to reiterate its commitment to supporting international cooperation and assistance. We live up to this commitment also through sizable voluntary contributions in support for example of the implementation of the OPCW Africa Programme and the establishment of the ChemTech Centre.

Mr. Chairperson.

I am compelled to take the floor to respond to the accusation of the Russian Delegation that there are Russian fertilizers blocked in EU ports.

The European Union sanctions aim to curb Russia's ability to conduct and finance its war and to impose costs on those responsible for this unprovoked and unjustified aggression. They are carefully crafted to avoid any unintended consequences for food security of third countries around the globe. They are not extraterritorial and only apply within EU jurisdiction.

EU sanctions do not target the trade in agricultural and food products, including grain and fertilisers, between Russia and third countries. Russia's claims that so-called "Western" sanctions are blocking its food and fertilisers exports are contradicted by the available data. The port embargo specifically includes full exemptions of agricultural goods.

Statistics available, including those of Russian origin, demonstrate that Russian exports of grain and fertilisers have remained very high, sometimes even hitting record levels, bringing significantly increased incomes to finance the Russian war machine. Moreover, it is Russia which is restricting its own grain exports and fertilisers.

While Russia is engaging in campaigns to manipulate such information and to spread propaganda, the EU is committed to avoiding that our sanctions impact food security of third countries around the globe in any way. We are continuously monitoring possible unintended impact of EU sanctions on third countries, in close cooperation with the Member States and the UN.

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.

\* \* \*