



STATEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
BY H.E. AMBASSADOR OLIVIER BELLE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BELGIUM TO THE OPCW
AT THE 105th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(The Hague, 5 - 8 March 2024)

Agenda item 9: Countering Chemical Terrorism

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

The European Union would like to commend the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T), H.E. Vusi Madonsela of South Africa for his able stewardship of the Working Group, and his initiative to organise the first-ever Table-Top Exercise (TTX) on chemical terrorism on 20-21 November 2023 in the ChemTech Centre. We also commend the efforts of the Technical Secretariat in putting together this successful event.

The European Union was pleased to contribute to the scenario planning and conduct of the exercise with CBRN experts as well as a voluntary financial contribution. We look forward to discussing the lessons drawn from the Exercise, and stand ready to consider supporting next steps with expertise and financially.

Mr. Chairperson,

Countering chemical terrorism is a central work strand in the implementation of the Convention collectively but also at national level. I would like to share with you information which is relevant in this context. The book called “Prosecutor’s Guide to Chemical and Biological Crimes”, compiled by UNICRI (the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute) and funded by the European Union from 2022 is now available on-line in Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish. Hard copies are also available from the EU Liaison Office to The Hague.

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.

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