



OPCW

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14 February 2026
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UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

**REQUEST FOR CIRCULATION OF A DOCUMENT
AT THE 111TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

The Permanent Representation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the OPCW on behalf of the Permanent Representations of France, Germany, the Netherlands, and Sweden has requested that a joint letter addressed to the Director-General of the OPCW (dated 14 February 2026) be circulated as an official document of the 111th Session of the Executive Council.

Annex: Joint Letter from the Permanent Representations of France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom to the Director-General of the OPCW Dated 14 February 2026



Annex

**JOINT LETTER FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIONS OF
FRANCE, GERMANY, THE NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN, AND
THE UNITED KINGDOM TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE OPCW
DATED 14 FEBRUARY 2026**



Permanent Representation
of the Federal Republic of Germany
to the OPCW



Kingdom of the Netherlands



Embassy of Sweden
The Hague



UK Delegation
to the OPCW

Director-General Fernando Arias

OPCW

Johan de Wittlaan 32

2517 JR

Den Haag

Date: 14 February 2026

Dear Director-General,

On behalf of the Governments of France, Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom we wish to draw your attention to the enclosed statement by our countries' Foreign Ministries.

Our Governments have concluded that Aleksei Navalny was poisoned while held in a Russian prison.

The poison found in samples recovered from the remains of Mr Navalny is epibatidine. This toxin is found in nature, in frogs in South America. It is not found in Russia. It is highly toxic and capable of causing death. It can be synthesised in a laboratory using a range of non-Scheduled chemicals.

We recall the report by the Technical Secretariat, S/1906/2020, which concluded that "biomarkers of the cholinesterase inhibitor found in Mr Navalny's blood and urine samples have similar structural characteristics to the toxic chemicals belonging to schedules 1.A.14 and 1.A.15, which were added to the Annex on Chemicals to the Convention at the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties in November 2019."

We recall that Russia has failed to answer questions submitted to it under Article IX contained in Note Verbale No. 93/2021 on 05 October 2021.

Our Governments have concluded that the authorities of the Russian Federation had the means and opportunity to administer epibatidine to Mr Navalny.

Article IX of the Convention provides for consultation, cooperation and fact-finding. We will raise this matter under the relevant agenda item of the 111th session of the Executive Council.

Yours sincerely,

H.E. Mr François Alabrune

*Permanent Representative of
France to the OPCW*

H.E. Mr Thomas Schieb

*Permanent Representative of
Germany to the OPCW*

H.E. Mr. Govert Jan Bijl de Vroe

*Permanent Representative of The
Netherlands to the OPCW*

H.E. Mr Julius Liljeström

*Permanent Representative of
Sweden to the OPCW*

H.E. Mr Christopher Rampling

*Permanent Representative of the United
Kingdom to the OPCW*



Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands



Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

Joint Statement

The UK, Sweden, France, Germany and The Netherlands are confident that Alexei Navalny was poisoned with a lethal toxin.

This is the conclusion of our Governments based on analyses of samples from Alexei Navalny. These analyses have conclusively confirmed the presence of epibatidine.

Epibatidine is a toxin found in poison dart frogs in South America. It is not found naturally in Russia.

Russia claimed that Navalny died of natural causes. But given the toxicity of epibatidine and reported symptoms, poisoning was highly likely the cause of his death. Navalny died while held in prison, meaning Russia had the means, motive and opportunity to administer this poison to him.

Russia's repeated disregard for international law and the Chemical Weapons Convention is clear.

In August 2020 the UK, Sweden, France, Germany, The Netherlands and partners condemned Russia's use of novichok to poison Alexei Navalny.

This followed Russia's use of novichok in Salisbury in 2018, which led to the tragic death of a British woman, Dawn Sturgess.

In both cases, only the Russian state had the combined means, motive and disregard for international law to carry out the attacks.

These latest findings once again underline the need to hold Russia accountable for its repeated violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention and, in this instance, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

Our Permanent Representatives to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons have written today to the Director General to inform him of this Russian breach of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We are further concerned that Russia did not destroy all of its chemical weapons.

We and our partners will make use of all policy levers at our disposal to continue to hold Russia to account.

Agreed by the Foreign Ministers of France, Germany, The Netherlands, Sweden and the UK.

14 February 2026

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