

Statement Czech Republic

at the One Hundred and Eleventh Session of the Executive Council

(The Hague, 10. – 14. March 2026)

AGENDA ITEM [6f]

– ADDRESSING THE THREAT FROM CHEMICAL WEAPONS IN USE

Czechia firmly condemns the use of toxic chemicals in the **case of Aleksei Navalny** as described in the conclusions presented by Germany, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. Such an act represents a grave breach of the Chemical Weapons Convention and that is why we support the request for clarification under Article IX and call the Technical Sekretariat to act accordingly.

Epibatidine is **not known to occur naturally in Russia**, nor does any plausible benign explanation exist for its presence. The circumstances under which Mr. Navalny was detained, combined with the toxin's characteristics, raise **grave and legitimate concerns** under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We recall that the international community is still awaiting a **credible, thorough, and transparent explanation from the Russian Federation** regarding the **poisoning of Mr. Navalny** with a nerve agent of the “Novichok” group in August 2020. To date, despite repeated calls by States Parties, **no satisfactory information** has been provided. Furthermore Russian Federation is still to provide clarifications on **Dawn Sturgess and the Skripals' by chemical agents**.

We urge the Russian Federation to **engage constructively with the Technical Sekretariat**, respond substantively to the questions posed by States Parties, and cooperate fully with all relevant mechanisms of the Convention. A credible resolution of this case is indispensable to maintaining the integrity of the global norm against chemical weapons.