

**Statement of Dr. Nikolaus J. Korczynski, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to
the OPCW
at EC-111 on 11 March 2026
under agenda item 6 f Navalny**

Mr. Chairperson, Excellencies, esteemed colleagues.

We know now: Russia poisoned Alexei Navalny not once, but twice with chemical weapons. The first time in 2020, with Novichok, which he only survived thanks to the quick reaction of a Russian flight crew, the professional work of Russian emergency doctors, and finally thanks to the efforts of German specialists in the Charité Hospital in Berlin.

And yet he decided to return back home. And once he did, Russian authorities first imprisoned him on trumped-up charges, and then poisoned him a second time.

As expected, the Russian Permanent Representation declared that it must have actually been Western secret services who poisoned Alexei Navalny. This is obvious nonsense. Alexei Navalny died while held in a remote Russian prison, meaning Russia had the means, motive and opportunity to administer this poison to him.

But let us not make the mistake of entering the maze of smoke and mirrors of Russian disinformation, since this is meant to distract us. To distract us from what Alexei Navalny's second poisoning actually means in the context of our work: It shows us that in addition to Novichok, the Russian Federation has developed a second, undeclared chemical weapons programme in violation of the Convention.

This is why we request answers from Russia, pursuant to Article IX, para. 4, of the Convention, and we hope that the Council will be instrumental in clarifying this deeply worrying matter.

It is absolutely unacceptable that Russia, a founding member of this Organisation, is consistently and flagrantly violating the Convention. Having two illegal Chemical Weapons programs and routinely using Riot Control Agents and Chloropicrin as a method of warfare against Ukraine have to have consequence. This situation is simply unbearable.