

STATEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
BY H.E. ULF MELGAARD
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF DENMARK TO THE OPCW
AT THE 110th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(The Hague, 7-10 October 2025)

Agenda item 6(f): Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use - Russia

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

Andorra, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Republic of Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

The Ukrainian authorities have to date documented 10,950 cases of use of ammunition containing toxic chemicals since the beginning of Russia's war of aggression, resulting in more than 2,862 cases of servicemen suffering from symptoms of chemical injuries. The EU commends Ukraine for having managed to provide samples of these cases under challenging conditions and in accordance with international standards related to sample collection, preservation and transportation.

The analysis of these samples conducted by OPCW designated laboratories separately and independently from one another, indicate that the grenades and samples collected contained the riot control agent CS, and/or its precursor and degradation products. The EU expresses deep concern about these findings which have been transparently shared with all States Parties in reports of the OPCW Technical Assistance Visits (TAV) to Ukraine.

Taken together, the number of registered cases of RCA use, the findings of the OPCW technical assistance visits (TAV) to Ukraine as well as findings of the use of the choking agent chloropicrin against Ukrainian soldiers point to a pattern of systematic riot control agent use as a method of warfare by Russia on the frontlines in Ukraine. Such use is prohibited under Article 1 of the Convention. In light of the seriousness of the situation and to enhance the global norm against the use of chemical weapons, the EU calls for a timely attribution of responsibility for these clear breaches of the Convention. To that effect, we expect the Secretariat to take the

necessary steps to assist as requested by Ukraine in line with the provisions of the Convention and decisions by the States Parties.

Mr. Chairperson,

The international community still awaits a credible response from Russia on the poisoning of Mr. Alexei Navalny in August 2020. Russia has not reacted to international calls for a thorough and transparent investigation into the assassination attempt with a nerve agent of the “Novichok” group, for which there can be no other plausible explanation than Russian State involvement and responsibility. Those responsible for the assassination attempt must be brought to justice.

Since 15 October 2020, the EU has introduced restrictive measures under its chemical weapons sanctions regime against Russian officials, experts and one entity for their involvement in the poisonings of Sergei and Yulia Skripal, and Mr. Alexei Navalny. In light of the TAV reports, we have also introduced restrictive measures on three Russian Armed Forces entities involved in the development and use of chemical weapons. We are ready to consider introducing further measures as appropriate.

Thank you.

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