



OPCW

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LITHUANIA

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DARIUS SEMAŠKA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LITHUANIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The candidate countries Iceland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia^{*}, Montenegro^{*} and the Republic of Serbia^{*}, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates the Republic of Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the Principality of Andorra, the Republic of Armenia, Georgia, the Principality of Monaco, the Republic of San Marino and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

The last weeks were probably the most extraordinary and significant period in the 17-year history of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. The European Union welcomes the OPCW Executive Council decision of 27 September 2013, which underscores Syria's obligation to destroy all its chemical weapons material and equipment and all relevant production and filling facilities, and sets out a clear timetable for this. We also welcome the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2118, which endorses the Executive Council decision and calls for its full implementation in the most expedient and safest manner and makes clear that the United Nations Security Council will impose measures under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter in the event of non-compliance. We take good note of the United Nations Secretary-General recommendations regarding the role of the United Nations in eliminating the Syrian Arab Republic's chemical weapons, pursuant to operative paragraph 8 of Resolution 2118. We encourage the OPCW Director-General to keep States Parties informed of progress with all its activities relevant to the mission in Syria.

The European Union fully supports the OPCW Director-General and the Technical Secretariat in taking all necessary action to achieve rapid implementation of the Executive Council decision. A number of European Union Member States have already committed additional financial resources to the OPCW, air transport for inspectors, technical personnel and equipment going to Syria and have expressed their willingness to support the OPCW

^{*} The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and the Republic of Serbia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.



with expertise and other necessary means in order to discharge the new mandate in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Ten years after the adoption of the Action Plan it is the right moment to re-raise overall awareness of the importance of cooperation and legal assistance among States Parties related to national implementation activities. We all need to ensure a proper follow-up to the recommendations made at the Third Review Conference in the area of national implementation measures.

The European Union remains committed to providing whatever support it can to the Technical Secretariat in its quest for exploring and applying innovative methods of providing assistance on tailor-made approaches to further advance the Chemical Weapons Convention's Article VII implementation. In this regard the European Union hopes that there will be an increase in the number of mentorship projects, and that this activity will in turn help to facilitate the development of focused assistance programmes and ultimately will lead to effective and full implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

In line with the general implementation obligations under Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention, States Parties are encouraged to go beyond the adoption of legislative acts alone and include education and outreach measures for national implementation. Moreover, the European Union urges States Parties to share best practices, keep the effectiveness of national implementation measures under review and ensure that the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention are implemented at all times within their territory or in any other place under their respective jurisdiction.

In conclusion, I would like to request that this statement be issued as an official document of the Seventy-Fourth Session of the Executive Council.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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