



OPCW

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BULGARIA

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR KRASSIMIR KOSTOV
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA TO THE
OPCW AT THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(ON THE SALISBURY INCIDENT)**

Mr Chairperson,

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

The candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, as well as Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

In the light of the new information that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland provided to the OPCW Technical Secretariat and to this session of the Executive Council, the EU would like to reiterate our solidarity with the people and the Government of the United Kingdom in dealing with the consequences of this shocking and unacceptable murderous attempt with a chemical nerve agent in Salisbury.

The EU condemns it in the strongest terms.

We hope for the speedy recovery of the victims.

We have full confidence in the investigation of the United Kingdom so that responsibility is established quickly and the perpetrators of this reckless act held accountable.

The EU takes very seriously the Government of the United Kingdom's assessment that it is highly likely that the Russian Federation is responsible.

We are grateful to the Director-General H.E. Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü for the information he provided to the Executive Council and for the assistance that the OPCW has offered to the United Kingdom.

We support the call for a full and complete disclosure by the Russian Federation to the OPCW of the 'Novichok' programme.

In this respect, we call on the Russian Federation to respond swiftly to the British Government's legitimate questions and to co-operate with the OPCW Technical Secretariat.



The EU reaffirms once again that the use of chemical weapons, including the use of any toxic chemicals as weapons, by anyone, be it a State or a non-State actor, anywhere, and under any circumstances is abhorrent, illegal, and must be systematically and rigorously condemned.

I would kindly ask that this statement be issued as an official document and placed on the OPCW public website.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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