



OPCW

Executive Council

Thirty-Eighth Meeting
30 January 2014

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GREECE

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION DELIVERED
BY H.E. AMBASSADOR TERESA ANGELATOU
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GREECE
AT THE THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

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

From the outset of the Syrian chemical weapons crisis and concerning the destruction process of the chemical arsenal of the Syrian Arab Republic, the EU and its Member States have given their full political, financial and material support to the OPCW-UN Joint Mission. We recall, in this respect, the very substantial financial contributions that the EU has pledged to this ongoing operation.

In this respect and with regard to the agreed timetable we express our deep concern regarding the delays incurred in the overall transport process. We note that the 31 December 2013 deadline for the removal of all priority chemical weapons material has not been met, while the 5 February 2014 deadline to remove other chemical materials is imminent. The EU and its Member States note that the United Nations Secretary General has underlined in his recent report that the Syrian Arab Republic has sufficient material and equipment to carry out the necessary ground transports to ensure the expeditious removal of chemical weapons material. It is imperative that the Syrian Arab Republic examines the situation, intensifies its efforts to expedite in-country movements of chemical weapons material in order to meet its obligations under Resolution 2118 (2013) and relevant OPCW Executive Council decisions. The EU and its Member States recalls that it is the responsibility of the Syrian Arab Republic to ensure the removal of relevant chemicals and the destruction of its chemical weapons programme in a timely and safe manner.

In view of the above, the EU and its Member States express their wish that the above concerns be duly reflected in the report of the Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Executive Council.

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