



OPCW

Executive Council

Thirty-Eighth Meeting
30 January 2014

EC-M-38/NAT.10
30 January 2014
ENGLISH only

NORWAY

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ANNIKEN KRUTNES
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NORWAY TO THE OPCW AT
THE THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

I would like to make a statement on behalf of Norway and Denmark.

The maritime operation to transport chemical weapons out of Syria has now started. As you know, Denmark and Norway have both provided very important contributions to the operation. An efficient Danish-Norwegian-United Kingdom Task Group has been established, which is coordinating closely with the OPCW-UN Joint Mission. Two shipments have taken place, on 7 and 27 January respectively. We appreciate that the land transportation to port has now been initiated. In this context we would like to express our appreciation for the excellent cooperation with Russia and China and their naval vessels providing additional security for the operation. However, the quantity of chemicals received so far is limited. The Norwegian and Danish ships have been waiting in the area, ready to undertake the operation, since 15 December, the date originally set by the Executive Council. According to EC-M-34/DEC.1, Priority 1 chemicals should have been removed from Syria by 31 December. Moreover, all priority chemicals should be removed by 5 February.

Both Norway and Denmark are fully committed to contribute to the implementation of Executive Council decisions and United Nations Security Council Resolution 2118. We have shown extensive flexibility—recognising also the exceptional nature of the operation and the challenging security situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. Most recently—based on a political decision and contrary to our assumptions when we started the operation—the Norwegian cargo ship accepted to load Priority 2 chemicals even though the final port of destination is not known yet. We are, in short, doing whatever we can to speed up the process of removing these chemicals from Syria. We hope all other parties will continue to show the same level of commitment.

The majority of logistical assets required for in-country transportation have now been transferred to Syria. We therefore support the Director-General's call for the Syrian authorities to provide a time frame for the removal of the remaining chemicals from the Syrian Arab Republic. All members have a duty to contribute to the implementation of the decisions of the Executive Council. Any further delays should be avoided. The joint Danish-Norwegian maritime operation has been deployed based on certain assumptions and timeframes and additional delays could mean that operational plans would have to be



redrawn. While aware of the current security context, we urge the Syrian authorities to take all possible measures to accelerate the transportation of chemical components to Latakia.

I request that this statement be included as an official document of the Thirty-Eighth Meeting of the Executive Council

Thank you for your attention.

--- 0 ---