



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Thirty-Ninth Meeting  
21 and 25 February 2014

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**GREECE**

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

Mr Chairperson,

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

The candidate countries, the Republic of Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, 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 Monaco, the Republic of Moldova, Norway, the Republic of San Marino and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

I would like, first of all, to thank the Director-General for his briefing today and for all his efforts and those of OPCW staff in bringing forward this important mission in very difficult and challenging circumstances.

I wish to recall our previous statement at the Thirty-Eighth Meeting, underlining the ongoing delays regarding the removal of the Syrian chemicals and the fact that the dates for removal of Priority 1 and Priority 2 chemicals have been missed. Only extremely low amounts of chemicals, in particular those of Priority 1, have been transferred out of the Syrian Arab Republic. We express our deep and growing concern regarding the delays incurred in the overall transport process, which have a negative impact on both keeping with the agreed timelines and the cost of the operation. Ultimately, these delays also touch upon the credibility of the Syrian commitment to the destruction of their chemical weapons in conformity with agreed timelines.

While remaining aware of the challenging security situation inside the Syrian Arab Republic, the European Union considers that following the substantial international support already provided for the removal of chemicals from its territory, the Syrian Arab Republic has sufficient material and equipment to ensure the expeditious removal, as has been already underlined by the United Nations Secretary-General in his most recent report.

The Syrian Arab Republic must intensify its efforts to expedite in-country movements of chemicals and submit a clear practical plan for meeting its obligations under the relevant OPCW Executive Council decisions and United Nations Security Council Resolution 2118



(2013), so that the final deadline of 30 June 2014 for the elimination and destruction of its chemical weapons can be achieved. We also reiterate that it is the responsibility of the Syrian Arab Republic to ensure the removal of relevant chemicals and the destruction of its chemical weapons in a timely and safe manner.

From the outset of the Syrian chemical weapons crisis and the destruction process of the chemical arsenal of the Syrian Arab Republic, the European Union and its Member States have granted their full support, political, financial and material, to the OPCW-UN Joint Mission. Recalling that the European Union is among the largest financial contributors to this ongoing operation, by contributing to the trust fund financial support of EUR 12 million, and that a number of European Union member states have made further financial contributions and key logistical and operational assets available enabling the OPCW and the United Nations to implement its mandate, we wish to reiterate our continued strong support to the Joint Mission and the swift elimination of the Syrian Arab Republic's chemical weapons.

In view of the above, the European Union expresses its wish that the above concerns be duly reflected in the report of the Thirty-Ninth Meeting of the Executive Council.

In closing, Mr Chairperson, may I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Thirty-Ninth Meeting of the Executive Council.

Thank you Mr Chairperson.

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