



OPCW

Executive Council

Fortieth Meeting
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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 FORTIETH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

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

The countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates, the Republic of Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Andorra, Georgia, the Principality of Monaco, Norway, the Republic of San Marino and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

I would like to thank the Director-General for his briefing today and for all his relentless efforts as well as those of OPCW staff and of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission team in taking forward the important mission entrusted to them, under very difficult and challenging circumstances. The European Union and its Member States have granted their full support, political, financial and material, to the OPCW and the Joint Mission since the beginning of the operation for the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons arsenal.

The European Union remains gravely concerned that the agreed timelines for the removal of both Priority 1 and Priority 2 chemicals from the Syrian Arab Republic have been missed. We note the positive progress made, particularly during the first part of March, but wish also to record our frustration that just two consignments have left Latakia since 20 March. In the light of confirmation—from the Director-General, the United Nations Secretary-General, and separately, the Coordinator of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission—that the Syrian Arab Republic has all it needs to expedite the movement of these materials, these latest delays are particularly disappointing.

The European Union wishes to draw attention to the negative impact of the ongoing delays on the timetable for the overall removal and destruction process, which also have implications for the security of the Syrian Arab Republic's chemical agents and impose an increasing financial burden on the countries contributing to the operation, particularly those providing commercial vessels and maritime escort.

The Syrian Arab Republic needs to resume immediately the systematic, predictable and volume based removal of its chemicals from its territory on the basis of the recommendations of the Operational Planning Group, in order to facilitate meeting the agreed timeline of the end of June 2014 for their total destruction. We remain aware of the challenging security



situation inside the Syrian Arab Republic, but note that these constraints were well understood when the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, working with this Council agreed the original timetable for the removal of this materiel last November.

The Syrian Arab Republic must also take immediate steps to physically destroy the remaining twelve chemical weapons production facilities according to the provisions of the Convention and past practice.

We have arrived at a critical juncture of the entire operation and a mere expression of good intentions does not suffice. The credibility of the Syrian Government's commitment to the destruction of their chemical weapons in conformity with agreed timelines is at stake. We wish to reiterate that it is the responsibility of the Syrian Arab Republic to ensure the elimination of all chemical stocks, along with the facilities that were used to manufacture them and the munitions developed for their delivery.

It is necessary that this Council, States Parties, and the Technical Secretariat now need to review and assess the declaration, amendments, and disclosures of the Syrian Arab Republic in detail to verify their accuracy and ensure they are complete. Appropriate steps must then be taken to resolve ambiguities and concerns that exist, in order to achieve international confidence that the Syrian Arab Republic has met its obligations and the programme has been fully eliminated.

The Council has the duty to closely monitor progress in the implementation of its decisions on the basis of reports from the Director-General and substantial weekly updates of the Syria mission.

In view of the above, the European Union expresses their wish that the above concerns be duly reflected in the report of the Fortieth Meeting of the Executive Council.

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

Thank you Mr Chairperson.

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