



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Fortieth Meeting  
28 March, 11 & 29 April, and 8 May 2014

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8 May 2014  
ENGLISH only

**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 candidate countries, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Republic of Serbia, the countries of the Stabilization and Association Process, and potential candidates the Republic of Albania as well as the Principality of Andorra, the Principality of Monaco, Norway and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

Since this is the last Executive Council meeting under its present composition, I wish to express our deep appreciation to the Chair H.E. Ambassador Olexander Horin of Ukraine, for the excellent way that he has guided the work of the Council. Our appreciation also goes to the Vice-Chairpersons and to the facilitators for their excellent contribution to the activities of the Council.

I would like to thank the Director-General for his briefing today. I would also wish to express our appreciation and continuous support for his relentless efforts as well as those of the OPCW staff and the OPCW-UN Joint Mission team in taking forward the important mission entrusted to them, under very difficult and challenging circumstances.

The European Union notes the progress made during the last part of April, but also wishes to record frustration over the fact that 8% of the declared chemicals are still in the country. Considering that all agreed timelines for the removal of both Priority 1 and Priority 2 chemicals from Syria have long been missed, 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, and puts the 30 June final destruction deadline at risk.

The Syrian Arab Republic needs to take all necessary steps to remove immediately the remaining chemicals from its soil, including ensuring preparatory actions such as packing and decanting are complete. Syria should take immediate action to destroy the remaining isopropanol stocks and to take immediate steps to physically destroy the remaining twelve



chemical weapons production facilities according to the provisions of the Convention and past practice.

The EU also supports the work that the Director-General and his staff has commenced to work with the Syrian Arab Republic to streamline and complete the data in the Syrian Arab Republic's declarations to the OPCW so as to ensure the accuracy and completeness of those declarations and to resolve any discrepancies.

The EU expresses serious concerns regarding the allegations of recent use of chemicals in the Syrian Arab Republic and condemns unequivocally any use of these horrific weapons and calls for all measures to be taken against the repetition of such incidents. The EU supports the fact-finding mission set up by OPCW to establish the facts surrounding these allegations and is looking forward to its report.

The European Union expresses their wish that the above concerns be duly reflected in the report of the Fortieth Meeting of the Executive Council and 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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