

**Statement by Estonia to the OPCW**  
**57<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Executive council**  
**4 April 2018**

Mr Chairperson,

The European Union statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria reflects fully Estonia's position. Therefore I will emphasize just few key aspects particularly important to Estonia.

Estonia condemns the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, and under any circumstances. The reckless act of chemical attack what happened today one month ago in Salisbury is unacceptable and the perpetrators of this crime must be held accountable. I would like to reaffirm our solidarity with the people and the Government of the United Kingdom.

As it was stated in our national statement at the 87<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Council, we have every confidence in the United Kingdom's investigation, as also

in the expertise of the OPCW Technical Secretariat. Attempts to undermine the ongoing investigation and the work of the OPCW experts should be not tolerated.

On 22 March the Heads of State and Government of the European Union agreed that it is highly likely that the Russian Federation is responsible and that there is no plausible alternative explanation. In the meantime nothing has emerged to convince us otherwise, therefore we supports the calls by the United Kingdom and the international community to the Russian Federation to disclose fully and completely its Novichok programme or any other relevant programme to the OPCW.

For the reasons described in the EU statement, Estonia rejects the proposed draft decision.

I would kindly ask that this statement be issued as an official document and placed on the OPCW public website.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.