

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA
TO THE OPCW
AT THE 57TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
4 APRIL 2018

Mr. Chairperson,

Latvia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Ambassador of Bulgaria H.E Krassimir Kostov on behalf of the European Union and would like to stress the following in national capacity.

Latvia reconfirms its full support to the UK`s efforts to lead a thorough and transparent investigation, and welcomes its close cooperation with the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW.

It is crucial that the independent work of the OPCW and its technical experts is not hindered in any way. We support the UK in calling Russian Federation to provide immediate and complete disclosure of any programme with relevance to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Mr. Chairperson,

The use of chemical weapons by anyone under any circumstances should be scrutinized and addressed accordingly. Salisbury chemical weapons attack and the lack of constructive reaction by the Russian Federation to the initial inquiry of the United Kingdom has raised serious concerns. Latvia and many other countries have delivered a strong and coordinated response to Russia and it sends a clear message that there are dire consequences for such unacceptable actions and breaches of international norms and rules.

We will remain closely focused on this issue. Full adherence to the principles of the CWC has always been of a paramount importance and should remain so.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson