

Statement of Norway at EC-M-57 on 4 April 2018

Mr Chair,

Having listened attentively to the statements delivered today it is still not clear why this meeting of the Executive Council was called today.

Norway has full confidence in the ongoing investigation carried out by British authorities and the OPCW's technical assistance in this matter and expresses hope that this will lead to accountability for the heinous crime committed in Salisbury.

We welcome the promise that conclusions from the technical assistance mission will be shared with us in due course.

We commend the Director General and staff of the technical secretariat for their dedication and professionalism in carrying out their duties.

Russia should respond to the legitimate questions posed by the United Kingdom.

The British government has the sovereign right to protect its people and territory and to conduct a national investigation into the attack in Salisbury.

The Executive Council should not impose unfounded and unreasonable conditions on how the United Kingdom conduct its investigation and we cannot therefore support the ideas set out in the draft EC decision that has been presented at this meeting.

Finally, let me express Norway's support for the statement delivered by the Ambassador of Bulgaria on behalf of the European Union.

Thank you