

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY MR. MARCIN KAWAŁOWSKI
CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES A.I.
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND TO THE
OPCW
AT THE 59TH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
APRIL 18, 2018**

*Mr. Chairperson,
Director General,
Distinguished Delegates,*

Poland already previously expressed its grave concern on the use of a nerve agent in an attempt to murder Mr. Sergei Skripal and his daughter, Ms. Yulia Skripal, on March 4, 2018 in Salisbury, UK. We expressed also our full solidarity with the British people and the British government in this regard.

The OPCW Report confirmed British Porton Down laboratory’s findings on the agent used in Salisbury. This is clearly indicating that reaction of international community, supporting the UK, was appropriate. We are grateful to the UK government for sharing, in the spirit of transparency, the results of Technical Assistance Visit (TAV), as well as to the OPCW leadership and the TAV’s members for outstanding and professional work done in this regard.

In this situation, we repeat our call on Russia to address the legitimate questions raised by the British Government and corroborated by results of the OPCW TAV’s report, and to provide immediate, full and complete disclosure to the OPCW of any programme with relevance to the case.

Poland would like to restate its strong conviction that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be identified and punished. The incident in

Salisbury is yet another example of violation of the international law and the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Any such act cannot be left unanswered since it undermines not only the basic sense of justice but also leads to the erosion of the non-proliferation and disarmament regime and in consequence – it undermines security of all of us.

This grave situation should encourage us to strongly support all relevant multilateral mechanisms, including recently launched Partnership against the impunity, in order to globally ban chemical weapons and to stop further erosion of this critical norm.

For that very reason Polish government will vigorously continue its efforts on the international stage aimed at a complete elimination of chemical weapons.

Concluding let me fully align with the EU statement.

I would like also to kindly ask to issue my statement as an official document of this EC session and place it on the OPCW public website.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.