



OPCW

Executive Council

Fifty-Ninth Meeting
18 April 2018

EC-M-59/NAT.8
18 April 2018
ENGLISH only

ROMANIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR BRANDUSA PREDESCU
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ROMANIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE FIFTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

Romania fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union delivered by the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria. At the same time, I would like to make the following remarks in my national capacity:

My delegation welcomes the report drawn up by the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW answering the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland's request for technical assistance following the attack in Salisbury on 4 March 2018. We commend the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat for their prompt reaction and professional work. We also commend the Director-General for providing us this morning with the opportunity to listen to a comprehensive briefing presented by the head of the OPCW Laboratory who has led the technical assistance visit (TAV) mission to the United Kingdom.

Romania welcomes the decision by the British authorities to share the report regarding the findings of the OPCW TAV mission with all Member States and to make its executive summary publicly available. The responsible and transparent approach embraced by the United Kingdom in this very serious situation significantly contributes to the strengthening of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Furthermore, we want to thank the United Kingdom delegation for the update provided with regard to the course of the investigation carried out by the British authorities. We reiterate our entire confidence in the manner the United Kingdom is handling this very serious situation involving the use of a toxic chemical agent on its territory. My delegation firmly believes that those responsible should be held accountable. No impunity for such abominable deed should be allowed.

Romania expects the Russian Federation to act in accordance with its obligations under the Convention and to urgently address the questions legitimately raised by the United Kingdom and by many other States Parties to the Convention.

Romania is of the view that the OPCW report confirms the initial assessments regarding the gravity of the Salisbury attack. Furthermore, Romania advocates firm measures to prevent the repetition of such horrendous unacceptable acts which represent a serious breach of the Convention as well as a violation of international law.



EC-M-59/NAT.8

page 2

I would like to request that this statement be issued as an official document of this meeting of the Executive Council and posted on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

--- 0 ---