



Fifty-Ninth Meeting
18 April 2018

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PORTUGAL

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF PORTUGAL
AT THE FIFTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

Portugal fully aligns itself with the statement made by Ambassador Kostov, the Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the OPCW on behalf of the European Union and wishes to add the following remarks in its national capacity.

At the onset, I would like to thank the Director-General, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü for his comprehensive briefings today and also Mr Michael Blum for sharing with us, in a highly professional manner, very relevant information on the conduct of the technical assistance visit (TAV) mission and also in connection with the laboratory processes followed by the OPCW

We welcome the report produced by the Technical Secretariat regarding its TAV to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Portugal wishes to publicly commend the transparency of the British authorities and the effective cooperation they offered to the OPCW, as well as the high standards of professionalism and integrity followed both by the Technical Secretariat and the national authorities involved in this case.

It is a cause of grave concern that a nerve agent of a high degree of purity made of a toxic chemical that is non-scheduled was used in the Salisbury attack, as confirmed by the OPCW designated laboratories.

What happened on 4 March constitutes a gross violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and a serious breach of international security.

Portugal reiterates in the most vehement terms its condemnation of the chemical attack in Salisbury, and reiterates once again its full solidarity with the United Kingdom.

Portugal calls on all States Parties to the Convention to honour their commitments and obligations and to fully cooperate with the OPCW in all aspects of this investigation.

I would kindly request that this document be circulated as an official document of this Executive Council meeting and posted to the Organisation website.

Thank you.

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

