



**STATEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MARKUS LEINONEN
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EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE
AT THE 29th SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE
CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
(The Hague, 25 - 29 November 2024)**

Agenda item 13 – Mid-Biennium Draft Revised Programme and Budget for 2025

I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU).

The Candidate Countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine as well as Armenia and the EFTA (European Free Trade Association) countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the EEA (European Economic Area) align themselves with this statement. Andorra, Monaco and San Marino also associate themselves with this statement.

Mr. Chairperson,

The European Union would like to thank the Programme and Budget co-facilitators, Mr. Jerzy Gierasimiuk of Poland and Mr. Francisco de la Lama of Mexico, for their efforts leading up to the revision of the OPCW Budget for 2025.

The EU supports Director-General Arias' revised draft programme and budget for 2025. Its proposals, including the timely and effective reallocation of the 2022 cash surplus and the envisaged reduction in the assessed contribution requirements for 2025 are reasonable and justifiable.

Under the current difficult economic circumstances, the Secretariat is required to continue to practice strict budgetary discipline. This responsible approach should also be applied to the use of extra-budgetary funding. The EU further calls on States Parties to meet their obligations and pay their assessed contributions in full and on time.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of this Session.