



**STATEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
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AT THE 29th SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE
CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
(The Hague, 25 - 29 November 2024)**

Agenda item 9(d) - Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use - Russia

I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, North Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro and Ukraine as well as 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.

The European Union remains strongly concerned about the growing number of reported use of Riot Control Agents (RCA) by the Russian Federation as a method of warfare against Ukrainian soldiers. The EU is also seriously concerned by the alleged use of the choking agent chloropicrin. Russia also risks exposing the Ukrainian population to toxic chemicals through continuous deliberate attacks against civilian industrial facilities.

Ignoring legitimate international concerns, Russia still has not provided a plausible explanation regarding its widely reported use of RCA, pursuant to Article IX, paragraph 2 of the Convention. Furthermore, twelve States Parties have requested the Executive Council to assist in clarifying the situation pursuant to paragraph 3 of the said Article. Instead, Russia attempts to deflect its responsibilities and shift the blame, continuing to engage in campaigns of state-controlled disinformation, including by claiming that a Russian laboratory was acting in capacity of an OPCW designated laboratory.

In this context, the European Union expresses deep concern regarding the findings of the report S/2338/2024, issued on 18 November 2024, which confirms the presence of riot control agent CS in samples collected in the Dnipropetrovsk region of Ukraine. We urge the Secretariat to work on attributing this breach of the Convention, and on the Executive Council to be seized of the matter and be fully prepared to take action in line with the provisions of the Convention.

Mr. Chairperson,

Four years after the assassination attempt on Mr. Alexei Navalny in Russia in August 2020 by a nerve agent of the “Novichok” group, the Russian Federation still has not reacted to international calls for a thorough and transparent international investigation. The poisoning has been confirmed, beyond doubt, by specialised laboratories in Germany, France and Sweden, as well as by the OPCW. We once again urge the Russian Federation to provide substantial answers to the questions posed by 45 States Parties in the framework of Art. IX, paragraph 2 of the Convention in October 2021. The tragic death of Mr. Navalny does not relieve the Russian Federation of its obligation to provide answers. Impunity for the use of chemical weapons must not and will not be tolerated. Those responsible for the assassination attempts must be brought to justice.

Mr. Chairperson,

Since 15 October 2020, the European Union has imposed restrictive measures under its chemical weapons sanctions regime against fourteen Russian individuals, including agents, high-ranking officials of the Russian Federal Security Service (FSB) and Russian chemical weapons experts, as well as one entity responsible for inducing and providing support to the poisoning of Mr. Alexei Navalny. Previously, the EU has introduced sanctions on four senior officials from the Russian military intelligence service involved in the poisonings with “Novichok” in Salisbury in 2018. The EU has also introduced a ban on the export of chemicals to Russia that could be misused for manufacturing chemical weapons.

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

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