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ENGLISH only



**Permanent Representation of the
Kingdom of The Netherlands to
the Organization for Security and
Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)**

OVSE 07-2018

**Statement on the Use of a Nerve Agent in Salisbury, UK
as delivered by the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands
to the OSCE to the Permanent Council
Vienna, 15 March 2018**

The Netherlands fully underwrites the statement on behalf of the EU, and would like to add the following on a national title:

On behalf of the Kingdom of The Netherlands, Minister of Foreign Affairs Stef Blok has strongly condemned the attack and has expressed our solidarity with the United Kingdom.

We would like to emphasise again, just as we did yesterday in the United Nations Security Council, that no State can or should accept attacks taking place on its sovereign territory. The Netherlands regards this act as a threat to international peace and security.

We express our grave concern over the type of weapon that was used in this attack: an indiscriminate military grade nerve agent. This nerve agent was used in a public space with many unsuspecting civilians around. It could have had even more horrible effects than has been the case.

The attack in the UK is another warning to the world that we must step up our vigilance to prevent the use of weapons of mass destruction. We underline the important role of the OPCW in The Hague in this regard.

This brings me to my final point: accountability. There can be no impunity for this crime. We call on the Russian Federation to address the questions raised by the UK authorities and to cooperate with the OPCW in this regard. The perpetrators must be brought to justice. The answer to this question is highly relevant also to the recurrent exchanges in this Council on respecting the rules-based European security order as set out in OSCE principles and commitments.