



NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT

**SUMMARY OF THE REPORT ON ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT
IN SUPPORT OF A REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY GERMANY
(TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE VISIT – TAV/01/20)**

1. The Government of Germany, in a communication to the OPCW Director-General on 4 September 2020, requested technical assistance from the OPCW Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) under subparagraph 38(e) of Article VIII of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter the “Convention”) in relation to the suspected poisoning of a Russian citizen, Mr Alexei Navalny, on 20 August 2020 in the Russian Federation. The German authorities informed the OPCW that Mr Navalny was being treated in a hospital in Berlin, Germany. The Director-General decided to dispatch a team to Germany for a technical assistance visit (TAV).
2. The TAV team deployed to Germany on 5 September 2020 and was briefed by the German authorities on the same day. The team was informed that the mission was restricted to the collection of biomedical samples from Mr Navalny. No other information was shared by the German authorities.
3. On 6 September 2020, the TAV team visited the Charité Hospital in Berlin. In the hospital’s intensive care unit, the TAV team members confirmed Mr Navalny’s identity against a photo-identification document presented to the team by the German authorities. In line with OPCW procedures, blood and urine sampling was conducted by the hospital staff under the direct supervision and continuous visual observation of the team members. The samples were maintained under OPCW chain of custody and transported to the OPCW Laboratory.
4. Upon receipt of a request from Germany on 11 September 2020, the OPCW Laboratory sent the samples to two laboratories designated by the Director-General for the analysis of biomedical samples.
5. The results of the analysis of biomedical samples conducted by the OPCW designated laboratories demonstrate that Mr Navalny was exposed to a toxic chemical acting as a cholinesterase inhibitor. The biomarkers of the cholinesterase inhibitor found in Mr Navalny’s blood and urine samples have similar structural characteristics to the toxic chemicals belonging to schedules 1.A.14 and 1.A.15, which were added to the Annex on Chemicals to the Convention at the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties in November 2019. This cholinesterase inhibitor is not listed in the Annex on Chemicals to the Convention.
6. The biomarkers identified are contained in the classified report of the Secretariat.

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