

(Mr. von Wagner, Germany)

The series of national PCIs in Germany will soon be continued in a chemical plant site, from which we expect to gain a better understanding of the problems related to the application of challenge inspections in chemical industry.

Finally, let me use this opportunity to express my gratitude to all military and civilian authorities of the United Kingdom involved in the two joint practice challenge inspections for their outstanding co-operation and support in the preparation and conduct of these exercises.

Miss SOLESBY (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland): As this is the first time I take the floor under your presidency, may I begin by congratulating you on your accession to the Chair of our Conference? We are all benefiting from the wise leadership you are giving us.

The distinguished Ambassador of Germany has just introduced a report on two joint chemical weapons trial challenge inspections held by Germany and the United Kingdom (CD/1056). Ambassador von Wagner has already described this collaborative work in some detail. I would only make two comments.

First I would emphasize the excellent co-operation between the officials, German and British, who carried out the two joint trials. We for our part found working together with our German colleagues gave a most valuable additional dimension to both trials.

You may recall that prior to these two joint trials, the United Kingdom had undertaken six national trial challenge inspections, and we reported on these in CD/1012. My authorities found that the experience gained in the joint German/United Kingdom trials confirmed the earlier conclusions from our own national trials as regards both the high value of challenge inspection as part of the verification process and the efficacy of managed access techniques. Ambassador von Wagner has rightly emphasized this aspect, and I endorse what he has said. Our experience in this respect seems to have been similar both to that of our German partners and to that described in the report on the joint trial challenge inspection held by Canada and the Netherlands which was tabled by the distinguished Ambassadors of those two countries on 31 January.