

The multidimensional challenges facing the Great Lakes region require a multidimensional response: UK Statement at the UN Security Council

Let me begin by thanking Special Envoy Xia, Ambassador Caholo, and Mr Mahtani for their briefings today, as well as the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission for the written advice provided to the Council on the Great Lakes region. I will focus this intervention on the security dynamics in the region.

The United Kingdom remains extremely concerned by the fragile security situation in the Great Lakes region – in particular, increased violence as a result of greater activity by armed groups including, the ADF, CODECO, RED Tabara, and the re-emergence of the M-23, and the reported links between the ADF and IS Central Africa Province. These are all stark reminders of the need to address the security vacuum in the eastern DRC.

We also remain concerned about the humanitarian situation in the Great Lakes region, with large-scale displacement of over 16 million persons, violations of international humanitarian law and human rights, mainly as a result of violence in eastern DRC. And, we are particularly concerned about the protection of civilians as a result of intercommunal violence in DRC's Ituri province, including the recent targeting of IDP camps.

The multidimensional challenges facing the Great Lakes region require a multidimensional response. The United Kingdom welcomes the positive trend of enhanced diplomatic outreach and dialogue among countries in the region. This includes steps towards normalisation between Rwanda and Uganda and the recent regional heads of State Conclave on Eastern DRC hosted by President Kenyatta in Nairobi.

We call upon countries in the region to intensify these efforts in order to improve regional cooperation, and turn commitments into tangible action to address shared security challenges, improve humanitarian access, and to reduce violence.

I also call upon Special Envoy Xia and the ICGLR to continue to work in close coordination, including with MONUSCO, in support of the countries of the region to tackle the threat posed by M23 and other armed groups, to foster confidence building amongst the states of the region, and to enable the implementation of the UN action plan for the Great Lakes.

The final point I would like to make is on natural resources, whose illegal exploitation, as we've heard across the Council today, are a source of funding for armed groups and a driver of conflict across the Great Lakes region. We strongly support the designation of sanctions on those individuals

and entities who are found responsible for the exploitation of natural resources.

We will continue to work with the international community, including through the DRC sanctions committee, to ensure those individuals and entities are held accountable for their actions.

Thank you.

[Professor Chris Gosden has been reappointed as a Trustee of the British Museum](#)

News story

The Secretary of State has reappointed Professor Chris Gosden as the Society of Antiquaries Trustee of the British Museum for a term of four years commencing 2 August 2022 until 1 August 2026.



Professor Chris Gosden has been at Oxford University for the last 27 years, first as a curator-lecturer at the Pitt Rivers Museum and then as Professor of European Archaeology. Professor Gosden has carried out archaeological fieldwork in Papua New Guinea, Borneo, Turkmenistan and Britain, among other places. He is currently setting up research collaborations with China and Mongolia.

While at the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford he worked on the history of collections and their relevance to post-colonial relations and identity, including two large projects – Relational Museum Project. More recently he has run research projects on the history of the English landscape published by OUP in 2021 as English Landscapes and Identities, and on Celtic art both in Britain and in Europe including Eurasian links. He has recently published a book called The History of Magic (Penguin, 2020).

He is currently writing a book called Humans: The First Seven Million Years. He is a trustee of the Art Fund, Oxford Archaeology and the British Museum, and a fellow of a number of learned societies, including the British Academy and the Society of Antiquaries. Trustees of the British Museum are not remunerated. These reappointments have been made in accordance with the Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments. The process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The Government's Governance Code requires that any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years is declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation or candidature for election. Professor Gosden has declared no activity.

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[Planned changes to toys and cosmetics regulations](#)



Government is updating the technical annexes to Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 on Cosmetic Products, as amended by the Product Safety and Metrology etc. (Amendment etc.) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, and Schedule 2 to the Toys (Safety) Regulations 2011. These changes entail either a reduction in the permitted level or prohibition of specific chemicals.

[Read the Toys and Cosmetic Products \(Restriction of Chemical Substances\) Regulations 2022](#) – Legislation.gov.uk website

These chemicals can be grouped into three categories:

1. Chemicals assessed by the Scientific Advisory Group on the Chemical Safety of non-food and non-medicinal consumer products (SAG-CS)
2. Chemicals classified as Carcinogenic, Mutagenic or Reprotoxic (CMR) under GB Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulations
3. Fragrance allergens

Below is a summary of the amendments to the Toys and Cosmetic Regulations as

relating to the groups mentioned above.

SAG-CS advice and government decisions

The SAG-CS has recently concluded assessment on the risk to human health regarding:

- Deoxyarbutin used in cosmetics
- Salicylic Acid used in cosmetics
- Formaldehyde used in toys
- Aniline used in toys
- Aluminium used in toys

The conclusions of these assessments have been published:

[Access the opinions of SAG-CS](#)

The Government has considered the advice of SAG-CS regarding the above chemicals in these opinions and used this to inform decisions regarding restrictions of these chemicals in products, which are set out below:

- amend Annex 2 to the Cosmetic Regulation to prohibit the use of deoxyarbutin
- amend Annex 3 to the Cosmetic Regulation to permit the use of salicylic acid for uses other than as a preservative at 0.5% in body lotion, eye shadow, mascara, eyeliner, lipstick, and roll-on deodorant applications
- amend Appendix C to Schedule 2 of the Toys (Safety) Regulations 2011 to introduce specific (lower) limits for aniline and formaldehyde for toys intended for use by children under 36 months old or other toys intended to be placed in the mouth
- amend point 13 of Annex 2 to the Toys Regulations to reduce the permitted migration limits for aluminium

Chemicals classified as CMRs

Under the Cosmetic Regulations, substances classified as CMR of category 1A, 1B or 2 under the GB CLP Regulation must not be present in cosmetic products unless the substance is included in any of Annexes 3 to 6. To be included in Annexes 3 to 6 various conditions must be met. Between 1 October 2021 and 1 March 2022, there is a [set of chemicals that has been classified as CMRs](#) (PDF, 150 KB, 2 pages). These substances will be added to Annex 2 (prohibited substances) where the conditions for including them in Annex 3 to 6 have not been met.

Fragrance allergens

Three chemicals (methyl heptane carbonate, atranol and chloratranol) have recently been included in the EU list of allergens which are prohibited for the use in toys. Currently in the UK atranol and chloratranol have already been prohibited and methyl heptane carbonate has been restricted to 0,01% for cosmetic products.

The fragrances in question are also used in some toys including fingerpaints and modelling clay, where the exposure routes to the fragrances will be similar to those from cosmetics. We will therefore be amending the UK Toys Regulations to prohibit the uses of these chemicals in toys.

Timeline

Toy products

Chemicals	Non-compliant products cannot be placed on the market after
Fragrance Allergens – Atranol, Chloroatranol and Methyl heptine carbonate	15 October 2022
Chemicals assessed by SAG-CS – Aluminium, Formaldehyde, and aniline	15 December 2022

Cosmetic products

Chemicals	Non-compliant products cannot be placed on the market after	Products already placed on the market can be made available until
CMRs	15 October 2022	15 December 2022
Chemicals assessed by SAG-CS – Salicylic Acid and deoxyarbutin	15 December 2022	15 March 2023

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1. 27 July 2022

Link added to Toys and Cosmetic Products (Restriction of Chemical Substances) Regulations 2022.

2. 30 May 2022

Page revised to clarify changes in respect of salicylic acid (Benzoic acid, 2-hydroxy).

3. 26 May 2022

Timeline amended to clarify that the transitional provisions apply to cosmetic products only and not toys.

4. 27 April 2022

First published.

Unknown British WW2 soldier buried

An unknown soldier of an unknown regiment has been laid to rest more than 75 years after he fell serving his country during World War Two. The ceremony took place on Wednesday 27 April at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's (CWGC) Bologna War Cemetery in Italy. The service was conducted by Reverend Mark Chadwick, Chaplain to the British Forces.

The service was organised by the MOD's Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre (JCCC) who are known as the MOD War Detectives – a small team based in Gloucester who make every effort to identify British Military casualties.

Following the ceremony, Tracey Bowers, JCCC said:

“It is a matter of great sadness that we have not been able to identify this brave man and bury him in the presence of his family. The battle for Italy was one of the War's most exhausting campaigns and one often forgotten. His military family is here to remember, mourn and lay him to rest with the honour he deserves.”

Despite extensive research and DNA testing, it was not possible to identify this soldier.

The soldier was found in May 2015 in the location of the “Gothic Line” alongside military items, suggesting he was a British serviceman, killed during the Second World War. Research indicated the soldier could have been killed between 19 to 24 October 1944 and engaged in the fighting along the German defensive line during the Italian Campaign.

The Italian Front was seen to be of secondary importance to the offensive through France and this was underlined by the decision in the summer of 1944 to withdraw many troops from the area for the Allied landings in France. The success in Italy was achieved against a background of over stretched troops, resources and ammunition fighting in a punishing terrain crossed by rivers and mountains during inclement weather.

The Reverend Mark Chadwick said:

“It has been a great privilege and honour to take this service here today and remember the sacrifice that so many made on our behalf”.

Padre Chadwick leads the ceremony in Bologna. Crown copyright

The new headstone at the grave was prepared by the CWGC who will now care for them in perpetuity.

CWGC Commemorations Officer, Dave Avery, said:

“Whilst it has not been possible to identify this soldier by name, we are

grateful that we can now lay him to rest with his comrades. The burial ceremony today enables us to renew our commitment to those we care for in perpetuity.”

[Remembering Kitchener Camp: A memorial concert for Yom HaShoa](#)

On Thursday 28 April 2022, a [special concert](#) to evoke memories of the Kitchener Camp will take place at London’s Wigmore Hall as part of this year’s [Yom HaShoah](#) commemoration.

The Kitchener Camp opened in Sandwich, Kent, in January 1939, and saved the lives of 4,000 Jewish refugee men from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Many of these men had been arrested and imprisoned in concentration camps such as Buchenwald and Sachsenhausen following Kristallnacht in 1938. In Britain, the Jewish community and others persuaded the UK Government to relax visa entry restrictions, paving the way for the Kitchener Camp scheme.

The camp was intended to provide sanctuary for a steady flow of refugee men who were then expected to emigrate to Australia, America or Canada. A small number of women, often with very young children, who had gained entry to Britain with domestic visas, were able to temporarily join their husbands; but these were the lucky few. Sadly, most of the men would never see their families again.

The camp operated like a small town and had its own post office, hospital and cinema. Music became hugely significant and as more refugee musicians arrived, a camp orchestra was formed. Such was the orchestra’s reputation that arrangements were made in August 1939 for a live BBC broadcast of one of their concerts. The onset of war unfortunately scuppered these plans. But now, over 80 years later, and around the corner from Broadcasting House, the Wigmore Hall will symbolically stage the BBC Kitchener concert that never took place. With narration from Jon Sopel and Emily Maitlis, and music from the Ensemble 360 String Quartet and the London Cantorial Singers, the concert will honour those who established the Kitchener Camp, as well as the memory of the millions who were not able to find refuge from the horrors of Nazism.

The event will conclude with the awarding of British Heroes of The Holocaust medals to descendants of brothers Jonas and Phineas May, and Ernest Joseph – three men who played pivotal roles in establishing and running the Kitchener Camp.

The British Heroes of the Holocaust medal is awarded by the UK government in recognition of British citizens who helped or rescued Jews or others in the Holocaust; either through extraordinary acts of courage, or by going above and beyond the call of duty in the most difficult circumstances. Since its

inauguration in 2010 it has been awarded to 41 individuals.

Coordinated by Learning from the Righteous, the Holocaust Education charity has teamed up with World Jewish Relief, the Jewish Lads' and Girls' Brigade, the Association of Jewish Refugees, the '45 Aid Society, the Board of Deputies and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to present this year's memorial concert.