The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) said Friday all of Syria’s banned chemical weapons stockpile will be destroyed by mid-2014 but it failed to clarify where the work would be performed.

The statement was released at the end of a meeting of the OPCW Executive Council and after Albania announced that it would not allow the weapons materials to be sent to its territory for destruction.

OPCW, which won the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize, said that the “most critical” chemicals will be shipped out of Syria by the end of 2013, that all of Syria’s declared production facilities will be destroyed by March 15, 2014 and that all of the chemical weapons would be destroyed by June 30, 2014.

The chemical weapons will be transported outside of Syria to ensure their destruction in the “safest and soonest manner,” OPCW said. Norway earlier in the week offered to provide a civilian cargo ship, with a frigate as escort, to transport the chemical weapons from Syria to the site where the weapons will be destroyed.

The report said OPCW Director General Ahmet Üzümcü will later present a specific plan for the activities outside of Syria to destroy the chemical weapons.

“The plan provides a clear roadmap. It sets ambitious milestones to be met by the Government of Syria. This next phase will be the most challenging and its timely execution will require the existence of a secure environment for the verification and transport of chemical weapons. Continuing international support and assistance for this endeavour will remain crucial,” the
OPCW says Syrian Chemical Weapons to be Destroyed by mid-2014
director general said.

The plan envisions the removal of all declared chemical substances and precursors, except for isopropanol, from Syria no later than February 5, 2014. The destruction of the priority chemical weapons will be completed by March 31, 2014, it said.

The OPCW said that its mission in Syria was able to verify the destruction of over 60 percent of Syria’s declared unfilled munitions to date. Syria has committed to destroy all unfilled munitions, composed of warheads and bombs by January 31, 2014.