



ROYAL NORWEGIAN
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Oslo 26 April 2017

Dear Mr Üzümcü

I extend my warm congratulations to you and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on its 20th anniversary.

Norway attaches great importance to the work of the OPCW and its contribution to international security, disarmament and non-proliferation. Over the past 20 years, the OPCW has succeeded in overseeing the destruction of nearly all of the world's declared chemical weapons. The Nobel Peace Prize in 2013 gave the organisation well-deserved global recognition for its work. The OPCW decisively demonstrated its relevance when the declared stocks of chemical weapons and precursor chemicals in Syria and Libya were removed for destruction under difficult conditions.

There are many challenges for the OPCW to tackle in the years to come. We must keep up the pressure on the very few states that have not yet become parties to the Convention. Common toxic industrial chemicals are being used as weapons of war and terrorism. New developments in chemistry and biochemistry mean the emergence of potentially poisonous substances that were unknown 20 years ago. OPCW's mandate to uphold the Chemical Weapons Convention is crucial in the face of repeated transgressions by both states and non-state actors. Norway strongly supports the OPCW and its commitment to free the world of chemical weapons.

I would like to commend you personally, Mr Üzümcü, for ably steering the OPCW through very difficult waters over the past eight years. Your leadership has been vital to the organisation's success.

I wish you and the OPCW a well-earned celebration.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Børge Brende', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Børge Brende

HE Mr Ahmet Üzümcü
Director-General, Organisation for
the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
The Hague