

Director General

Ambassador Ahmet Uzümcü  
Director-General  
OPCW  
Johan de Witlaan 32  
NL - 2517 JR Den Haag

30 September 2016

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

I am writing to you to express my concerns about the reports on using chlorine gas and other chemicals as a chemical weapon. My organization Cefic, representing the European chemical industry, condemns any use of chlorine or other chemicals against people. Cefic strongly supports the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and actively supports the implementation of the global ban on any chemical weapons-related activities.

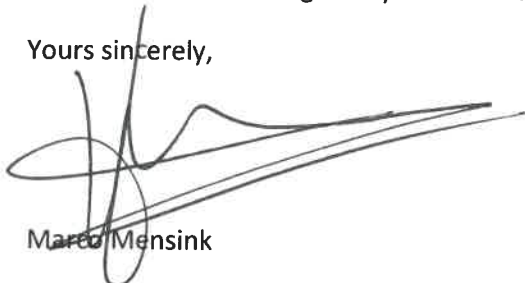
Cefic is the forum and the voice of the chemical industry in Europe and is a committed partner to EU policymakers, facilitating dialogue with industry and sharing our broad-based expertise. We represent 29,000 large, medium and small chemical companies in Europe and account for 17% of world chemical production.

The chemical industries in all countries that have signed the Convention must follow the regulations of the Convention and are subject to declarations and inspections of production and trade activities. These companies must also apply the “know your customer” principle and apply controls when exporting dual-use goods. Cefic, being one of the main members of the ICCA, the International Council of Chemical Associations, is also contributing to the ICCA-OPCW enhanced cooperation agreement and I stand ready to work with you to ensure compliance with this Convention.

Allow me also to stress that the European chemical industry as “the industry of industries” is a key player in enabling access for a projected 10 billion people to decent living standards. This being so, I regret the misuse of a chemical substance, such as chlorine, which at the same time plays a crucial role in improving people’s lives, for example by providing life-saving pharmaceuticals, innovative plastics, safe drinking water and effective energy solutions. Chlorine should only be used for these purposes and not for any chemical weapons-related activities.

I look forward to liaising with you and to enhancing our co-operation on this issue.

Yours sincerely,



Marco Mensink

Chemistry making a world of difference

European Chemical Industry Council - Cefic aisbl  
Avenue E. van Nieuwenhuysse 4 B-1160 Brussels Belgium  
Tel. +32.2.676.72.11 mail@cefic.be www.cefic.org

