

Open Letter to Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre

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Dear Prime Minister Støre,

Norway is often described as one of the world's most successful countries.

It possesses vast natural resources, strong democratic institutions, a highly educated population, low levels of corruption, and one of the world's largest sovereign wealth funds.

Many governments would gladly exchange their problems for Norway's.

Yet prosperity creates its own challenges.

Citizens expect not only stability, but continuous improvement.

You became Prime Minister during a period marked by war in Europe, energy market disruptions, inflation, geopolitical uncertainty, and growing pressure on public finances throughout the Western world.

One of the strengths of your government has been its ability to preserve stability during turbulent times.

Norway has maintained low unemployment, strong public finances, and a functioning welfare state while many European countries have struggled with far greater economic difficulties.

Your government has also maintained broad support for Ukraine and continued Norway's active role within European and transatlantic cooperation.

The management of Norway's petroleum resources remains another significant achievement.

The revenues generated by the country's energy sector continue to provide economic security not only for current citizens but also for future generations.

Few countries have managed natural-resource wealth as successfully as Norway.

However, there are also legitimate criticisms.

Many Norwegians feel that the cost of living has risen faster than their incomes.

Housing affordability has become a growing concern, particularly for younger people entering the housing market.

Interest rates have remained higher than many households expected, increasing pressure on families carrying mortgages.

Your government has also faced criticism regarding energy policy.

Many citizens struggle to understand why an energy-rich country should experience high electricity prices.

For many voters, this issue has become symbolic of a wider concern: whether ordinary people are fully benefiting from the country's considerable wealth.

Critics also argue that your government has sometimes appeared cautious and managerial rather than ambitious.

Norway faces long-term questions regarding productivity, innovation, demographic change, and the future of its economy beyond oil and gas.

Some observers believe these issues require faster and more decisive action.

The central challenge of your premiership may be this:

Can Norway remain one of the world's most successful countries after the era of extraordinary petroleum wealth begins to decline?

The answer will depend not only on today's economic performance but on the investments and reforms made today for future generations.

What I would like to see from your government is a stronger focus on preparing Norway for that future.

Norway has already achieved prosperity.

The next challenge is ensuring that prosperity remains sustainable in a changing world.

History may remember your government less for managing today's wealth and more for how effectively it prepared the country for the decades ahead.

My overall assessment:

4 out of 5.

You have governed a stable and prosperous country responsibly during a period of international uncertainty. However, important questions regarding energy policy, housing affordability, economic diversification, and long-term national strategy remain only partially answered.

Respectfully,

A Citizen of the World

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