

**PROTOCOL ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF MINES, BOOBY-TRAPS
AND OTHER DEVICES AS AMENDED ON 3 MAY 1996
ANNEXED TO THE CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF
CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS
OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS
(PROTOCOL II AS AMENDED ON 3 MAY 1996)**

Provisional Reporting Formats for Article 13 para 2 and Article 11 para 2.

NAME OF HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY	BELGIUM <hr/>
DATE OF SUBMISSION	<u>8.4.2013</u>
NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT	<u>Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Department of the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Co-operation</u> Tel. +32.2.501.88.87; Fax +32.2.501.38.22 e-mail : marie-france.andre@diplobel.fed.be

Form A**Dissemination of information**

Article 13 / 4 / a “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depository ... on:

(a) dissemination of information on this Protocol to their armed forces and to the civilian population;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party **BELGIUM**

reporting for time period from 01.01.2012 to 31.12.2012

Information about the Armed Forces**a. General Information:**

Officers assigned as “Advisers in the Law of Armed Conflict” are available in each unit (up to battalion or independent company level) to advise military commanders on the application of the Law of Armed Conflict. The education programme of these advisers encloses among other subjects a general information about the (amended) Protocol II.

b. Specific Information :

Combat engineers and EOD personnel involved in mining activities are educated and trained in all matters related to the Belgian doctrine in accordance with the STANAG 2036 Land mines procedures, 2389 Minimum standards of proficiency for trained explosive ordnance disposal personnel, 2485 Countermine operations in land warfare and this protocol.

These documents are translated into two Belgian doctrinal documents:

- ACOT-TTP-ENGMFD-LECQ-030 « Procédure en matière de pose, marquage, repérage et compte-rendu des champs de mines » (Draft),
- ACOT-TTP-ENGMFD-LECQ-030 « Déminage en Ops » (Draft)

Mine awareness is also given to all soldiers during their basic military education. On a yearly base, soldiers receive a refreshment training on mine awareness.

Information to the civilian population

Law on the ratification of the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-traps and Other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996 annexed to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or Have Indiscriminate Effects (Protocol II as amended on 3 May 1996) is made known publicly through publication in the Belgian Office Journal.

Form B **Mine clearance and rehabilitation programs**

Article 13 / 4 / b “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depository ... on:

(b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programs;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party **BELGIUM** reporting for time period from 01.01.2012 to 31.12.2012

Mine clearance programs

NOT APPLICABLE : the country is not affected by minefields

For international cooperation : see Form E

Rehabilitation programs

NOT APPLICABLE : the country is not affected by minefields

For international cooperation : see Form E

Form C **Technical requirements and relevant information**

Article 13 / 4 / c “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depository ... on:

(c) steps taken to meet technical requirements of this Protocol and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;

Remark:

High Contracting Party **BELGIUM** reporting for time period from 01.01.2012 to 31.12.2012

Technical requirements

- a. The procedures in practice for the registration of minefields are in accordance with those requested in the Protocol. For the recording, marking and control of minefields in operation, Belgium is acting according to the provisions of the STANAG 2036. This STANAG is fully in line with what is required by the Protocol
- b. Detectability: this is not applicable because the use of anti-personnel mines is being prohibited under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction and by national law.
- c. Self-destruction and neutralisation: not applicable.
- d. Signalisation: see answer under paragraph a above.

Any other relevant information

Form D**Legislation**

Article 13 / 4 / d “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depository ... on:

(d) Legislation related to this Protocol;

Remark:

High Contracting Party **BELGIUM**

reporting for time period from 01.01.2012 to 31.12.2012

Legislation

Law of 20 March 2007 prohibiting the financing of the production, use and possession of antipersonnel mines and submunitions.

Law of 8 June 2006 concerning the regulation of economic and individual activities with weapons, as amended by the Law of 25 July 2008.

Law of 8 January 2004 approving the modification of Art 1 of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or Have Indiscriminate Effects.

Law of 30 March 2000 on the definitive Prohibition of the Antipersonnel Mines, which simplifies the existing procedure on the total prohibition of Antipersonnel Mines.

Law of 10 August 1998 on the ratification of the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-traps and other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996 (Protocol II as amended on 3 May 1996) annexed to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or Have Indiscriminate Effects.

Law of 10 August 1998 on the ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

Law of 24 June 1996 amending the Law of 3 January 1933 on Arms production and Trade, on the Carrying of Weapons and on Ammunition Trade, with the View to Prohibit the Belgian State and Public services from Storing Anti-personnel mines.

Law of 9 March 1995 on Anti-personnel mines, Booby-traps and Similar Devices.

25.04.13

Form E**International technical information exchange, cooperation on mine clearance, technical cooperation and assistance**

Article 13 / 4 / e “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depository ... on:

(e) Measures taken on international technical information exchange, on international cooperation on mine clearance, and on technical cooperation and assistance;

Remark:

High Contracting Party **BELGIUM** reporting for time period from 01.01.2012 to 31.12.2012

International technical information exchange

- Since May 2004, Belgium participates to the European Research Grouping Arrangement n°2, with France, Luxembourg, the United-Kingdom and Germany, relating to the European Co-operation for Ammunition Destruction.
- Since 2003 a complete handbook on EOD technical information was produced, translated in KHMER and handed over to the CMAC (Cambodia), Belgium guarantees technical information support on request.
- On a regular basis, with the participation of 1 or 2 demining skilled personnel, Belgium attends meetings relating to Humanitarian Mine Action and organized under the umbrella of the NATO working group EOD, GICHD Review Board for IMAS, EDA working group and assumes a liaison role between those organizations.
- Belgium participates :
 - at Board of Directors (BoD) level to the International Test and Evaluation Program for humanitarian demining (ITEP) and by that means takes part in the decision and policy process of the ITEP-organisation
 - annually, through its Department of Defence, by financing the working cost of the ITEP-secretariat, approximately at 60.000 Euro for this year.

International cooperation on mine clearance

1. Introduction

The projects listed here are based on financial contributions and the provisions of services. Note that the Belgian military experts working for SEDEE (Service for removal and destruction of explosive devices) have NATO diplomas and qualifications:

- EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)
- IEDD (Improvised Explosive Device Disposal)

The staff is qualified in mine clearance and in the handling of UXO.

2. Projects :

A. Africa :

Angola: In 2011 Belgium decided to support humanitarian demining in Angola by the NGO APOPO with a contribution of 1.081.000 EURO for the period 2011-2013.

Somaliland: the project "Humanitarian Mineclearance in Northern Somaliland" by HALO TRUST received a contribution of 10.000 EURO in 2012.

B. Europe:

Kosovo: In 2011 Belgium decided to support humanitarian demining in Kosovo by the NGO Halo Trust with a contribution of 750.528 EURO for the period 2011-2013.

C. Middle East :

Lebanon : in the framework of the UNIFIL mission -South, Belgium has a demining/EOD capacity available composed of :

- 1 demining platoon. This platoon is composed of 35 persons.
- 1 Liaison Officer in NAQUIRI in support of the UNIFIL-staff.

This personnel rotates every four months. Program Description: In the framework of the UNIFIL-South build-up, Belgium deployed 1 EOD/demining platoon (35 persons) for the duration of 2012 devoted to clearing operations in the surroundings of AT TIRI and demining operation in mine fields along the border between ISRAEL and LEBANON. Funding Source (Government Ministry or Department): Ministry of Defence

Gaza-strip: the project "Mine Action Residual Response Capacity in the Gaza Strip" by UNMAS received 250.000 EURO in 2012.

Iraq: The project "Humanitarian Mine Action Northern & Central Iraq" by the Mine Advisory Group received a contribution of 10.000 EURO in 2012.

Jordan: the project "Jordan Valley Sampling and Verification Project" received a tranche of 100.000 EURO in 2012.

D. Asia:

Cambodia: Since 2003 a complete handbook on EOD technical information was produced, translated in KHMER and handed over to the CMAC (Cambodia), Belgium guarantees technical information support on request.

Philippines: the project "furthering the anti-personnel mine ban in the Philippines through the engagement of armed non state actors" by Geneva call received 40.000 EURO in 2012.

Afghanistan: since July 2005, Belgium deploys permanently 9 EOD operators to the Provincial reconstruction Team (PRT) KUNDUZ . Since October 2012 that capacity is reorganized in ONE EOD Team (3 EOD/IEDD operators and 3 EOR) and one EDD (Explosive Detection Dog – 2 Dogs and 2 handlers) Team redeployed from KUNDUZ to MAZAR E SHARIF.

Program Recipient : **ISAF**

Funding amount (original currency): **1 075 000 Euro**

Implementing Agency : Service d'enlèvement des engins explosifs (**SEDEE-DOVO**)

Funding Source (Government Ministry or Department): Departement of Defence

Contribution Type (Monetary or In-Kind) : in-kind

Activity Type (coordination, survey, marking, clearance, destruction, training, MRE, victim assistance, unspecified, etc.) : detection, neutralisation and destruction of ERW (mines included) and the detection, neutralisation and destruction of improvised explosive device (IED).

E. South America

Ecuador and Peru : Landmine Victim Assistance project by the Organisation of American States : 60.000 EURO in 2012

F. INTERNATIONAL- MULTILATERAL

Belgium sponsored the project "Victim Assistance – 10 years on: from Mine Ban Treaty to Convention on Cluster Munitions" with an amount of 50.000 EURO in 2012. In 2011 Belgium also decided to sponsor the Ban Advocates project with a contribution of 600.000 EURO for the period 2011-2015. Also in 2012 Belgium donated 25.000 EURO for the production of the Landmine Monitor. All these projects are carried by Handicap International.

Belgium supported the International Campaign to Ban landmines with 100.000 EURO in 2012.

3. Research and Development:

Research and development activities are conducted as well at the national as at the international level.

a. National level:

- The research project on the use of bio-sensors (rats) in humanitarian de-mining operations, funded by several donors in Belgium, and conducted by the NGO APOPO and the University of Antwerp (<http://www.apopo.org/>), is highlighting very promising solutions in the close-in detection of AP mines. Rats prove to be more effective than dogs in trials organized in Tanzania. This project started in 1997 is still ongoing.

b. International level:

Within the 7th Framework Programme of the European Commission a consortium of 26 European and Japanese partners co-ordinated by Prof. Yvan BAUDOIN prepares a series of cost-effective tools integrated in a comprehensive modular toolbox for helping the clearing of larger areas affected by anti-personal landmines, cluster munitions, explosive remnants of war (ERW) and unexploded ordnance (UXO) and a related operational implementation of services, including standardization actions

Beside its management role, the Royal Military Academy, in particular:

Define the Toolbox requirements and serve as Liaison Officer with an international Project advisory Board including the major stake-holders (UNMAS, GICHD, a.o.);

Contribute to the processing of remote sensing data (satellite and airborne) through feature extraction, segmentation, 3D model from stereo data and hyperspectral data in order to prioritize the mine actions;

Contribute (with the Military Institute of Technology of Poland) to safe mine actions (protection, neutralization) through the development of testing facilities in his laboratory of Ballistics;

Contribute to stand-off detection (UGV, UAV) techniques in close cooperation with Sensor's developers;

Co-initiate of CWA (with CEN);

Total direct costs in 2012: 164,900.07.

Form F

Other relevant matters

Article 13 / 4 / f “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depository ... on:

(f) other relevant matters.

Remark:

High Contracting Party BELGIUM reporting for time period from 01.01.2012 to 31.12.2012

Other relevant matters

Since 2003, Belgium organises an EOD course in French and in English to train team leaders of other countries.

It should be underlined that one course in each language is organised every year and that there are only a limited number of places available.

Since Sep 2006, BEL contributes to UNIFIL with an Engr/EOD capability. More than 13.000 UXO (ERW and mines) have been cleared since then.

Form G**Information to the UN-database on mine clearance**

Article 11 para 2 “The High Contracting Parties shall provide information to the database on mine clearance established within the United Nations System, especially.....on:

- information concerning various means and technologies of mine clearance, and lists of experts, expert agencies or national points of contact on mine clearance

High Contracting Party **BELGIUM** reporting for time period from 01.01.2012 To 31.12.2012

Means and technologies of mine clearance

For detection purposes, two different man portable detectors are used, the one based on the magnetic principle, the other on dual sensors technique.

Only manual removal and disposal means are applied except for some IED devices where a remotely operated robot can be used during the handling process.

Lists of experts and experts agencies

Belgian Ministry of Defence : SEDEE (Service for the removal and destruction of explosive devices)
ComOpsLand 2D (Operational Command Land – Engineers Branch)

National points of contact on mine clearance

Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Tel. 00 32 2 501 87 61 – Fax.: 00 32 2 501 38 22 – E-mail: marie-france.andre@diplobel.fed.be

Joint Staff of the Ministry of Defense, International Relations, Arms Control, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Department

Tel 00 32 2 701 1365 – Fax.: 00 32 2 701 37 22 – E-mail: lode.dewaegheneire@mil.be