

**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	<u><b>BELGIUM</b></u>
DATE OF SUBMISSION	<u>31.03.2017</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 Tel. +32.2.501.88.87; Fax +32.2.501.38.22 e-mail : <a href="mailto:francois.dumont@diplobel.fed.be">francois.dumont@diplobel.fed.be</a></u>

**Form A**

**Dissemination of information**

Article 13 / 4 / a “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... 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 01.01.2016 to 31.12.2016

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### 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.

Defense Representative give lecture on regular basis to the IHL courses organised by the Belgian Red Cross and/or the International Committee of the Red Cross. General or specific education related to means and methods of warfare, including the issue of ERW, and in particular Protocol V, is included in those courses.



**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 01.01.2016 to 31.12.2016

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**

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Legislation

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

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.

**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 01.01.2016 to 31.12.2016

**International technical information exchange**

- Since 2016, Belgium has assumed the co-chair (with the People’s Republic of China) of an UN working group coordinated by UNMAS aiming at establishing international IEDD-standards
- 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.
- Since 2005 Belgium participates in the Swedish owned EOD Information System as active member.
- 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

## **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. Total amount disbursed in 2016 : 2.612.000 euros**

- Mine clearance and integral approach promotion in Colombia by Handicap International (€250.000)
- Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor in different countries by ICBL (€25.000)
- Humanitarian mine clearance in Ukraine by Halo Trust (€250.000)
- Mine Risk Education in Myanmar by Mine Advisory Group (€90.000)
- Reducing threat of Conventional weapons and IED in Iraq by Handicap International (€500.000)
- Préparation aux risques des restes explosifs de guerre et appui psycho-social in Gaza by Handicap International ( €747.000)

### **4. 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 Program (Security) of the European Commission a consortium of 26 European and Japanese partners coordinated by Prof. Yvan BAUDOIN and Dr Ir Yann Yvinec prepared a series of cost-effective tools integrated in a comprehensive modular toolbox (TIRAMISU) 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.), with an End-User's Board including, in particular the Mine Action Centres of Croatia (CROMAC), Jordan (NCDR) and Cambodia (CMAC).

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

-Contribute (with the Military Institute of Technology of Poland (WITI) and the University of Genova (DIME)) 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;

-Chairing a CEN Workshop with a view of producing a CWA on the Use of Machines for Technical Survey and co-initiate a CWA on Personal Protection Equipment;

The ULB worked on the use of remote sensing methods for mine action.

SpaceTech Partners was in charge of the dissemination of the obtained results.

Total direct costs in 2012 : 166095€

Total direct costs in 2013 : 291329€

In 2014, the main priority of the TIRAMISU project was the upgrading of the Toobox and the prevalidation of some of the tools. In the spring 2014 Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia were hit by catastrophic massive flooding. The Royal Military Academy has sent an expert in robotics and an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) for various tasks among which the re-localizing of the many explosive remnants of war that had been displaced due to landslides and that created an extremely dangerous situation for the local population and the relief workers.

Total direct costs in 2014: 401458 €

In 2015, the main activities of the TIRAMISU project were the testing (in Cambodia and in Croatia) of the tools and the large scale final demonstration which took place in SEDEE-DOVO (Service d'Enlèvement et de Destruction d'Engins Explosifs -Dienst voor Opruiming en Vernietiging van

Ontploffingstuigen), in Oud-Heverlee, Belgium, on 2015 September 24<sup>th</sup>.

Total direct costs in 2015: 312915 €.

Prof. Yvan BAUDOIN is now working at the creation of a European Counter Explosive Hazards Center of Excellence (EC-EH COE). It shall focus on the exploitation of the toolboxes and initiatives developed in EC projects so far and on expanding their application to other explosive hazards threatening civil society.

**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 01.01.2016 to 31.12.2016

**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

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<p><u>Means and technologies of mine clearance</u></p> <p>For detection purposes, two different man portable detectors are used, the one based on the magnetic principle, the other on dual sensors technique.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><u>Lists of experts and experts agencies</u></p> <p>Belgian Ministry of Defence : SEDEE (Service for the removal and destruction of explosive devices) ComOpsLand 2D (Operational Command Land – Engineers Branch)</p>
<p><u>National points of contact on mine clearance</u></p> <p>Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs Tel. 00 32 2 501 88 87 – Fax.: 00 32 2 501 38 22 – E-mail: <a href="mailto:francois.dumont@diplobel.fed.be">francois.dumont@diplobel.fed.be</a></p>