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 (CCW)

Reporting Formats
pursuant to the Decision of the Third Review Conference on the establishment of a Compliance mechanism applicable to the Convention, as contained in its Final Declaration, Annex II, Paragraph 5 (CCW/CONF.III/11, Part II)

NAME OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY: ESTONIA

PARTY TO:
X Protocol I (Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments)
□ Protocol II (Protocol on Mines Booby-Traps and Other Devices)
X Amended Protocol II (amended Protocol on Mines Booby-Traps and Other Devices)
X Protocol III (Protocol on Incendiary Weapons)
X Protocol IV (Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons)
X Protocol V (Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War)

ACCEDED TO:
X amended Article I

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 18 MARCH 2013

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NOTE: Pursuant to paragraph 5 of the above Decision the High Contracting Parties have agreed “to provide information to the Secretary-General in advance of the Meeting, which will be circulated by the Secretary-General to all the High Contracting Parties, on any of the following matters:
(a) Dissemination of information on the Convention and its annexed Protocols to their armed forces and to the civilian population;
(b) Steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and its annexed Protocols and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;
(c) Legislation related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols;
(d) Measures taken on technical co-operation and assistance; and
(e) Other relevant matters.”

Each of the items listed above are provided as separate individual forms to be filled out by each High Contracting Party accordingly.

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1 Please indicate individually for the CCW and each Protocol (if different)
Form A    Dissemination of information

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information […] on:

(a) Dissemination of information on the Convention and its annexed Protocols to their armed forces and to the civilian population;”

High Contracting Party: ESTONIA

Information to the armed forces

The Convention and its annexed Protocols are published and disseminated to the Estonian Defence Forces. Relevant military instructions for the Defence Forces personnel have been elaborated.

Information to the civilian population

The civilian population has been informed of the accession of Estonia to the Convention and its annexed Protocols through the mass media. The texts are published in State Gazette (Riigi Teataja) and they are also available on the Internet.

Any other relevant information
Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information [...] on:

(b) Steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and its annexed Protocols and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;”

High Contracting Party: ESTONIA

Steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and its annexed Protocols

Estonia does not possess anti-personnel mines or other weapons systems the use of which is prohibited or restricted according to the provisions of the Convention and its annexed Protocols. Neither is Estonia an ERW affected country. There remain ERW from the World War II period; however, this does not fall under the provisions of the CCW Protocol V. In case World War II period munitions are found Estonian Rescue Board attends to their demining.

For further information please also refer to the latest Amended Protocol II and Protocol V reports submitted by Estonia.

Any other relevant information
Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information […] on:

(c) Legislation related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols;”

High Contracting Party: ESTONIA

Legislation


Violations of the provisions of the annexed Protocols of the Convention committed by persons will be punished according to the Estonian Penal Code. The relevant provision of the Estonian Penal Code that corresponds to the scope of the CCW regime is contained in Section 103, which prescribes that the “[u]se of biological, bacteriological or chemical weapons or other weapons of mass destruction, toxic weapons, toxic or asphyxiating gases, booby traps, i.e. explosives disguised as small harmless objects, expanding bullets, weapons injuring by fragments which escape X-rays, or other internationally prohibited weapons, or large-scale use of incendiary weapons under conditions where the military objective cannot be clearly separated from civilian population, civilian objects or the surrounding environment, is punishable by 3 to 12 years’ imprisonment.”

Estonia has adopted relevant legislation concerning the export and transit of anti-personnel mines. According to the former Strategic Goods Act that entered into force on 5 February 2004 it was prohibited under Section 7 to export and transit military supplies (and related services) which are prohibited by international treaties that Estonia has ratified. The Strategic Goods Act (passed in December 13, 2011 and in force since January 1, 2012) explicitly forbids the export and transit of land mines.
Form D   Technical co-operation and assistance

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information […] on:

(d) Measures taken on technical co-operation and assistance;”

High Contracting Party: ESTONIA

International technical co-operation

In 2009, Estonia and the United Kingdom started co-operation in the field of EOD training.

International technical assistance

In 2012, Estonian deminers took part in demining efforts in Afghanistan.

Since 1999, Estonia has contributed annually to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Mine Action. The amount of contributions to date is 100,042 USD.

Any other relevant information
Form E Other relevant matters

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information […] on:

(e) Other relevant matters.”

High Contracting Party: ESTONIA

Other relevant matters

In 1999 the US Government assisted in the establishment of the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Centre (EOD Centre). The EOD Centre is subordinated and led by the Estonian Rescue Board (under the Ministry of Interior). It conducts civilian EOD operations (neutralization of improvised explosive devices and unexploded ordnance, participation in police operations involving a potential risk of explosion and carrying out activities in the post-explosion scenes of an event) and provides EOD training. As of 2005, the new duties of the EOD Centre include reacting to CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear substances) threats. Specialists of the centre were trained in the framework of the international Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA).

In 2005, an EOD platoon was established in Tapa Combat Support Training Centre for fulfilling domestic and international EOD tasks as a fully professional unit. At the beginning of 2008, an EOD Centre (equivalent to Company in the framework of Engineering Battalion) was established in the same Tapa Combat Support Training Centre. In the beginning of 2009 the EOD Centre reached IEDD (Improvised Explosive Device Disposal) capability.

From July 1st 2006 to January 10th 2007 one EOD team (fifteen personnel) was in a 5-day deployability readiness in the structure of the NATO Response Forces (NRF-7). In the 1st half of 2009 a Conventional Ammunition Disposal (CMD) team was in the structure of the NATO Response Forces (NRF-12). In 2013 Estonia has one CMD team (5 people) in NRF readiness.

From 2007 – 2009, Estonia was one of the lead nations of NATO/PfP Georgia II Trust Fund for the demilitarization of rockets and missiles in Georgia. The project comprised the demilitarisation of S-8 Air to Surface unguided missiles, and Alazan and Kristall anti-hail rockets. Estonia contributed EUR 30,000 to the project.

NATO/PfP Trust Fund project on ERW including anti-personnel land mines’ clearance and medical rehabilitation support to Georgia (NATO/PfP Georgia III Trust Fund) was launched in the fall of 2009 and successfully concluded in 2013. The lead nations of the project were Estonia, Lithuania and the Czech Republic. The objectives of the project were the development and enhancement of Georgia’s Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) capacity, through the provision of specialist EOD equipment and training to the Georgian Armed Forces and the provision of the establishment of a physical rehabilitation centre at the Military Hospital in Gori. Estonia’s contribution to the Trust Fund was EUR 136,667.