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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY</th>
<th>BELGIUM</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DATE OF SUBMISSION</td>
<td>31/03/20</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT  | Sigurd Schelstraete  
  Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Co- 
  operation  
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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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High Contracting Party</th>
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</table>

05.04.20
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 encompasses inter alia general information about (amended) Protocol II.

b. Specific Information:
   Combat engineers and EOD personnel involved in mine activities are educated and trained in all matters related to the Belgian doctrine in accordance with STANAG 2036 Land mines procedures, 2143 Minimum standards of proficiency for explosive ordnance disposal personnel, 2485 Countermine operations in land warfare and this Protocol. These documents are translated into two Belgian doctrinal documents:
   - ACOT-TTP-MILENG4-LEC-418 « Procédure en matière de pose, marquage, repérage et compte-rendu des champs de mines »,
   - ACOT-TTP-ENGMFD-LECQ-030 « Déminage en Ops » (Draft)

   Explosive Risk Education is part of basic military education for all soldiers. Every year, soldiers receive a refreshment training on mine awareness. Specific training is provided before any operational deployment and is tailored to the risks that the armed forces could be facing during the operation in question.

Information to the civilian population


On a regular basis, representatives of the Defense Department give lectures as part of the IHL courses organised by the Belgian Red Cross and/or 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 these courses.
Form B  Mine clearance and rehabilitation programs

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

(b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programs;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party  BELGIUM  reporting for time period from  01.01.2019  to  31.12.2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mine clearance programs</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOT APPLICABLE: the country is not affected by minefields</td>
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<td>For international cooperation: see Form E</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rehabilitation programs</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>NOT APPLICABLE: the country is not affected by minefields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For international cooperation: see Form E</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Form C  

**Technical requirements and relevant information**

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

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

*Remark:*

<table>
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**Technical requirements**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>The procedures in use for the recording of minefields are in accordance with those requested in the Protocol. For the recording, marking and control of minefields in operation, Belgium is acting in accordance with the provisions of the STANAG 2036. This STANAG is fully in line with what is required by the Protocol.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Detectability: this is not applicable because the use of anti-personnel mines is prohibited by the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Ottawa Convention) and by national law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>c. Self-destruction and self-deactivation: not applicable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d. Signalisation: see answer in paragraph a above.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Any other relevant information**

05.04.20
Form D  Legislation

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

(d) Legislation related to this Protocol;

Remark:

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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 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 Antipersonnel Mines, which simplifies the existing procedure on the total prohibition of Antipersonnel Mines.
- 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.
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 Depositary ... 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 01.01.2019 to 31.12.2019

International technical information exchange

- In May 2004, Belgium became a member of the European Research Grouping Arrangement n°2, with France, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom and Germany, in relation to the European Co-operation for Ammunition Destruction.

- A complete handbook on EOD technical information was produced, translated into KHMER and handed over to the Cambodian mine action centre (CMAC). Belgium provides technical information support upon request.

- On a regular basis, 1 or 2 Belgian representatives, skilled in demining, participate in meetings related to humanitarian mine action and organized under the umbrella of the NATO working group EOD, GICHD Review Board for IMAS, and EDA working group. Belgium 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 level in the International Test and Evaluation Program for humanitarian demining (ITEP). Through this channel, it takes part in the decision and policymaking process of the ITEP.
International cooperation on mine clearance

1. Projects:

Total amount disbursed in 2019: 3,845,161 EUR

- ICRC disability and mine action call: 1,000,000 €
- Mine Action Group: Reducing the threat posed by SALW, ammunition, mines and ERW in Chad: 399,000 €
- Halo Trust: Humanitarian IED clearance in Southern Fallujah: increasing safety and enhancing livelihoods for returning families: 416,161 €
- UNMAS: contributions to the Iraq and Syria mine action programs: 2,000,000 €

Belgium also contributed in 2019 to global programs of Handicap International and to the non-earmarked budget of the ICRC. Belgium contributes to the equipment of the Group of Five Sahel Joint Force (FC-G5S) in C-IED material with 1,000,000 € (period 2018-2022).

2. Research and Development:

Research and development activities are conducted both at the national and international level. A national example is the PARADIS project (a Prototype for Assisting Rational Activities in Humanitarian De-mining Using Images from Satellites) led by the Royal Military Academy (RMA) with the participation of the Department of Geography (IGEAT) of the Free University of Brussels (ULB). Its results are still used by different actors.

The NGO APOPO (http://www.apopo.org/), in collaboration with the University of Antwerp and funded inter alia by the Belgian Government, started a research project in 1997 on the use of rats for scent detection of mines. The African giant pouch rat (cricetomys gambianus) was selected for this task and successfully trained. In 2004 the first group of mine detection rats passed the licensing tests according to the international mine action standards (IMAS). APOPO became an international NGO active in humanitarian demining and is still employing rats for survey of contaminated areas.

From 2012 to 2015 the Royal Military Academy coordinated TIRAMISU, an international project to develop a comprehensive modular toolbox for the main humanitarian mine action activities, from survey up to the disposal of explosive hazards. TIRAMISU offers a comprehensive, integrated and modular solution for tackling large contaminated areas. The main financial contribution to the project was provided by the European
Framework Program 7 - Security. The results of the project continue to be exploited by the International CBRNE Institute established in Les Bons Villers, Belgium.

Form F

Other relevant matters

Article 13 / 4 / f  “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:
(f) other relevant matters.

Remark:

High Contracting Party  **BELGIUM** reporting for time period from 01.01.2019 to 31.12.2019

Other relevant matters

Belgium has regularly organised EOD courses in French and English to train team leaders of other countries. Currently, these courses are organised on an ad hoc basis.

Since 2017, BEL has contributed to MINUSMA with an EOD specialist in the analysis branch.
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
Means and technologies of mine clearance
For detection purposes, two different man portable detectors are used, one based on the magnetic principle, the other one 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:
- DOVO/SEDEE (Service for the removal and destruction of explosive devices)
- ComOpsLand MILENG (Operational Command Land – Military Engineers Branch)

The Belgian military experts working for DOVO/SEDEE have NATO degrees and qualifications for:
- EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)
- IEDD (Improvised Explosive Device Disposal)

National points of contact on mine clearance
Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Department of the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs
Tel. 00 32 2 501 31 74 – E-mail: Sigurd.Schelstraete@diplobel.fed.be