

**PROTOCOL II 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)**

Annual Report in accordance with Article 13, paragraph 4

NAME OF HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY: HELLENIC REPUBLIC

DATE OF SUBMISSION: November 3rd, 2008

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The information contained in this Report may be made available to other interested Parties, Organizations and the public.

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: HELLENIC REPUBLIC reporting for time period from Sep 21, 2007 to Sep 20, 2008.

Information to the armed forces

The appropriate doctrine, operational and training publications and courses of instruction of the armed forces of the Hellenic Republic have been revised as necessary to incorporate the requirements of Amended Protocol II. The interpretation of the provisions of the Protocol and their practical implementation has become part of the training the armed forces of the Hellenic Republic receive in International Humanitarian Law and the Law of War.

Specific units and personnel of particular specialties receive extended instructions.

Information to the civilian population

The law by which the Hellenic Parliament ratified Amended Protocol II was published in the Official Government Gazette on November 03, 1998 and is, therefore, in the public domain. The general population of the Hellenic Republic has also been informed through the national press that Greece also ratified the CCW and its Protocols and signed & ratified the 1997 Ottawa Convention.

Form B **Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes**

Article 13 / 4 / b “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depository ... on ...:
 (b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party: HELLENIC REPUBLIC reporting for time period from Sep 21, 2007 to Sep 20, 2008.

Mine clearance programmes

A huge mine clearance programme is still under way in vast areas of the regions of Western Macedonia and Epirus in the North-West part of the Hellenic Republic, in “suspect areas” containing not only mines but also booby-traps, UXOs and other devices dating from World War II and the 1946 -1949 period. There are no properly defined minefields in this area and no maps, the number of dangerous devices to be removed is very large and the weather conditions are adverse for the most part of the year, resulting in the very slow progress of works. It is worth mentioning that the “suspect areas” to be cleared and secured in the mountains of Grammos and Vitsi alone, measure well over 40.000 hectares. — **During 2008, 926.575 m² were cleared and secured in the above area. From 21th September 2007 until 20th September 2008, 3.350 antipersonnel mines were removed and destroyed in the area of Evros (North-East part of the Hellenic Republic), along the border with Turkey.**

Rehabilitation programmes

There are no mine victims among the Hellenic population. — Few mine casualties suffered during the last years by illegal migrants who try to cross the border coming from Turkey along the river Evros in the North-East part of the Hellenic Republic, are treated in the hospital of Alexandroupolis or other major hospitals in northern Greece. (**Note:** All minefields along the border with Turkey in the Evros Province are clearly defined and marked, well above any standard established by Amended Protocol II and the relevant NATO STANAGs. Mine casualties among illegal migrants are suffered from time to time because they are led to the border along the river Evros at night and then instructed to ignore any mine fences and markings and walk into the Hellenic territory. Some times they are even aided in cutting the wire and led into minefields!). — Greece offers, free of charge, health treatment through its National Health System to people coming from various Balkan states, including people injured by landmines.

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: HELLENIC REPUBLIC reporting for time period from Sep 21, 2007 to Sep 20, 2008.

Technical requirements

Greece has taken all the necessary steps to meet the technical requirements of the Protocol. All mines, booby-traps and other devices in the inventory of the Hellenic armed forces comply fully with the technical provisions of Amended Protocol II.

Any other relevant information

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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: HELLENIC REPUBLIC reporting for time period from Sep 21, 2007 to Sep 20, 2008.

Legislation

Amended Protocol II was ratified by law 2652/98, published in issue numb. 249 of the Official Government Gazette on November 03, 1998, and thus became *part of the internal Hellenic legislation* according to the relevant provision of the Constitution. No other legislation is required to enable the Hellenic Republic to carry out its obligations under the Protocol.

The Hellenic Republic also ratified the CCW and its Protocols I, II and III by law 1979/91, published in issue numb. 186 of the Official Government Gazette on December 09, 1991. Protocol IV was ratified by law 2484/97, published in issue 75 of the Official Government Gazette on May 16, 1997. — The Ottawa Convention (MBT) was ratified by law 2999/02, published in issue 71 of the Official Government Gazette on April 08, 2002 and came into force on April 25, 2003.

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: HELLENIC REPUBLIC reporting for time period from Sep 21, 2007 to Sep 20, 2008.

International technical information exchange

The Hellenic Republic participated in the all the recent meetings of the Standing Committees of the Ottawa Convention, namely in the meetings of the Committees for “mine clearance, mine awareness and mine action technologies” and “stockpile destruction”.

International cooperation on mine clearance

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International cooperation and assistance

The Hellenic Republic takes part in the Joint Action of the EU Member States providing financial and technical assistance to landmine victims and affected countries.

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: HELLENIC REPUBLIC reporting for time period from Sep 21, 2007 to Sep 20, 2008.

Other relevant matters

The Hellenic Republic does not manufacture, import or export mines.

Specialized personnel of the Hellenic contingent in Kosovo with KFOR, have in the past run mine awareness courses for the local population.

The Multinational Peace Support Operations Training Centre (MPSOTC) near the city of Kilkis in Macedonia, northern Greece —established in 1998 and subordinated to the Hellenic National Defence General Staff— offers high level theoretical and practical education & training in PSOs and International Humanitarian Law, to personnel (officers, NCOs & troops) of the Hellenic armed forces as well as of the armed forces of various other countries of South-Eastern Europe.

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”.

Remark:

High Contracting Party: HELLENIC REPUBLIC reporting for time period from Sep 21, 2007 to Sep 20, 2008.

Means and technologies of mine clearance

The Hellenic Army basically employs manual mine clearance. International practices and standards in mine clearance are followed.
– Canine detection is also employed in certain circumstances.
– Robot mine clearance systems (mini flail) purchase is in progress.

Lists of experts and expert agencies

For details please contact the point of contact detailed below.

National points of contact on mine clearance

Hellenic Army General Staff/Engineers Directorate, Stratopedo Papagou, Holargos, Athens, Greece 155 62._