

**EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE  
STATES PARTIES TO AMENDED  
PROTOCOL II 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**

CCW/AP.II/CONF.8/NAR.34  
10 November 2006

ENGLISH ONLY

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**Geneva, 6 November 2006**

Item 10 of the agenda

**Consideration of matters arising from  
reports by High Contracting Parties  
according to paragraph 4 of Article 13  
of the Amended Protocol II**

**BELGIUM**

National annual report

Submitted in accordance with Article 13, paragraph 4 and Article 11 paragraph 2 of the  
Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines,  
Booby-Traps and Other Devices  
as Amended on 3 May 1996 to the CCW

GE.06-65120



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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)

Reporting Formats for Article 13 paragraph 4 and Article 11 paragraph 2

NAME OF THE HIGH  
CONTRACTING PARTY BELGIUM

DATE OF SUBMISSION 30.09.2006

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This information can be available to other interested parties and relevant organizations

YES

NO

Partially, only the following forms:

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

**Form A          Dissemination of information**

Article 13,  
paragraph 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                      reporting for time  
Party                      BELGIUM      period from                      30.09.2005 to                      30.09.2006

Information to the armed forces

- a.      General Information:
  - (1) During basic military education: Military personnel from each category (Officers, NCO, soldiers) are instructed concerning their rights and duties under international humanitarian law in peacetime and war.
  - (2) During the follow-up career education: all officers and NCO concerned, receive supplementary training in the field of “Law of Armed Conflicts”.
  - (3) Every individual member of the Armed Forces receives an easy-to-carry instruction card, which provides an overview of the basic rules concerning international humanitarian law.  
Yearly, those people in combat units are instructed and trained in the use of these regulations.
- b.      Specific Information :
  - (1) Further special training is provided to those officers assigned as “Advisor in the Law of Armed Conflicts” to the Military Command. The purpose of this course is to enhance and deepen the knowledge of “International Humanitarian Law in Armed Conflicts” and highlight the significance of this field of law to general military training, conduct of operations and tactics.
  - (2) Specific training is also provided to the unit tasked with a PKO or to the people sent in support of a Peacekeeping mission.

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 Statute Book.

**Form B      Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes**

Article 13,      “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
paragraph 4 (b)      Depository ... on:

(b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes;”

*Remark:*

High  
Contracting      reporting for time  
Party      BELGIUM      period from      30.09.2005      to      30.09.2006

Mine clearance programmes

NOT APPLICABLE : the country is not affected by minefields

For international cooperation : see Form E

Rehabilitation programmes

NOT APPLICABLE : the country is not affected by minefields

For international cooperation : see Form E

**Form C      Technical requirements and relevant information**

Article 13,      “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
paragraph 4 (c)      Depository ... on:

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

*Remark:*

High  
Contracting      reporting for time  
Party      BELGIUM      period from      30.09.2005      to      30.09.2006

Technical requirements

- a.      The procedures in practice for the registration of minefields are in accordance with those requested in the Protocol.
- b.      Detectability: this is not applicable because the use of anti-personnel mines is being prohibited under the OTTAWA Convention and by national law.
- c.      Self-destruction and neutralisation: not applicable.

Any other relevant information

**Form D      Legislation**

Article 13,      “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
paragraph 4 (d)      Depository ... on:

(d) legislation related to this Protocol;”

*Remark:*

High Contracting Party	<u>BELGIUM</u>	reporting for time period from	<u>30.09.2005</u> to <u>30.09.2006</u>
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Legislation

Law of 08 June 2006 concerning the regulation of economic and individual activities with weapons.

Law of 08 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 annexed to the.

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,                    “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
paragraph 4 (e)            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 30.09.2005 to 30.09.2006

International technical information exchange

- Belgium participates together with France, Italy, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom in the Technical Arrangement 113.071 which is the follow on of the WEAO Information Exchange Group IEX 13.11 on the destruction of non-stockpiled chemical ammunition. Since this project is running under WEAO, it is about to end soon but the project will probably continue under EDA in the CapTech GEM 03 on lethality and protection.
- 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 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 :
  - CEN work programs
  - NATO working group EOD
  - GICHD Review Board for IMAS
  - EDA working groupand assumes a liaison role between those organizations.



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 :**

**Burundi (501.742 €)**

Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation  
DAN CHURCH AID- Humanitarian Demining in Province of Makamba

**République Démocratique du Congo**

Mine clearance (Democratic Republic of Congo): Appui communautaire à la problématique des mines anti-personnel dans la région de Kisangani". In 2003 an extension of the project of the NGO Handicap International Belgium in Kisangani has been approved for a total amount of 3 million EUR spread over 3 years (1.000.000 EUR in 2004, 1.000.000 EUR in 2005, **1.000.000 EUR in 2006**)

**(369.222€)** : MAG-Humanitarian Mine Action in South-East of Congo

**B. Europe :**

**Bosnia – Herzegovina (80.000 €)**

Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation  
Assistance to de-mining in Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Slovenian Trust Fund for de-mining in Bosnia-Herzegovina

**C. Middle East :**

**Lebanon :**

In the framework of the UNIFIL-South build-up, Belgium sent :

- begin September 2006, a 2 people EOD-team for one week HMA reconnaissance activities;
- in the last days of September, one team of 11 operators tasked with clearing operations.

Two other teams are planned to arrive in the beginning of October.

**Irak (490.180 €)**

Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation  
MAG( Mine Advisory Group), "Humanitarian Mine Action-North Irak " in Irak.

## **D. Asia**

**Laos:** Financial 367.158 Euro and in kind (Estimated at 36.000 EURO) 2 EOD Operators as technical advisers to the Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Program until 01 Apr 05.

UXO clearance - capacity-building

UXO clearance in the province of CHAMPASSAK Ministry of Defence

### **Afghanistan :**

Ministry of Defence

In kind (estimated at 58.800 EURO per four months mission)

4 UXO clearance experts in KABUL until March 05 and 09 UXO clearance experts since August 05 in the PRT KUNDUZ and FEYZABAD.

## **3. Research and Development:**

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

### **a. National level:**

- The basic research HUDEM(<http://www.sic.rma.ac.be/Projects/Hudem/>), coordinated by the Royal Military Academy (RMA) and involving the participation of major university laboratories in Belgium, is funded by the Belgian Ministry of Defence and by the Belgian State Secretariat for Development Aid. The main activities include research on mine detection systems (metal detector, ground penetrating radar, infrared sensor, microwaves radiometer and nuclear quadruple resonance), on data processing and data fusion. Specific research activities also concern the analysis of possible robotic solutions to be applied to humanitarian de-mining. Started in 1997, this project ended 2002. From January 2003, the HUDEM research is continued by the BEMAT project, the aim of which is to predict and evaluate the detection performances in given scenarios of close and remote systems, including robotic aspects. In 2005, 225.000 Euro have been spent and for 2006, the amount allocated to it comes to 232.000 Euro. This project will close at the end of 2009.
- The research project on the use of bio-sensors (rats) in humanitarian de-mining operations, funded by the Belgian State Secretariat for Development Aid and conducted by the NGO APOPO and the RUCA(<http://www.apopo.org/>), is highlighting very promising solutions in the close-in detection of AP mines. The rats proved to be more powerful than dogs in trials organized in Tanzania. This project started in 1997 is still ongoing. A validation phase in Mozambique is still underway. Support to the APOPO-project : field tests in Mozambique : 230.000 EUR (budget of the Flemish community - Belgium).
- The PARADIS project (A prototype for assisting rational activities in humanitarian de-mining using images from satellites (<http://www.sic.rma.ac.be/Projects/Paradis/>) started in 1998. Initially, this project was funded by the Belgian federal Office for scientific, Technical and Cultural Affairs and the Belgian Ministry of Defense, and conducted by the Royal Military Academy (RMA) with - in the beginning - the participation of the department of Geography (IGEAT) of the Free university of Brussels (ULB). This prototype is highlighting very interesting solutions for the management of humanitarian de-mining operations using satellite images, maps,

context information and the IMSMA database and involves key actors including end-users, image analysts and scientists. Now this Project is only funded by the Belgian Ministry of Defense.

Since 2004, it is in a phase of optimizing the developed solutions and to this end has undergone different tests:

- in October 2005: with the help of NGO APOPO, tests have been performed in Mozambique in order to analyze the possibility to integrate the needs of APOPO in the system,
- since November 2005: trials have been conducted in Afghanistan by the Belgian EOD-team in close (internet) collaboration with the SIC laboratory of the RMA,
- in June 2006, further validation tests for some modules have taken place in Belgium in collaboration with EOD personnel.

These amount about 100.000 Euro.

- The ETRO Department of the VUB (<http://www.minedet.etro.vub.ac.be/groundbase/projects/html/fprojects.html>) is also conducting projects on own funding and funding by FWO, Fund for Scientific Research - Flanders, Belgium. These projects include:
  - Extensive Testing and Evaluation of Technologies developed for Humanitarian De-mining (ended in 2005)
  - Numerical issues in tomographic shallow subsurface imaging with application to land mine detection (ended in 2005)
  - Stabilized de-convolution for inverse problems, applied to linear (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) and non-linear (Ground Penetrating Radar Imaging) Image reconstruction (in collaboration with the University of Ghent, RUG, and ending in 2004).

b. International level:

- The RMA is supporting the International Test and Evaluation Program (ITEP) by its participation to the executive Committee and to the different working groups, as well as by financing the ITEP secretariat. From 1st September 2004, the ITEP secretariat (<http://www.itep.ws>) is installed in the premises of the Royal Military Academy in Brussels, Belgium and is co-funded by Canada and Belgium (The Belgian contribution is about 25.000 Euro a year).
- The RMA is participating to the CEN (Centre Européen de Normalisation) initiative to define a new standard on the soil characterisation for electromagnetic mine detection sensors. This project is funded by the European Commission and will last two years.
- The VUB is involved in the STREAM project (<http://stream.etro.vub.ac.be/home.html>), funded by the European Commission, on the development of (1) products, and (2) procedures for end-to-end technological platforms and tools for survey and decision support in humanitarian crisis : humanitarian demining and locations of refugee settlements. This project started in 2005 and will last 4 years.

International co-operation on technical co-operation and assistance

**Form F            Other relevant matters**

Article 13,            “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
paragraph 4 (f)    Depository ... on:

(f) other relevant matters.”

*Remark:*

High  
Contracting            reporting for time  
Party            BELGIUM    period from            30.09.2005    to    30.09.2006

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.

Have been trained:

- in 2003, students from Angola, Benin and Congo Brazzaville,
- in 2004, students from Angola, DRC, Rwanda, Benin, Uganda and Gabon
- in 2005, students from Angola, Benin, Cambodia, DRC and Rwanda.

For 2006 students are coming from DRC, Rwanda, Angola, Benin, Burundi, Vietnam, Morocco and Jordan.

In 2006, Belgium provided Kazakhstan with the layout of the EOD course as given for EOD personnel from other countries.

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

Article 11,  
paragraph 2      “Each High Contracting Party undertakes to provide information to  
the database on mine clearance established within the United  
Nations System, especially 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      30.09.2005 to 30.09.2006

Means and technologies of mine clearance

See national points of contact

Lists of experts and experts agencies

Belgian Ministry of Defence: SEDEE (Service for the removal and destruction of explosive devices)

National points of contact on mine clearance

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