Geneva, 29 August 2016

To have indiscernible effects (CCW)

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)

Tenth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on ERW to

By Dr. Cees van Lijnden, Delegation of the European Union to the OPCW
EU Statement at the
Tenth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V on ERW 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)
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Mr President,

I am speaking on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Serbia* and Albania*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association
Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Ukraine, the Republic of
Moldova, and Georgia align themselves with this Statement.

It is a pleasure to see you again presiding over our work. We assure you of our full
cooperation and support in your work. We would also like to thank the Coordinators for their
commitment this past year. Through their important work we continue to build on the
effective implementation of Protocol V of the CCW.

Protocol V represents an important instrument of International Humanitarian Law. It plays a
key role in addressing the serious post-conflict impact for civilians, their communities and
their environment. In view of the next Review Cycle it is important to take stock of the
progress made on its implementation, consider its impact on the ground and renew our
commitments for its effective implementation.

As new conflicts continue to generate ERW, the European Union supports the continued
efforts towards the universalisation of the Protocol. Universal acceptance and effective
implementation of Protocol V will assist highly in minimising the humanitarian harm and

*The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the
Stabilisation and Association Process.
Very important instrument participation in society. All EU Member States and the European Union are parties to this.

In the absence of a specific protocol, the need to address comprehensively the needs of survivors and their families, and equal treatment with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which sets a framework for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Victims of Violence, requires that the EU play a more active role in order for victim assistance efforts to be sustainable in the longer term.

The EU believes that in order for victim assistance efforts to be sustainable in the longer term, victim assistance frameworks should include a comprehensive range of measures to promote effective assistance to the victims.

Recommendations on the exchange of information and experiences on the implementation of the victim assistance frameworks, as well as the exchange of best practices, experiences and lessons learned with other countries and communities, are also important. The European Union supports the Plan of Action on Victim Assistance established in 2001.

The European Union has consistently been a strong supporter of victim assistance, including also financial support. In line with its principle of budget neutrality for EU funds, the Union's financial support is also to be used.

The protocol is an important measure to enhance the implementation of the Protocol, in a broader context. The broader context also includes the implementation of current EU protocols and agreements, and the exchange of information and experiences with other countries and communities.

The European Union attributes high importance to transparency and building confidence in the implementation of Protocol A, and welcomes the accession of post-Protocol A, and looks forward to Protocol A, and welcomes the accession of post-Protocol A, and looks forward to Protocol A.
The European Union attaches high importance to Generic Preventive Measures. We welcome in particular the important discussions on the management of munitions sites, raising awareness of the dangers of accidents in storage and the concerns over the diversion of munitions. We would also encourage the High Contracting Parties to implement Part 3 of the Technical Annex to Protocol V and to report on such work in their Protocol V national annual reports, and to implement, where appropriate the United Nations International Ammunition Technical Guidelines which provide an effective tool to secure and manage safely ammunition stockpiles.

Clearance, removal and destruction of ERW remain core issues of Protocol V. We believe it is important to further explore appropriate practical methods to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in ERW clearance programmes, as well as the coordination between different actors working in the field and the development of synergies as applicable. The EU views the obligation to record the use of explosive ordnance in Article 4 as a key element of Protocol V and supports further expert work on the issue.

Mr President,

We are looking forward to a productive meeting today to further advance the effective implementation of Protocol V. We hope that at the Review Conference of the CCW in December this year High Contracting Parties will take decisions on how to best move forward over the next CCW review cycle. We remain committed to working with you and all partners to achieve this goal.

Thank you