

- PROTOCOL V -

**REPORTING FORMS
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 10, PARAGRAPH 2 (b) OF THE PROTOCOL AND THE
DECISION OF THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING
PARTIES TO PROTOCOL V**

(As adopted by the First Conference at its second plenary meeting on 5 November 2007)

HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY: BELGIUM

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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 H I

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FORM B: Steps taken to implement Article 4 of the Protocol: Recording, retaining and transmission of information

High Contracting Party: BELGIUM

Reporting for time period from: initial report [dd/mm/yyyy] to [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 4 and the Technical Annex:

Already before the entry into force of the Protocol V for Belgium, procedures existed within the Belgian Armed Forces recording and retaining of information as foreseen in Article 4.

The chain for recording and retaining of information is double :

- the operational chain : each unit engaged in operations has to mention in its operational reports all use of explosive munitions and, where applicable, all abundance of munitions. If possible, the information reported will conform with the provisions of the Technical Annex of the Protocol. These reports conform with the international standards on mine action.
- the logistical chain : this chain records and reports on all use of munitions during operations.

Both chains are overlapped at the Operations Center of the Armed Forces. The crosscutting of both chains allows to get a clear picture of the use of munitions, of the places where these munitions have been used also of the zones where possible Explosive Remnants of War could be situated.

Similar procedures exist for multinational operations. The recording and retaining of information is submitted via the operational and logistic chains to the Operational Headquarters responsible for the operations.

The Armed Forces are actually considering the possibility for implementing the electronic template.

Any other relevant information:

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FORM C: Steps taken to implement Article 5 of the Protocol: Other precautions for the protection of the civilian population, individual civilians and civilian objects from the risks and effects of explosive remnants of war

High Contracting Party: BELGIUM

Reporting for time period from: initial report to
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 5 and the Technical Annex:

The civilian population is taken into account at every steps of the planning and execution process of the mission. Keeping in mind that the first responsibility to inform the civilian population and to prevent it from running at risk remains in the hand of the civilian authorities, Belgian Defense will transmit as much possible information to the local authorities on identified contaminated areas. In most of the time, the Belgian Det will transmit the information to the local "Mine Action Center", if deployed.

In some occasions, a "Mine Risk Education Program" in favor of the local population (children) is conducted by the Belgian detachment (e.g. Libanon) and the distribution of education flyers.

In extreme situations and on request of the local authorities, Belgian Defense will support the local authorities when feasible to restore the basic services to the civilian population: Major accesses, etc.

Practical directives:

- The ammunition will be stored according to the procedures,
- No unused ammunition will be left on the field,
- So far it is possible; the unexploded ordnance will be reported,
- When the situation requires it, an EOD detachment will take part to the mission. One of their missions is to destroy the unexploded ordnance when feasible.

Any other relevant information:

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FORM D: Steps taken to implement Article 6 of the Protocol: Provisions for the protection of humanitarian missions and organizations from the effects of explosive remnants of war

High Contracting Party: BELGIUM

Reporting for time period from: initial report to
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 6:

Belgian Defense will inform as far as possible the humanitarian organizations on the risk to move into hazardous areas and the necessity to coordinate the movements with the local "Mine Action Center", if deployed. The deployed Belgian Detachment will keep an updated map of the identified contaminated areas of its area of responsibility.

Practical directives:
See Form C

Any other relevant information:

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Rehabilitation (OMAR) - Implementing agency : Mines Advisory Group (MAG) - €215.000 - Program Description: Reinforcement of existing capacities. The project focuses on security, quality and efficiency of the demining operations. "Training curriculums" will be developed.

E. Latin-America:

In 2010, the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has supported two projects in Colombia:

- Reducing the risks posed to vulnerable communities by Conventional Weapons (CW) contamination - Implementing Agency : Mines Advisory Group (MAG) (€300.000) Program description: risk education;
- Renforcement Institutionnel des capacités nationales pour la prise en charge et l'orientation des victimes civiles de Mines Antipersonnel en Colombie - Implementing Agency : Handicap International Belgium (€550.000) ;

F. Multilateral projects

In 2009, The Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs decided to support a study intended to support the evolution and progress registered in the field of victim assistance. A special attention will be dedicated to the testimony of the ban advocates and the local organization for victim assistance. Recipient : Handicap International Belgium (€100.000 euro) - Activity Type : Victims assistance – 10 years on: from mine ban treaty to convention on cluster munitions;

A part of a multiannual funding plan the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Development cooperation department, has contributed to the : ICRC - voluntary contribution to landmine action - Activity Type : Humanitarian aid (€ 2.000.000).

The Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs also supported ICBL's project stopping further casualties from antipersonnel landmines and cluster munitions and assisting survivors - preparation of the 2nd review Conference of the Mine-ban treaty ; advocacy campaign focused on victim assistance; capacity building of local partners (€300.000);

Research and Development:

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

a. National level:

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.

- in 2007, the PARADIS system has been finalized and presented to the end-users at SEDEE-DOVO. Presentations were targeting different levels of users (field officers, planners).

b. International level: (voir aussi les autres acteurs impliqués)

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. The Memorandum of Understanding on the ITEP has come to an end in July 2010 without extension. Possible follow-on scenarios are under study.

The RMA is chairing 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 personnel costs are funded by the Belgian Defence in the scope of the BEMAT project (see above).

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

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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.

Two Belgian deminers and a scientist from the Royal Military Academy participated in the tests of the dual sensor detectors organized by Germany under ITEP umbrella (Oberjettenberg, 21 Sep 2009 – 16 Oct 2009).

Any other relevant information:

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c. Phasing out:

- Ammunition that is no longer used, because of unacceptable technical degradation or because the weapon system is no longer used, stays in inventory until demilitarized.

- Demilitarization: 3 options

* Urgent demilitarization by EOD services when storage safety is no longer guaranteed.

* Demilitarization in Belgian Demilitarization Installations

* Outsourcing of Demil contracts through NAMSA (NATO Maintenance & Supply Organisation)

- The storage safety is guaranteed for as long the ammunition stays in inventory

d. Best practices and operating procedures in the domain of storage, transport, field storage and safe handling.

Belgian Defense has ratified and implemented the following NATO AGREEMENTS and complies with the European legislation in the domain of Safe storage and transportation of ammunition and explosives:

STORAGE:

- AASTP-1 (ALLIED AMMUNITION STORAGE AND TRANSPORT PUBLICATION 1) (MANUAL OF NATO SAFETY PRINCIPLES FOR THE STORAGE OF MILITARY AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES)
- AASTP-5 (Manual of NATO Safety Principles for the Operational Storage of Military Ammunition and Explosives)

TRANSPORT:

- AASTP-2 MANUAL OF NATO SAFETY PRINCIPLES FOR THE TRANSPORT OF MILITARY AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES
- ADR, IMDG, IATA & RID for the transportation of dangerous goods

Any other relevant information:

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FORM H: Steps taken to implement Article 11 of the Protocol: Compliance

High Contracting Party: BELGIUM

Reporting for time period from: initial report **to** [dd/mm/yyyy]
[dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 11:

Officers assigned as "Advisers in the Law of Armed Conflict" are available in each unit (till battalion or independent company level) to advise military commanders on the application of the Law of Armed Conflict. The education programme of these advisers encloses among other subjects a general information about the Protocol V obligations.

Any other relevant information:

Information to the civilian population
Law on the ratification of the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War 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 Criminative Effects (Protocol V) is made known publicly through publication in the Belgian Statute Book

