Geneva, 28 March, 2016

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on the Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) and has the honour to present the National Annual Reports of the Republic of Bulgaria for 2015 related to the implementation of the CCW and its Amended Protocol II and Protocol V.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on the Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encl.: 19 pages (7+2+10)

ISU OF THE CCW
Palais des Nations
8-14, Av. de la Paix
1211 Genève 10
ccw@unog.ch
Fax: 0 22 917 00 34
COMPLIANCE

REPORTING FORMS

pursuant to the Decision of the Third CCW Review Conference on the establishment of a Compliance mechanism applicable to the Convention, as contained in its Final Declaration, Annex II, Paragraph 5 (CCW/CONF.III/11, Part II)

COVER PAGE

NAME OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY: REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

PARTY TO:
☑ Protocol I (Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments)
☑ Protocol II (Protocol on Mines Booby-Traps and Other Devices)
☑ Amended Protocol II (amended Protocol on Mines Booby-Traps and Other Devices)
☑ Protocol III (Protocol on Incendiary Weapons)
☑ Protocol IV (Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons)
☑ Protocol V (Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War)

ACCEDED TO:
☑ The amendment to Article 1 of the Convention

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 21.03.2016 (dd/mm/yyyy)

(NOTE: the recommended deadline for submission of the national reports was fixed by the 2007 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties at 1 October of each calendar year)

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT1 (Organization, telephones, fax, e-mail):

Ministry of Defence
Phones: + 359 2 92 22360
Fax: +359 2 92 20403
E-mails: a.shopov@mod.bg (concerning Protocol II and V)

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

☐ NO

☐ Partially, only the following forms: A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐

NOTE: unless otherwise indicated all reports will be made public.

Note: Pursuant to paragraph 5 of the above Decision the High Contracting Parties have agreed “to provide information to the Secretary-General in advance of the Meeting, which will be circulated by the Secretary-General to all the High Contracting Parties, on any of the following matters:

1 Please indicate individually for the CCW and each Protocol (if different).
(a) Dissemination of information on the Convention and its annexed Protocols to their armed forces and to the civilian population;

(b) Steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and its annexed Protocols and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;

(c) Legislation related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols;

(d) Measures taken on technical co-operation and assistance; and

(e) Other relevant matters.”

Each of the items listed above are provided as separate individual forms to be filled out by each High Contracting Party accordingly.
FORM A: Dissemination of information
Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information [...] on:

(a) Dissemination of information on the Convention and its annexed Protocols to their armed forces and to the civilian population;”

High Contracting Party: REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Reporting period: from 01.01.2015 to 31.12.2015

☒ additional information of dissemination of information on CCW Amended Protocol II to armed forces and civilian population is contained in the National Annual Report provided in accordance with paragraph 4(a) of Article 13 of Amended Protocol II for the year: 2015

☒ additional information on dissemination of information on CCW Protocol V is contained in the National Report provided pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) of Article 10 of Protocol V for the year: 2015

Information to the armed forces, including the extent to which the CCW and its Protocols are part of military manuals and the training curriculum of its armed forces:

Information about the Armed Forces
a. General Information:
All soldiers in the Bulgarian Armed Forces receive instructions regarding International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Legal advisers are appointed at the regiment, brigade level and above to advise military commanders on the application of the Law of Armed Conflict. The training programs include among other subjects information about the (amended) Protocol II and Protocol V of the CCW. IHL is incorporated in the curriculum of the National Military University and the National Defense Academy.
b. Specific Information:
Combat engineers and EOD personnel involved in mining activities are educated and trained in all matters related to the Bulgarian military doctrine in accordance with the NATO STANAG 2036 Land mines procedures, STANAG 2389 Minimum standards of proficiency for trained explosive ordnance disposal personnel, STANAG 2485 Countermine operations in land warfare and the respective CCW protocols.
These documents are translated and are enshrined in two Bulgarian doctrinal documents:
- Bulgarian Military Engineer Doctrine (entered into force on 2013)
Mine awareness is also given to all soldiers during their basic military training. Soldiers receive refreshment mine awareness training on yearly basis.

Information to the civilian population, including information on any programs, courses or documentation to disseminate the CCW to non-military audiences:

The Convention and its protocols were officially promulgated and hence incorporated into Bulgarian law.
The civil population has access to the legal norms that are made available to the public through their publication in the official State Gazette.
Information about CCW and its annexed Protocols is published on the MoD website.
Any other relevant information:
FORM B: Technical requirements and relevant information

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information [...] on:

(b) Steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and its annexed Protocols and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;”

High Contracting Party: REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Reporting period: from 01.01.2015 to 31.12.2015

☑ additional information on steps taken to meet technical requirements of Amended Protocol II and other relevant information pertaining thereto is contained in the National Annual Report provided pursuant to paragraph 4(c) of Article 13 of Amended Protocol II for the year: 2014

☑ additional information on steps taken to meet technical requirements of Protocol V and other relevant information pertaining thereto is contained in the National Report provided pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) of Article 10 of Protocol V for the year: 2014

Steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and its annexed Protocols:

The Bulgarian Armed Forces use weapons and ammunitions which meet all technical requirement set out in the Convention and its Protocols. Weapons and ammunitions which not comply with these requirements have been decommissioned accordingly. All existing stockpiled APMs on the territory of Bulgaria have been destroyed by 2000 (with the exception of APMs retained in accordance with art.3).

Any other relevant information:
FORM C: Legislation

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information [...] on:

(c) Legislation related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols;”

High Contracting Party: REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Reporting period: from 01.01.2015 to 31.12.2015

Additional information of legislation related to Amended Protocol II is contained in the National Annual Report provided pursuant to paragraph 4(d) of Article 13 of Amended Protocol II for the year 2015

Additional information on legislation related to Protocol V is contained in the National Report provided pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) of Article 10 of Protocol V for the year: 2015

Legislation, including the status and content of national legislation to prevent and suppress violations of amended Protocol II:


Any other relevant information, including the regulations and policies (other than national legislation) adopted to implement the CCW’s obligations and ensure compliance with its Protocols:
FORM D: Technical cooperation and assistance

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information [...] on:

(d) Measures taken on technical co-operation and assistance;”

High Contracting Party: REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Reporting period: from 01.01.2015 to 31.12.2015

☒ additional information of measures taken on international technical information exchange, on international cooperation on mine clearance, and on technical cooperation and assistance is contained in the National Annual Report provided in accordance with paragraph 4(e) of Article 13 of Amended Protocol II for the year: 2015

☒ additional information on measures taken on international technical cooperation and assistance is contained in the National Report provided pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) of Article 10 of Protocol V for the year: 2015

International technical co-operation, including relevant experiences in seeking or providing technical assistance and cooperation:

Nothing to report

International technical assistance:

Nothing to report

Any other relevant information:
FORM E: Other relevant matters

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information […] on:

(e) Other relevant matters.”

High Contracting Party: REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Reporting period: from 01.01.2015 to 31.12.2015

☒ additional relevant information is contained in the National Annual Report provided pursuant to paragraph 4(a) of Article 13 of Amended Protocol II for the year: 2015

☒ additional relevant information is contained in the National Report provided pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) of Article 10 of Protocol V for the year: 2015

Other relevant matters:

Nothing to report