

**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)**

Provisional Reporting Formats for Article 13 para 2 and Article 11 para 2.

NAME OF HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY	<u>BELGIUM</u>
DATE OF SUBMISSION	<u>18 / 12 /2008</u>
NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT	<u>Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Department of the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Co-operation Tel. +32.2.501.88.87 / 82.77 Fax +32.2.501.38.22 e-mail : michel.peetermans@diplobel.fed.be ; marc.debunne@diplobel.fed.be</u>

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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 **BELGIUM**

reporting for time period from 01.10.2007 to 30.09.2008

Information about 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 those rules of „Law of Armed Conflicts“.

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.

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Form B **Mine clearance and rehabilitation programs**

Article 13 / 4 / b “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depository ... on:

(b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programs;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party BELGIUM reporting for time period from 01.10.2007 to 30.09.2008

Mine clearance programs

NOT APPLICABLE : the country is not affected by minefields

For international cooperation : see Form E

Rehabilitation programs

NOT APPLICABLE : the country is not affected by minefields

For international cooperation : see Form E

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 BELGIUM reporting for time period from 01.10.2007 to 30.09.2008

Technical requirements

- a. The procedures in practice for the registration of minefields are in accordance with those requested in the Protocol
For the recording, marking and control of minefields in operation, Belgium is acting according to the provisions of the STANAG 2036. This STANAG is fully in line with what is required by 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
- d. Signalisation
See answer under paragraph a. above

Any other relevant information

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 **BELGIUM**

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Legislation

Law of 20 March 2007 prohibiting the financing of the production, use and possession of antipersonnel mines and submunitions

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 (Protocol II 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.

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.

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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 **BELGIUM** reporting for time period from 01.10.2007 to 30.09.2008

International technical information exchange

- 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.
- Belgium participates :
 - at Board of Directors (BoD) level to the International Test and Evaluation Program for humanitarian demining (ITEP) and by that means takes part in the decision and policy process of the ITEP-organisation
 - annually, through its Department of Defence, by financing the working cost of the ITEP-secretariat; as for previous years, the amount allotted for 2008 comes to 60.000 Euro.

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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 :**
- HANDICAP International** LandMine Monitor Report 100.000 €
 - CICR** Victims Assistance 2.000 000 €
 - GICHD** Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining Sponsorship Program 20.000 €
 - ISU** In favour Implementation Demining Unit - Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining 30 .000 €

A. Africa :

- MOZAMBIQUE** “ APOPO” Mine Action 500. 000 €
- RDC** Mines Advisory Group - Humanitarian Mine Action of vulnerable communities in South Eastern RDC 799.628 €
- TCHAD** Centre National de Déminage du Haut Commissariat National de Déminage « Déminage de Fada et de sa région » 200.000 €

B .Middle East :

IRAQ ; MAG Mines Advisory Group -“Conflict Recovery Programme for Irak .” 250.000 €

JORDAN - NCDR -National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation « Jordan Valley Sampling and Verification Project ‘ 55.000 €

LEBANON - Since September 2006, Belgium is permanently deploying an EOD/demining platoon in LEBANON, in the framework of the UNIFIL mission.

This platoon consists of 43 people skilled in demining operations and is rotated every four months.

Since the beginning of the deployment, 13.000 UXO (cluster ammunition) have been cleared.

- In addition one EOD/IEDD/demining Liaison Officer is appointed in BEIRUT in support of the UNIFIL-staff; this LO rotates every six month.

D. Asia :

- a. **CAMBODIA** Handicap International 200.000 €

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b. **AFGHANISTAN** . The Halo Trust “Humanitarian Mine Clearance in Northern Afghanistan “ 266.153 €

Since July 2005, Belgium deploys permanently EOD operators to the Provincial reconstruction Team (PRT) KUNDUZ. Since July 2008 this team is composed of 4 EOD operators and the capacity will be increased up to 6 operators from October 2008 on.

In September 2007, Belgian took command over KAIA and added 01 Team of 4 EOD/IEDD qualified persons. 3 of them were also EOR qualified. This task has been terminated end of September 2008.

The rotation of those people is based on a four months period.

TADJIKISTAN- UNDP “Community Income Generating Initiatives for Mine Victims” 18.000 €

FSD Fondation Suisse pour le Déminage “Support to the Mine Action Programme Tajikistan for Survey Operations and Capacity Development” 65. 000 €

3. **Research and Development**

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

a. National level:

- After the basic research HUDEM ended in December 2002 (<http://www.sic.rma.ac.be/Projects/Hudem/>), this has been continued from January 2003 by the BEMAT project which is coordinated by the Royal Military Academy (RMA) and funded by the Belgian Ministry of Defence.

The main activities include research on mine detection systems (metal detector, ground penetrating radar, infrared cameras and the combination of them), on mined area reduction by using airborne sensors (multispectral and synthetic aperture radars at different polarizations and bands), as well as on data processing and data fusion. Specific research activities also concern the analysis of possible robotic solutions to be applied to humanitarian de-mining. The aim of this BEMAT project is to predict and evaluate the detection performances in given scenarios of close and remote systems, including robotic aspects. In 2007, 238.000 Euro have been spent, for 2008 the amount allocated to it comes to 229.000 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

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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.
- during 2007, the PARADIS system has been fully validated which amounted about 80.000 Euro
- In 2008 the system has been adapted to the APOPO application (detection of mines with rats), which comes to 30.000 Euro. When operationalized, the system has been provided to APOPO. Their personnel are currently being trained for use of it in the field.

- The RMA is conducting the Metal Detector Performance Project, together with Canada, with the aim to develop and validate a model to predict metal detector performance based on knowledge of the environment. In 2008 the work focused on the development of a high accuracy coil model. This modelling effort is performed in the scope of a PhD thesis, funded by the Belgian Ministry of Defence.

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 RMA is chairing the CEN (Centre Européen de Normalisation) initiative started in 2006 to define a new standard on the soil characterisation for electromagnetic mine detection sensors. This project is funded by the European Commission. The personnel costs are funded by the Belgian Defence in the scope of the BEMAT project (see above). Initially planned for a two years period, latest technical meetings took place in October 2007 and January 2008, which resulted in a *draft CEN Workshop agreement CWA 14747/Part Two*. Due to its highly technical character, the final product didn't reach consensus so that extension has been asked till the end of September 2008.
- 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.

- The RMA participated in October 2007 as an observer in the tests of Japanese dual sensors systems in Croatia (CROMAC-CTRO), in the ITEP framework. These trials served as a first step in the validation process of the test protocol for dual-sensors. This validation phase is still ongoing.

Form F

Other relevant matters

Article 13 / 4 / f. “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:

(f) other relevant matters.

Remark:

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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.

Students from different countries from Africa and Asia were trained since then.

In 2007 students from Angola, Benin, Burundi, DRC, Jordan, Rwanda and Vietnam participated to this course.

In 2008 no international courses has been organised due to operational and administrative constraints.

This will also be the case in 2009.

- From January till March 2008, Belgian Defence sent one deminer at the CPADD (centre de perfectionnement aux actions post-conflictuelles de déminage et de dépollution) at OUIDA (BENIN) to participate in the training of deminers

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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

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<p><u>Means and technologies of mine clearance</u></p> <p>For detection purposes, two different man portable detectors are used, the one based on the magnetic principle, the other on dual sensors technique.</p> <p>Only manual removal and disposal means are applied except for some IED devices where a remotely operated robot can be used during the handling process.</p>
<p><u>Lists of experts and experts agencies</u></p> <p>Belgian Ministry of Defence : SEDEE (Service for the removal and destruction of explosive devices) ComOpsLand 2D (Operational Command Land – Engineers Branch)</p>
<p><u>National points of contact on mine clearance</u></p> <p>Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs Tel. 00 32 2 501 88 87/37 53 – Fax.: 00 32 2 501 38 22 – E-mail: michel.peetermans@diplobel.fed.be; marc.debunne@diplobel.fed.be Joint Staff of the Ministry of Defense, International Relations, Arms Control, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Department Tel 00 32 2 701 30 14 – Fax.: 00 32 2 701 39 78 – E-mail: lode.dewaegheneire@mil.be ; dominique.jones@mil.be</p>