

**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	BELGIUM <hr/>
DATE OF SUBMISSION	<u>22/03/2019</u>
NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT	<hr/> Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Department of the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Co-operation Tel. +32.2.501.31.74; e-mail : Sigurd.Schelstraete@diplobel.fed.be

Form A

Dissemination of information

Article 13 / 4 / a “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... 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 01.01.2018 to 31.12.2018

Information about the Armed Forces

a. General Information:

Officers assigned as “Advisers in the Law of Armed Conflict” are available in each unit (up to 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 (amended) Protocol II.

b. Specific Information :

Combat engineers and EOD personnel involved in mining activities are educated and trained in all matters related to the Belgian doctrine in accordance with the STANAG 2036 Land mines procedures, 2143 Minimum standards of proficiency for explosive ordnance disposal personnel, 2485 Countermine operations in land warfare and this protocol.

These documents are translated into two Belgian doctrinal documents:

- ACOT-TTP-MILENG4-LEC-418 « Procédure en matière de pose, marquage, repérage et compte-rendu des champs de mines »,
- ACOT-TTP-ENGMFD-LECQ-030 « Déminage en Ops » (Draft)

Explosive Risk Education also given to all soldiers during their basic military education. On a yearly base, soldiers receive a refreshment training on mine awareness. A specific training is also given before any deployment in operation and is tailored to the risks that the armed forces could be facing during this specific operation.

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 Official Journal.

Defense Representatives give lectures on a regular basis in the context of the IHL courses organised by the Belgian Red Cross and/or the International Committee of the Red Cross. General or specific education related to means and methods of warfare, including the issue of ERW, and in particular Protocol V, is included in those courses.

Form C **Technical requirements and relevant information**

Article 13 / 4 / c “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... 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 01.01.2018 to 31.12.2018

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 in accordance with 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 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction 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**

reporting for time period from 01.01.2018 to 31.12.2018

Legislation

Law of 20 March 2007 prohibiting the financing of the production, use and possession of antipersonnel mines and cluster-munitions.

Law of 8 June 2006 concerning the regulation of economic and individual activities with weapons, as amended by the Laws of 25 July 2008 and of 7 January 2018.

Law of 8 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.

12.04.19

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 01.01.2018 to 31.12.2018

International technical information exchange

- From end 2016 until November 2017 Belgium co-chaired (with the People’s Republic of China) the UN IEDD working group coordinated by UNMAS aiming at establishing UN Improvised Explosive Device Disposal Standards. The working group has produced a comprehensive technical document covering the whole cycle of IED disposal that has been published in May 2018.
- Since May 2004, Belgium has been participating in 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 2003, a complete handbook on EOD technical information has been 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 the NATO working group EOD, GICHD Review Board for IMAS, EDA working group and assumes a liaison role between those organizations.
- Since 2005, Belgium has been participating in the Swedish owned EOD Information System as active member.
- Belgium participates :
 - at Board of Directors (BoD) level in 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.

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 degrees 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. Total amount disbursed in 2018: Euros 2.790.000

- ICRC disability and Mine action call, Iraq: 500.000 €
- Land release through the combined use of drones, new detection methods and a mobile data collection interface, Chad: 1.480.000 €
- Promoting a mine and cluster munition free world through research in landmine and cluster munition affected countries and local advocacy to advance effective clearance and victim assistance, international project: 60.000 €
- Humanitarian mine clearance in Eastern Ukraine: 150.000 €
- Explosive remnants of war survey and disposal in southern Syria: 150.000 €
- Accelerating land release in Cambodia: Survey and clearance in Preah Vihear, Cambodia: 150.000 €
- Reducing the risk from ERW and unsafe storage and handling of SALW for civilians in northern Mali, 150.000 €
- Mine clearance and integral approach promotion, Colombia: 150.000 €

Belgium also contributed in 2018 to global programs of Handicap International and to the non-earmarked budget of the ICRC.

3. Research and Development:

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

a. National level:

- The research project on the use of bio-sensors (rats) in humanitarian de-mining operations, funded by several donors in Belgium, and conducted by the NGO APOPO and the University of Antwerp (<http://www.apopo.org/>), is highlighting very promising solutions in the close-in detection of AP mines. Rats prove to be more effective than dogs in trials organized in Tanzania. This project, started in 1997, is still ongoing.
- The results of 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/>) that started in 1998 are still exploited by different end-users. 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 the participation of the department of Geography (IGEAT) of the Free university of Brussels (ULB). This project has also been funded in a later stage by the Belgian Ministry of Defense.

b. International level:

- From 2012 to 2015 the Royal Military Academy, and more generally the Belgian Defense, had been engaged, in the 7th Framework Program (Security) of the European Commission, in the development of a comprehensive modular toolbox (TIRAMISU) for helping the clearing of larger areas affected by anti-personal landmines, cluster munitions, explosive remnants of war (ERW) and unexploded ordnance (UXO) and a related operational implementation of services, including standardization actions. The results of this project, mainly financed by Belgium, continue to be exploited by the International CBRNE Institute established in Les Bons Villers, Belgium.

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:

High Contracting Party BELGIUM reporting for time period from 01.01.2018 to 31.12.2018

Other relevant matters

Since 2003, Belgium has organised an EOD course in French 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.

Since Sep 2006, BEL has contributed to UNIFIL with an Engr/EOD capability. More than 13.000 UXO (ERW and mines) have been cleared since then.

Since 2017, BEL has contributed to MINUSMA with an EOD specialist in the analysis branch.

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

High Contracting Party **BELGIUM** reporting for time period from 01.01.2018 To 31.12.2018

Means and technologies of mine clearance

For detection purposes, two different man portable detectors are used, the one based on the magnetic principle, the other on dual sensors technique.

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.

Lists of experts and experts agencies

Belgian Ministry of Defence : DOVO/SEDEE (Service for the removal and destruction of explosive devices)
ComOpsLand MILENG (Operational Command Land – Military Engineers Branch)

National points of contact on mine clearance

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