

**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>31.3.2012</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</u> Tel. +32.2.501.87.61; Fax +32.2.501.38.22 e-mail : frank.meeussen@diplobel.fed.be

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 01.01.2011 to 31.12.2011

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 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 01.01.2011 to 31.12.2011

Legislation

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

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

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.

12.04.12

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 01.01.2011 to 31.12.2011

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 2003 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 the NATO working group EOD, GICHD Review Board for IMAS, EDA working group and 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, approximately at 60.000 Euro for this year.

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 :

A. Africa :

Angola: In 2011 Belgium decided to support humanitarian demining in Angola by the NGO APOPO with a contribution of 1.081.000 EURO for the period 2011-2013. The project received 600.000 EURO in 2011.

Tanzania: The Province of Antwerp continued the support for a demining project by APOPO in Tanzania for 125.000 EURO in 2011.

Mozambique: the project "Mine Action Plan Mozambique Gaza Province" by APOPO received a contribution of 1.191.927 EURO in 2011.

Somaliland: the project "Humanitarian Mineclearance in Northern Somaliland" by HALO TRUST received a contribution of 90.000 EURO in 2011.

DR Congo: the project "Survey and Clearance operations in Kasai Oriental" by Mines Advisory Group received 540.000 EURO in 2011.

B. Middle East :

Lebanon : in the framework of the UNIFIL mission -South, Belgium has a demining/EOD capacity available composed of :

- 1 demining platoon. This platoon is composed of 43 persons.
- 1 Liaison Officer in BEIRUT in support of the UNIFIL-staff.

This personnel rotates every four months. Program Description: In the framework of the UNIFIL-South build-up, Belgium deployed 1 EOD/demining platoon (43 persons) for the duration of 2011 devoted to clearing operations in the surroundings of AT TIRI and demining operation in mine fields along the border between ISRAEL and LEBANON. Funding Source (Government Ministry or Department): Ministry of Defence

Iraq: The project "Humanitarian Mine Action Northern & Central Iraq" by the Mine Advisory Group received a contribution of 24.000 EURO in 2011.

Jordan: the project "Jordan Valley Sampling and Verification Project" received a tranche of 106.972 EURO in 2011.

C. Asia :

Afghanistan: since July 2005, Belgium deploys permanently 9 EOD operators to the Provincial reconstruction Team (PRT) KUNDUZ . Since 2010, this capacity is reduced to 5 EOD operators and 2 EOR operators. The rotation is based on a four months period.

Program Recipient : **ISAF**

Funding amount (original currency): **1 012 200 Euro**

Implementing Agency : Service d'enlèvement des engins explosifs (**SEDEE-DOVO**)

Funding Source (Government Ministry or Department): Departement of Defence

Contribution Type (Monetary or In-Kind) : in-kind

Activity Type (coordination, survey, marking, clearance, destruction, training, MRE, victim assistance, unspecified, etc.) : detection, neutralisation and destruction of ERW (mines included) and the detection, neutralisation and destruction of improvised explosive device (IED).

Program Description : In 2010, THREE (four months) rotations composed of 5 EOD/IEDDD operators and 2 EOR operator supported the German led Provincial Reconstruction Team KUNDUZ (PRT KUNDUZ)

Cambodia: Since 2003 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. Also in Cambodia Belgium continued its support for the project "Mine clearance for community development" by the Mine Advisory Group with a contribution of 214.360 EURO in 2011.

Lao PDR: the project "Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao): Geophysical Survey in Saravane and Champasack provinces" by UNDP received a contribution of 50.000 EURO in 2011.

D. SOUTH AMERICA

Colombia: Belgium supported the project "Reducing the risks posed to vulnerable communities by Conventional Weapons (CW) contamination" by Mines Advisory Group (MAG) with a contribution of 300.000 EURO in 2011.

E. INTERNATIONAL- MULTILATERAL

Also in 2011 Belgium contributed 2.000.000 EURO to the International Committee of the Red Cross as a voluntary contribution in response to Yearly Special ICRC Call for mine action – multiannual program for victim assistance.

Belgium sponsored the Second Meeting of States Parties (2 MSP) to the Convention on Cluster Munitions that took place in Beirut, Lebanon on 12-16 September and the 11th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Anti-Personnel Mines that took place in Phnom Penh on 27 November – 2 December 2011 with a contribution of two times 50.000 EURO.

In 2011 Belgium also decided to sponsor the Ban Advocates project of Handicap International with a contribution of 600.000 EURO for the period 2011-2015. The project received 300.000 EURO in 2011.

Belgium sponsored the Landmine Monitor by the International Campaign to Ban Landmines with a contribution of 25.000 in 2011.

GICHD (Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining) received 50.000 EURO in 2011 for its support to the Mine Ban Convention.

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 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).

Moreover many functions in the system have been generalized so as to fit the needs of a broader spectrum of users. Maintenance matters have also been evaluated inside Belgian Defense. Data exchange with new standard systems such as EOD IS have been investigated. At the end of the project (Dec 2007) the system was made available to SEDEE-DOVO.

Moreover a last field test was conducted with APOPO in Mozambique in order to establish an exhaustive list of end-users requirements. This for an amount of about 80.000 Euro.

In 2008 (Jan to Sep), APOPO has been funding (about 25.000 Euro) the finalization of the adaptation of the system to its specific needs based on the requirements identified in 2007. The system was then successfully installed at APOPO's premises.

b. International level:

- The Royal Military Academy (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 MOU with ITEP for the hosting of the secretariat has come to an end on the 17th of July 2010 without being renewed.
- 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 University of Brussels was 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 lasted 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).

Form F**Other relevant matters**

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

(f) other relevant matters.

Remark:

High Contracting Party BELGIUM reporting for time period from 01.01.2011 to 31.12.2011

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.

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

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 87 61 – Fax.: 00 32 2 501 38 22 – E-mail: frank.meeussen@diplobel.fed.be Joint Staff of the Ministry of Defense, International Relations, Arms Control, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Department Tel 00 32 2 701 1365 – Fax.: 00 32 2 701 37 22 – E-mail: lode.dewaegheneire@mil.be</p>