

**- 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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(dd/mm/yyyy)

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 A:** Steps taken to implement Article 3 of the Protocol: Clearance, removal or destruction of explosive remnants of war

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High Contracting Party: BELGIUM

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Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2017 to 31/12/2017  
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 3:

Combat engineers and EOD personnel involved in mining and demining activities are educated and trained in all matters in accordance STANAG 2143 (Minimum standards of proficiency for explosive ordnance disposal personnel). During Clearance operations, IMAS standards are applied. For major operations, EOD teams are foreseen on a systematic basis. All personnel of the Belgian Service for removal and destruction of explosive devices is NATO certified and qualified (EOD/IEDD - Improvised Explosive Device Disposal).

Any other relevant information:

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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

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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 for recording and retaining of information as foreseen in Article 4.

There's a two-fold recording and retaining information:

- Operational: each unit engaged in operations has to mention in its reports all use of explosive munitions and, if applicable, all abandon of munitions. If possible, the information reported will be in conformity with the criteria of the Technical Annex to the Protocol. These reports are in conformity with the international standards on mine action.

- Logistical: all use of munitions during operations is recorded and reported.

Both records are integrated at the Operations Center of the Armed Forces. The crosscutting of both records allows a clear picture of the use of munitions, of the places of their use as of the zones where possible Explosive Remnants of War would be situated.

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

In 2012, the Defense Staff has issued particular directives to the military commanders (at all levels) in operations to assure the full implementation of Article 4:

- ACOT-SPS-OPSJOIN-PSR-001 / PLJE from 11 October 2012 which regulates the implementation of Prot V by the Operations Division. This document gives clear directives for the recording, retaining and transmission of information about the use of ammunition during operations at Staff level.

- ACOT-SPS-SOPOPS-PSRC-001 / PLJE from 11 October 2012 are the Standing Operating Procedures for commanders in the field with directives for the recording of information and the transmission to the higher Staff level. It also contains a template for the recording of the information as described in Art 4.

- All necessary directives are also recalled in the CHOD (Chief of Defence) OORDER (operation order) for the operations in which Belgian military are involved.

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

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

The civilian population is taken into account at every step 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 hands of the civilian authorities, Belgian Defense will transmit as much possible information to the local authorities on identified contaminated areas. Most of the time, the Belgian detachment will transmit the information to the local "Mine Action Center", if deployed.

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

In extreme situations and at the request of local authorities, Belgian Defense will support local authorities, when feasible, to restore the basic services to the civilian population: major access routes, etc.

Practical directives:

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

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

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Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 6:

Belgian Defense will inform, when possible, humanitarian organizations on the risks related with 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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**FORM E:** Steps taken to implement Article 7 and Article 8 of the Protocol:  
Assistance with respect to existing explosive remnants of war and cooperation and assistance

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Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 7 and Article 8:

- 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.
- Since May 2004, Belgium participates in the European Research Grouping Arrangement n°2 of the European Cooperation for Ammunition Destruction, with France, Luxembourg, the United-Kingdom and Germany.
- Since 2003 a handbook on EOD technical information was produced, translated in KHMER and handed over to the CMAC (Cambodia). Belgium guarantees technical information support on request.
- Since 2006 Belgian Defence participates in the Swedish Armed Forces owned EOD IS (Explosive Ordnance Disposal Information System). The data of this information system is also accessible for other States under condition of a bilateral agreement.
- Belgium regularly sends one or two demining skilled personnel to meetings related to Humanitarian Mine Action organized under the umbrella of NATO working group EOD, GICHD Review Board for IMAS, EDA working group, and assumes a liaison role between those organizations.
- from 2003 till 2010, Belgium organised EOD courses in French and English to train team leaders of other countries. Courses are now ad hoc organised based on requests.
- Since September 2006, Belgium contributes to UNIFIL with an Engineer/EOD capability. More than 13.000 UXO (mines included but mainly cluster munitions) have been cleared since then.

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 certifications 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 :

- Making the Republic of Palau AP Mine Free: 148.330 €
- Protection of Internally Displaced Persons and returnees through the removal of explosive remnants of war clearance in Bashiqa sub-district, Ninewa, Iraq: 250.000 €
- Improving Security and Stability and Enhancing the Resilience of Conflict-Affected Communities in Kirkuk Governorate through Comprehensive Mine Action -Programming: 150.000 €
- Technical Capacity Support to the Directorate of Mine Action Coordination Afghanistan (DMAC): 150.000 €
- Reducing the risk from landmines and explosive remnants of war in Dawei, South East Myanmar: 90.000 €

Total amount disbursed in 2017 : 788.330 €

Belgium also contributed in 2017 to global programs of Handicap International and to the ICRC appeals.

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3. Defense missions:

-Mali: in the framework of the MINUSMA mission, Belgium participates in the analyst branch since 2017 with 1 EOD operator

Any other relevant information:

Research and Development:

Research and development activities are conducted as well at the national as 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, has 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 E(a):** Steps taken by States which have ERW victims to implement the relevant provisions of Article 8(2): Victim Assistance

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Steps taken to implement the relevant provisions of Article 8(2):

NOT APPLICABLE

Other relevant information, guided by the Plan of Action on Victim Assistance:

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NOT APPLICABLE



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**FORM F:** Steps taken to implement Article 9 of the Protocol: Generic preventive measures

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Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 9 and the Technical Annex:

1. Munitions Manufacturing Management:
    - a. Munitions are no longer manufactured by Belgian Defense. However during the procurement process the administration requests (by means of indispensable specifications in the request for tender) that the manufacturers comply with production principles mentioned in article 9.
    - b. The National (Defense) QAR (or NATO homologues) personnel is controlling the production process and the quality plan of the manufacturer.
    - c. Safety & suitability for service is checked during evaluation (or proof is requested and evidence has to be provided in the offer). Once the contract is awarded, supplementary acceptance testing of pilot and serial lots are conducted following the specifications of the ammunition. Depending on the case those tests are conducted in the company and/or in Belgian Defense test facilities.
    - d. Ammunition is acquired only when not in conflict with international law & treaties signed/ratified by BELGIUM. The assessment of the legality of new ammunition with regard to international law, in accordance with article 36 of the first Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions is made notably through the Belgian Commission for the Legal Review of New Weapons, Means and Methods of Warfare.
    - e. Transfer of ammunition to another Nation will only be possible when sufficient evidence (through In Service Surveillance testing) is available concerning the safety and reliability of the ammunition.
  2. Muniton Management during the whole "Life Cycle":
    - a. "In Service Surveillance" is conducted in a pragmatic way.

Modular Structure:  
ISM - In Service Monitoring: Technical Inspections, user findings, findings during renovation/maintenance  
ISP - In Service Proof: Life Firing/functional testing  
CM - Condition Monitoring: Chemical Analyses of energetic material, Radiographic/radioscopic investigation, dimensional control, ...  
PT - Predictive testing: pre-stress a test item before examination, in order to provide a prediction of residual life  
EDL - Environmental Data Logging: collecting data of endured Vibrations, Humidity, Temperature & Shocks.
    - b. Operational deployment:
      - Ammunition is suffering severe stress (temperature, humidity, vibrations) when deployed on a theatre of operations. When the degradation is detected (by the user or by Ammunition technical personnel) a Technical Degrading Report (TDR) is sent to the Material Manager who will decide what to do. In order to be able to detect degradation, the ammunition deployed on theatres of operations is accompanied with EDL (Environmental Data Loggers). The Data received is cross-checked with manufacturers data
- There are several options:
- \* Urgent demilitarization by EOD services when storage and/or transport safety is no longer guaranteed.
  - \* Use in priority for training on theatre.
  - \* Evacuation to Belgium where this part of the lot is isolated and considered as a "fleet leader" for further In Service

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Surveillance.

\* Possible demolition on theatre by Belgian EOD personnel or those from NATO partners when transport to Belgium is not economically justifiable.

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 demilitarization contracts through NSPA (NATO Support Agency)

- The storage safety (safe to handle) 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 G:** Steps taken to implement Article 11 of the Protocol: Compliance

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Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 11:

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 includes a general information about the Protocol V obligations. Legal advisors with in depth knowledge of the Protocole V are available to advise Units and Commanders on any legal issue regarding explosive remnants of war.

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 Indiscriminate Effects (Protocol V) is made known public through publication in the Belgian Official Journal.  
Defence Representative give lecture on regular basis to 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.

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**FORM H:** Other relevant matters

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Any other relevant information: