Excellency,

I’m writing to you in my capacity as Coordinator on Generic Preventive Measures, pursuant to Article 9 and the Technical Annex (Part 3) of CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War.

In November 2011 the Fifth Conference of the High Contracting Parties to CCW Protocol V decided:

(a) To continue the practice of addressing one specific technical issue directly related to the implementation of article 9 and part 3 of the technical annex of Protocol V;

(b) To invite all High Contracting Parties to share during the 2012 meeting of experts their national technical approaches and experience in implementing article 9 and part 3 of the technical annex of Protocol V. On that occasion, the High Contracting Parties might also indicate how the guide has contributed to the implementation of part 3 of the technical annex, the text of which is reproduced in document CCW/P.V/CONF/2010/6/Add.1. The guide was adopted by the Fourth Conference of the High Contracting Parties, which recommended that it be implemented in the national systems of the High Contracting Parties to Protocol V as a best practice;

As you may be aware, these preventive measures focus on the issues of production, packaging, transportation and storage of explosive ordnance.

Geneva, 13 February 2012
In 2010 and 2011, in its annual meeting, the Group of Governmental Experts dealt with ammunition management and designing of weapons.

According to available information\(^1\), the yearly number of “Unplanned explosion at munitions sites” over the last 12 years is constantly growing, both in developed and developing countries. Therefore, this year it is my intention to put on the table the issue of safety and security in ammunition storage facilities, which appears to be of relevance for many States Parties to Protocol V, signatories and observers.

In light of the upcoming meeting of experts, which will take place in Geneva from 25 to 27 April 2012, I encourage High Contracting Parties to contribute actively to the discussions and to make presentations on the aforementioned subject matters.

Should further information be needed, please do not hesitate to contact me. I stand ready for consultations on this issue and look forward to a fruitful cooperation.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Brigadier General Mario Amadei
Coordinator on Generic Preventive Measures Pursuant to Article 9 and the Technical Annex of CCW Protocol V
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\(^1\)Independent research project “Small Arms Survey” – www.smallarmssurvey.org