



No. 257

Geneva, 28 March, 2016

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on the Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) and has the honour to present the National Annual Reports of the Republic of Bulgaria for 2015 related to the implementation of the CCW and its Amended Protocol II and Protocol V.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Implementation Support Unit of the Convention on the Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encl.: 19 pages (7+2+10)



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- 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: REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT (Organization, telephones, fax, e-mail):

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DATE OF SUBMISSION: 21 March 2016

(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

- PROTOCOL V -

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

High Contracting Party: REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2015 **to** 31/12/2015
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 3:

Republic of Bulgaria is not an ERW affected country.

Any other relevant information:

None.

- PROTOCOL V -

FORM B: Steps taken to implement Article 4 of the Protocol: Recording, retaining and transmission of information

High Contracting Party: REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/1/2015 to 31/12/2015
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 4 and the Technical Annex:

Explosive munitions are used only in specified areas (training ranges, firing grounds) under controlled circumstances. Information recording in this case is part of the internal regulations.

No additional military regulations is required concerning the implementation of the obligations for recording, retaining and transmission of the information in the reporting period due to the fact that Bulgaria is not an ERW affected country.

Any other relevant information:

None

- PROTOCOL V -

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

High Contracting Party: REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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

Explosive munitions in our country are used only in specified areas (training ranges; firing grounds) possessed by the Bulgarian Armed Forces and designated for training purposes.
These areas are marked and isolated from areas used by the civilian population.

Protection measures of the civilian population, individual civilians and civilian objects from the risks and effects of ERW are part of every military operation conducted by the Bulgarian Armed Forces and they are an integral part of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Rules of Engagement (ROE) and Standing Operational Procedures (SOPs) for all NATO-led and International operations (abroad) in which Bulgarian units take part.

Any other relevant information:

None

- PROTOCOL V -

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

High Contracting Party: REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 6:

Measures for protection of humanitarian missions and organisations from risks and effects of ERW are an integral part of every military operation conducted by the Bulgarian Armed Forces. See report in Form C.

Any other relevant information:

None

- PROTOCOL V -

FORM E: Steps taken to implement Article 7 of the Protocol: Assistance with respect to existing explosive remnants of war

High Contracting Party: REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 7:

5N/A

Any other relevant information:

None

- PROTOCOL V -

FORM F: Steps taken to implement Article 8 of the Protocol: Co-operation and assistance

High Contracting Party: REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 8:

N/A

Any other relevant information:

None

- PROTOCOL V -

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

High Contracting Party: REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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

The Bulgarian Armed Forces are instructed to take all generic preventive measures aimed at minimizing the occurrence of ERW with regard to the use, production or acquisition of explosive munitions in order to achieve the highest level of reliability.

The Bulgarian Armed Forces are instructed to procure only munitions which meet safety design requirements.

The existing explosive munitions possessed by the Bulgarian Armed Forces are managed and stockpiled in a manner that ensures their maximum reliability.

Any other relevant information:

None

- PROTOCOL V -

FORM H: Steps taken to implement Article 11 of the Protocol: Compliance

High Contracting Party: REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2015 to 31/12/2015
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 11:

All soldiers of the Bulgarian Armed Forces receive instructions related to International Humanitarian Law. This training is conducted within the military units by commanders, superiors and legal advisers. Officers have been taught at National Military University and Defense and Staff College by legal experts.

The Bulgarian Armed Forces are in process of equipping and training of Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) units and EOD Command and Control (C2) System.

Military EOD doctrine, manuals and orders concerning training, instructing and advising in this respect are currently being created and revised.

Measures concerning clearance, removal or destruction of ERW as well as the recording, retaining and transition are part of the individual military training and the main part of the training of EOD field operators and EOD commanders at all levels.

Any other relevant information:

None

- PROTOCOL V -

FORM I: Other relevant matters

High Contracting Party: REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2015 **to** 31/12/2015
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Any other relevant information:

None.