

- 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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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

High Contracting Party: BELGIUM

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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 areas in accordance STANAG 2389 (Minimum standards of proficiency for trained 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 (destruction of explosive devices) is NATO certified and qualified (EOD/IEDD - Improvised Explosive Device Disposal). Belgian teams are actually operational in Afghanistan and Lebanon.

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

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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 recording and retaining of information as foreseen in Article 4.

The chain for recording and retaining of information is double :

- the operational chain : each unit engaged in operations has to mention in its operational reports all use of explosive munitions and, where applicable, all abundance of munitions. If possible, the information reported will be conform with the criteria of the Technical Annex of the Protocol. These reports are conform with the international standards on mine action.
- the logistical chain : this chain records and reports on all use of munitions during operations.

Both chains are overlapped at the Operations Center of the Armed Forces. The crosscutting of both chains allows to have a clear picture of the use of munitions, of the places where these munitions have been used also of the zones where possible Explosive Remnants of War could be situated.

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

The Armed Forces are actually considering the possibility for implementing the electronic template.

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

High Contracting Party: BELGIUM

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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

The civilian population is taken into account at every steps 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 hand of the civilian authorities, Belgian Defense will transmit as much possible information to the local authorities on identified contaminated areas. In most of the time, the Belgian Det will transmit the information to the local "Mine Action Center", if deployed.

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

In extreme situations and on request of the local authorities, Belgian Defense will support the local authorities when feasible to restore the basic services to the civilian population: Major accesses, etc.

Practical directives:

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

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

High Contracting Party: BELGIUM

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 6:

Belgian Defense will inform as far as possible the humanitarian organizations on the risk to move into 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 of the Protocol: Assistance with respect to existing explosive remnants of war

High Contracting Party: BELGIUM

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 7:

- 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.

- 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 on a bilateral agreement.

- 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 :

- CEN work programs
- NATO working group EOD
- GICHD Review Board for IMAS
- EDA working group

and assumes a liaison role between those organizations.

- 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.

For 2008 and 2009, and due to operations in Belgium and abroad, no international students were trained.

- Since Sep 2006, BEL contributes to UNIFIL with an Engr/EOD capability. More than 13.000 UXO (mainly cluster munitions) have been cleared since then.

Any other relevant information:

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

High Contracting Party: BELGIUM

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 8:

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 :

From January 11th-February 14th 2010, a team of TWO persons was sent to OUGANDA to give instruction in the domain of Explosive Risks and Improvised Explosive Devices to a local military detachment preparing themselves for a deployment in SOMALIA.

B. Europe : Nihil

C. Middle East :

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

- 01 EOD/IEDD team (03 persons)
- 01 demining platoon. This platoon is composed of 35 persons.
- 01 Liaison Officer in NAQOURA in support of the UNIFIL-staff.

This personnel rotates every four months

The Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs engaged for the Jordan Valley Sampling and Verification Project in 2009 (€5.000). A new phase of this project was approved in 2010 (€306.972).

D. Asia :

a. 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.

In 2009 the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs supported a project in Cambodia: Clearance for community development - Implementing agency : Mines Advisory Group (MAG) - €550.360 Euro. Program Description: the objective is to reduce the risks caused by landmines and unexploded ordnance with a view to allow agricultural activities and enhance the socio-economical situation of the small farmers.

b. AFGHANISTAN:

Belgium deploys permanently 6 EOD operators to the Provincial reconstruction Team (PRT) KUNDUZ:
The rotation is based on a four months period.

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In 2009, the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs supported several projects in Afghanistan:

- Capacity building of the national Afghan demining NGO Organization for Mine Clearance & Afghan Rehabilitation (OMAR) - Implementing agency : Mines Advisory Group (MAG) - €215.000 - Program Description: Reinforcement of existing capacities. The project focuses on security, quality and efficiency of the demining operations. "Training curriculums" will be developed.

E. Latin-America:

In 2010, the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has supported two projects in Colombia:

- Reducing the risks posed to vulnerable communities by Conventional Weapons (CW) contamination - Implementing Agency : Mines Advisory Group (MAG) (€300.000) Program description: risk education;
- Renforcement Institutionnel des capacités nationales pour la prise en charge et l'orientation des victimes civiles de Mines Antipersonnel en Colombie - Implementing Agency : Handicap International Belgium (€550.000) ;

F. Multilateral projects

In 2009, The Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs decided to support a study intended to support the evolution and progress registered in the field of victim assistance. A special attention will be dedicated to the testimony of the ban advocates and the local organization for victim assistance. Recipient : Handicap International Belgium (€100.000 euro) - Activity Type : Victims assistance – 10 years on: from mine ban treaty to convention on cluster munitions;

A part of a multiannual funding plan the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Development cooperation department, has contributed to the : ICRC - voluntary contribution to landmine action - Activity Type : Humanitarian aid (€ 2.000.000).

The Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs also supported ICBL's project stopping further casualties from antipersonnel landmines and cluster munitions and assisting survivors - preparation of the 2nd review Conference of the Mine-ban treaty ; advocacy campaign focused on victim assistance; capacity building of local partners (€300.000);

Research and Development:

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

a. National level:

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).

b. International level: (voir aussi les autres acteurs impliqués)

The 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 Memorandum of Understanding on the ITEP has come to an end in July 2010 without extension. Possible follow-on scenarios are under study.

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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 VUB is 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 will last 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).

Any other relevant information:

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

High Contracting Party: BELGIUM

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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

1. Munitions Manufacturing Management:

- a. Munitions are no longer manufactured by BEL Defense. However during the procurement process the administration requests (by means of indispensable specifications in the request for tender) that the manufacturers comply with the 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.
- c. Ammunition is acquired only when not in conflict with international law & treaties signed/ratified by BELGIUM.
- d. 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. Munition Management during the whole "Life Cycle":

- a. "In Service Surveillance" is conducted in a pragmatic way.

Modular Structure:

ISM - In Service Monitoring: Tech visual 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. 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 "fleetleader" for further In Service Surveillance.

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

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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 Demil contracts through NAMSA (NATO Maintenance & Supply Organisation)
- The storage safety 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 H: Steps taken to implement Article 11 of the Protocol: Compliance

High Contracting Party: BELGIUM

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 11:

Officers assigned as “Advisers in the Law of Armed Conflict” are available in each unit (till 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 Protocol V obligations.

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 Crimininate Effects (Protocol V) is made known publicly through publication in the Belgian Statute Book

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FORM I: Other relevant matters

High Contracting Party: BELGIUM

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2010
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Any other relevant information:

NIHIL