NAME OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY: FINLAND

PARTY TO:

x Protocol I (Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments)

x Protocol II (Protocol on Mines Booby-Traps and Other Devices)

x Amended Protocol II (amended Protocol on Mines Booby-Traps and Other Devices)

x Protocol III (Protocol on Incendiary Weapons)

x Protocol IV (Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons)

x Protocol V (Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War)

ACCEDED TO:

x amended Article I

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 4 MARCH 2005 (PROTOCOL V)

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT1 (Organization, telephones, fax, e-mail):

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Political Department, Unit for Arms Control

address: PL 176, FIN-00161 Helsinki, Finland
tel: +358-9-16005, fax: +358-9-160 56066,
e-mail: pol-20@formin.fi

Ministry of Defence

address: PL31, FIN-00131 Helsinki, Finland
tel: +358-9-16001, fax: +358-9-160 88193
e-mail: kirjaamo@defmin.fi

NOTE: Pursuant to paragraph 5 of the above Decision the High Contracting Parties have agreed “to provide information to the Secretary-General in advance of the Meeting, which will be circulated by the Secretary-General to all the High Contracting Parties, on any of the following matters:

1 Please indicate individually for the CCW and each Protocol (if different)
(a) Dissemination of information on the Convention and its annexed Protocols to their armed forces and to the civilian population;
(b) Steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and its annexed Protocols and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;
(c) Legislation related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols;
(d) Measures taken on technical co-operation and assistance; and
(e) Other relevant matters."

Each of the items listed above are provided as separate individual forms to be filled out by each High Contracting Party accordingly.
Form A Dissemination of information

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information […] on:

(a) Dissemination of information on the Convention and its annexed Protocols to their armed forces and to the civilian population;”

High Contracting Party: Finland

Information to the armed forces

- Basic training material on the CCW Convention and its protocols and their humanitarian nature has been produced and delivered to the troops.
- Planning group, led by the Army Command, has been established to plan the execution of the protocol V.
- Training of troops regarding protocol V will be started by the end of the year 2008.

Humanitarian law

During their military service conscripts are given some training in humanitarian law including the Convention and its annexed Protocols. In addition, they are often dealt with in exercises in one form or another.

Cadets receive additional training in humanitarian law including the Convention and its annexed Protocols (6 hours of lectures and 6 hours of practical training) at the National Defence University. In addition, the employees – both military and civilian – of the Finnish Defence Forces have the possibility of attending a two-day-course in humanitarian law organized by the Finnish Red Cross. Approximately 30 to 40 officers and other employees of the Defence Forces attend these courses organized twice a year. Every year several employees of the Defence Forces, either officers or legal advisors, also attend the International Military Courses on the Law of Armed Conflict organized by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy. Both courses feature also the Convention and its annexed Protocols.
Form B  Technical requirements and relevant information

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information […] on:

(b) Steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and its annexed Protocols and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;”

High Contracting Party: Finland

Steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and its annexed Protocols

- Regarding protocols I, III and IV, all technical adjustments, if any, were made in the 1980’s and 1990’s.
- Until now, the plan concerning measures required by the Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) has been drawn up within the Defence Forces in such a way that the requirements will be fully included in the materiel development, courses of action and training of the Army. In relation to crisis management activities, the requirements will be implemented according to an accelerated schedule. The requirements of ERW will also be taken into consideration in future materiel procurement. For the main part procedures relating to the procurement and storage of explosives already fulfil the requirements set. Many of the measures required by ERW are already now included in the training and activities of the Defence Forces and therefore will not cause great changes to courses of action. In fact, the voluntary measures mentioned in the technical annex of ERW improve and clarify current practices.

Any other relevant information

-
Form C Legislation

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information […] on:

(c) Legislation related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols;”

High Contracting Party: …………………………………..

Legislation

The Convention and its Protocols I-III have been brought into force by a Decree issued by the President of the Republic (874/1983) on 2 December 1983.

Protocol IV has been brought into force by a Decree issued by the President of the Republic (434/1998) on 30 July 1998.

Amended Protocol II has been brought into force by a Decree issued by the President of the Republic (851/1998) on 3 December 1998.

The amended Convention has been brought into force by a Decree issued by the President of the Republic (770/2004) on 22 December 2004.

Protocol V has been brought into force by a Decree issued by the President of the Republic (945/2006) on 12 November 2006.

Any other relevant information

-
Form D    Technical co-operation and assistance

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information […] on:

(d) Measures taken on technical co-operation and assistance;”

High Contracting Party: Finland

International technical co-operation

- The Finnish Defence Forces have acquired Information Management System for Mine Action (IMSMA) software from the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian De-mining (GICHD). Making use of IMSMA is under review. It is possible to use this application in different peace support operations.

International technical assistance

- 

Any other relevant information

-
Form E    Other relevant matters

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information […] on:

(e) Other relevant matters.”

High Contracting Party: Finland

Other relevant matters
• There is a period of transition for fulfilling the conditions of Protocol V in the Finnish Defence Forces.

    All the requirements will be met by the end of 2009.