

**NINTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE  
HIGH CONTRACTING PARTIES TO  
AMENDED PROTOCOL II TO THE  
CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS OR  
RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN  
CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE  
DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS  
OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS**

CCW/AP.II/CONF.9/NAR.21  
6 November 2007

ENGLISH ONLY

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**Geneva, 6 November 2007**

Item 10 of the agenda

**Consideration of matters arising from  
reports by High Contracting Parties  
according to paragraph 4 of Article 13  
of the Amended Protocol II**

**THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**

National annual report

Submitted in accordance with Article 13, paragraph 4, and Article 11, paragraph 2, of the  
Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines,  
Booby-Traps and Other Devices  
as Amended on 3 May 1996 to the CCW



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PROTOCOL ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF MINES,  
BOOBY-TRAPS AND OTHER DEVICES AS AMENDED ON 3 MAY 1996,  
ANNEXED TO THE CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON  
THE USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED  
TO BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS  
(PROTOCOL II AS AMENDED ON 3 MAY 1996)

Reporting Formats for Article 13 paragraph 4 and Article 11 paragraph 2

NAME OF THE HIGH  
CONTRACTING PARTY **BELGIUM**

DATE OF SUBMISSION 01.10.2007

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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 ☐

**Form A        Dissemination of information**

Article 13,  
paragraph 4 (a)        “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
Depository ... on:

(a) dissemination of information on this Protocol to their armed  
forces and to the civilian population;”

*Remark:*

High Contracting Party	<u>BELGIUM</u>	reporting for time period from	<u>01.10.2006</u>	to	<u>30.09.2007</u>
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**Information to the armed forces**

- a. General Information:
  - (1) During basic military education: Military personnel from each category (Officers, NCO, soldiers) are instructed concerning their rights and duties under international humanitarian law in peacetime and war.
  - (2) During the follow-up career education: all officers and NCO concerned receive supplementary training in the field of „Law of Armed Conflicts“.
  - (3) Every individual member of the Armed Forces receives an easy-to-carry instruction card, which provides an overview of those rules of „Law of Armed Conflicts“. Yearly, those people in combat units are instructed and trained in the use of these regulations.
- b. Specific Information:
  - (1) Further special training is provided to those officers assigned as „Advisor in the Law of Armed Conflicts“ to the Military Command. The purpose of this course is to enhance and deepen the knowledge of „International Humanitarian Law in Armed Conflicts“ and highlight the significance of this field of law to general military training, conduct of operations and tactics.
  - (2) Specific training is also provided to the unit tasked with a PKO or to the people sent in support of a Peacekeeping mission.

**Information to the civilian population**

Law on the ratification of the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-traps and Other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996 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 II as amended on 3 May 1996) is made known publicly through publication in the Belgian Statute Book.

**Form B            Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes**

Article 13,            “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
paragraph 4 (b)    Depository ... on:

(b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes;”

*Remark:*

High  
Contracting            reporting for time  
Party            BELGIUM            period from            01.10.2006    to    30.09.2007

**Mine clearance programmes**

NOT APPLICABLE : the country is not affected by minefields.

For international cooperation : see Form E.

**Rehabilitation programmes**

NOT APPLICABLE : the country is not affected by minefields.

For international cooperation : see Form E

**Form C            Technical requirements and relevant information**

Article 13,            “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
paragraph 4 (c)    Depository ... on:

(c) steps taken to meet technical requirements of this Protocol and  
any other relevant information pertaining thereto;”

*Remark:*

High Contracting Party	<u>BELGIUM</u>	reporting for time period from	<u>01.10.2006</u> to <u>30.09.2007</u>
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**Technical requirements**

- a.        The procedures in practice for the registration of minefields are in accordance with those requested in the Protocol. For the recording, marking and control of minefields in operation, Belgium is acting according to the provisions of the STANAG 2036. This STANAG is fully in line with what is required by the Protocol.
- b.        Detectability: this is not applicable because the use of anti-personnel mines is being prohibited under the OTTAWA Convention and by national law.
- c.        Self-destruction and neutralisation: not applicable.
- d.        Signalisation:  
            See answer under paragraph a. above

**Any other relevant information**

**Form D            Legislation**

Article 13,            “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
paragraph 4 (d)    Depositary ... on:

(d) legislation related to this Protocol;”

*Remark:*

High Contracting Party	<u>BELGIUM</u>	reporting for time period from	<u>01.10.2006</u>	to	<u>30.09.2007</u>
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**Legislation**

Law of 20 March 2007 prohibiting the financing of the production, use and possession of antipersonnel mines and submunitions.

Law of 08 June 2006 concerning the regulation of economic and individual activities with weapons.

Law of 08 January 2004 approving the modification of Art 1 of 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.

Law of 30 March 2000 on the definitive Prohibition of the Antipersonnel Mines, which simplifies the existing procedure on the total prohibition of Antipersonnel Mines.

Law of 10 August 1998 on the ratification of the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-traps and other Devices as amended on 3 May 1996 (Protocol II as amended on 3 May 1996) 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.

Law of 10 August 1998 on the ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction.

Law of 24 June 1996 amending the Law of 3 January 1933 on Arms production and Trade, on the Carrying of Weapons and on Ammunition Trade, with the View to Prohibit the Belgian State and Public services from Storing Anti-personnel mines.

Law of 9 March 1995 on Anti-personnel mines, Booby-traps and Similar Devices.

**Form E                      International technical information exchange, cooperation on mine clearance, technical cooperation and assistance**

Article 13,                      “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
paragraph 4 (e)              Depositary ... on:

(e) measures taken on international technical information exchange, on international cooperation on mine clearance, and on technical cooperation and assistance;”

*Remark:*

High  
Contracting                      reporting for time  
Party                      BELGIUM              period from              01.10.2006              to              30.09.2007

**International technical information exchange**

- 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 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.
- 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 groupand assumes a liaison role between those organizations.
- Belgium participates :
  - at Board of Directors (BoD) level to the International Test and Evaluation Program for humanitarian demining (ITEP) and by that means takes part in the decision and policy process of the ITEP-organisation;
  - annually, through its Department of Defence, by financing the working cost of the ITEP-secretariat, approximately at 60.000 Euro for this year.

**International cooperation on mine clearance**



## **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 :**

- **2.000.000 EUROS** – ICRC Appeal – Victims assistance
- **30.000 EUROS** - Handicap International, Landmine Monitor
- **30.000 EUROS** – In favour Implementation Support Unit (ISU) - Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD):
- **10.000 EUROS** - Mines Action Canada : "Youth Leap"
- **20.000 EUROS** Sponsorship Programme GICHD
- **7.000 EUROS** GICHD – study « Inventory of possible scenarios where mine action can make a contribution to peace keeping and confidence-building processes »

### **A. AFRICA :**

**Democratic Republic of Congo : 500.000 EUROS** :Prévention des risques liés à la présence des mines et UXO dans les provinces Orientale, du Maniema et de l'équateur –

**Senegal\_266.710 EUROS** : UNDP — Opération de déminage humanitaire en Casamance.

**Mozambique : 500.000 EUROS** APOPO — Mine action 2007-2008 –

### **B. MIDDLE EAST :**

**Jordanie : 50.000 EUROS.** NATO Trust Fund – Proposal for a NATO partnership for peace / Mediterranean dialogue trust fund project in Jordan.

- From 18 May to 01 June 2007, five Belgian EOD divers went to the Aqaba Gulf in order to clear a first part of the Jordan coast and very shallow territorial waters.
- During this operation, they were supported by the Jordanian Naval Force.

#### **Lebanon :**

In the framework of the UNIFIL mission - South, Belgium sent :

- begin September 2006, a 2 people EOD-team for one week HMA reconnaissance activities
- in the last days of September, 14 EOD/demining people from which one team of 11 operators tasked with clearing operations
- in the beginning of October, two other teams. Since that time the EOD/demining platoon permanently totalize 43 people skilled in demining operations.

This personnel rotates every four months

- in addition one EOD/IEDD/demining Liaison Officer in BEIRUT in support of the UNIFIL staff; this LO rotates every six months.

## **C. ASIA :**

### **a. Cambodia**

Since 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.

### **b. Afghanistan :**

**Afghanistan : 1.300.000 EUROS MUSIC FOR LIFE => ICRC — Mine Action, physical rehabilitation –**

Since July 2005, Belgium deploys permanently 9 EOD operators to the Provincial reconstruction Team (PRT) KUNDUZ

The rotation of this people is based on a four months period.

## **D- LATIN AMERICA:**

**Colombia – 150.000 EUROS** \_Renforcement institutionnel des capacités locales pour la prise en charge légale et l'orientation des victimes civiles de Mines Antipersonnel vers les services opportuns –

## **3. Research and Development:**

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

### **a. National level:**

- The basic research HUDEM(<http://www.sic.rma.ac.be/Projects/Hudem/>), coordinated by the Royal Military Academy (RMA) and involving the participation of major university laboratories in Belgium, is funded by the Belgian Ministry of Defence and by the Belgian State Secretariat for Development Aid. The main activities include research on mine detection systems (metal detector, ground penetrating radar, infrared sensor, microwaves radiometer and nuclear quadruple resonance), on data processing and data fusion. Specific research activities also concern the analysis of possible robotic solutions to be applied to humanitarian de-mining. Started in 1997, this project ended 2002. From January 2003, the HUDEM research is continued by the BEMAT project, the aim of which is to predict and evaluate the detection performances in given scenarios of close and remote systems, including robotic aspects. In 2005, 225.000 Euro have been spent and in 2006, 232.000 Euro, for 2007 the amount allocated to it comes to 238.000 Euro. This project will close at the end of 2009
- The research project on the use of bio-sensors (rats) in humanitarian de-mining operations, funded by the Belgian State Secretariat for Development Aid and conducted by the NGO APOPO and the RUCA(<http://www.apopo.org/>), is highlighting very promising solutions in the close-in detection of AP mines. The rats proved to be more powerful than dogs in trials organized in Tanzania. This project started in 1997 is still ongoing. A validation phase in Mozambique is still

underway. Support to the APOPO-project : field tests in Mozambique : 230.000 EUR (budget of the Flemish community - Belgium)

- 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 is being fully validated and the adaptation to the APOPO application (detection of mines with rats) is ongoing.
 These amount about 80.000 Euro.

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 1<sup>st</sup> September 2004, the ITEP secretariat (<http://www.itep.ws>) is installed in the premises of the Royal Military Academy in Brussels, Belgium.
- 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.
- The Belgian Defence dedicated two persons (one Engineers and one EOD-specialist) to the third phase of tests organised under ITEP umbrella (ITEP-

Project Systematic Test and Evaluation of Metal Detectors – STEMMD). The trials were conducted in Croatia from 25 September to 18 October 2006. The costs of this participation amount approximately 8.000 Euro.

**International co-operation on technical co-operation and assistance**

**Form F            Other relevant matters**

Article 13,            “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the  
 paragraph 4 (f)    Depository ... on:

(f) other relevant matters.”

*Remark:*

High Contracting Party	<u>BELGIUM</u>	reporting for time period from	<u>01.10.2006</u>	to	<u>30.09.2007</u>
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**Other relevant matters**

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.

Have been trained :

- in 2003, students from Angola, Benin and Congo Brazzaville,
- in 2004, students from Angola, DRC, Rwanda, Benin, Uganda and Gabon
- in 2005, students from Angola, Benin, Cambodia, DRC and Rwanda.
- in 2006, students from Angola, Benin, Burundi, DRC, Jordan, Morocco, Rwanda and Vietnam

For 2007 students are coming from Angola, Benin, Burundi, DRC, Jordan, Rwanda and Vietnam.

**Form G            Information to the UN-database on mine clearance**

Article 11,  
paragraph 2            “Each High Contracting Party undertakes to provide information to the database on mine clearance established within the United Nations System, especially information concerning various means and technologies of mine clearance, and lists of experts, expert agencies or national points of contact on mine clearance.”

High  
Contracting  
Party            BELGIUM            reporting for time  
period from            01.10.2006 to 30.09.2007

**Means and technologies of mine clearance**

For detection purposes, two different man portable detectors are used, the one based on the magnetic principle, the other on dual sensors technique.

Only manual removal and disposal means are applied except for some IED devices where a remotely operated robot can be used during the handling process.

**Lists of experts and experts agencies**

Belgian Ministry of Defence : SEDEE (Service for the removal and destruction of explosive devices)

ComOpsLand 2D (Operational Command Land – Engineers

Branch)

**National points of contact on mine clearance**

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