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ENGLISH only



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NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Representation of Belgium to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe presents its compliments to all Permanent Delegations and Missions to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre, and has the honor to provide herewith the Belgian response to the OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Mines and Explosive Remnants of War for the calendar year 2020.

The Permanent Representation of Belgium to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe avails itself of the opportunity to renew to all Permanent Delegations and Missions to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre the assurances of its highest consideration.



Vienna, 29 May 2020

to: All Permanent Delegations and Missions to the OSCE
OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre

OSCE

Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Mines and Explosive Remnants of War (FSC.DEC/7/04)



BELGIUM - 2020 Report

1. Is your country a State Party to the 1996 Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices annexed to the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW)?

Yes, Belgium ratified Amended Protocol II on 10 March 1999.

2. Please attach the most recent annual report submitted by your country in accordance with Article 13 of the Amended Protocol or give the appropriate electronic address for the report.

The report can be found on this link¹.

3. Is your country considering ratification/accession to the Amended Protocol II?

Cfr. Q 1.

4. What measures have been taken to prevent the indiscriminate use of mines, booby-traps and other devices?

Cfr. Belgian report for CCW Amended Protocol II.

5. Would your country be interested in receiving assistance related to the implementation of this Protocol? If so, please describe.

No.

6. Does your country have the capacity to assist others related to this Protocol? If so, please describe.

¹[https://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/\(httpAssets\)/A60FEC091601D6ADC12583DA003608E7/\\$file/CCW_ProtIIa+rapport+BE+2019.pdf](https://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/A60FEC091601D6ADC12583DA003608E7/$file/CCW_ProtIIa+rapport+BE+2019.pdf)

Cfr. Belgian report for CCW Amended Protocol II.

Part II

7. Has your country ratified or acceded to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction?

Yes, this Convention was ratified by Belgium on 4 September 1998.

8.(a) If yes, please attach the most recent report submitted by your country in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention or give the appropriate electronic address for the report.

The report can be found on this link².

(b) If no, is your country considering ratification/accession to the Convention

Cfr. Q 7.

(c) Has your country adopted legislation to address the humanitarian objectives of the convention, or taken any specific measures regarding the use, production, storage, transfer and destruction of anti-personnel landmines? In case a moratorium has been introduced, what is its scope and duration and when was it introduced?

Belgium became the first country in the world to ban the production, stockpiling, use and transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines by adopting the law of 9 March 1995³. Belgium ratified the Anti-Personnel Landmine Convention in 1998. The provisions regarding the ban of Anti-Personnel Mines are described in the law of 8th June 2006 as amended by the laws of 25 July 2008 and of 7 January 2018.

9. Does your country have any specific measures in place to provide assistance to victims?

Cfr. Q 11.

10. Does your country require assistance in mine clearance, stockpile destruction, mine awareness and/or victim assistance? If so, please describe.

No.

11. Does your country have the capacity to assist others in mine action? If so, please describe.

Yes, Belgium provides assistance in the field of humanitarian demining, victim assistance, mine risk education, local capacity building and universalization and advocacy of the Ottawa Convention. The main governmental donors/actors in this regard in Belgium are: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs via its Development Cooperation department and its Peace Building desk, the Belgian Defense and the Regional authorities.

² [https://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/\(httpAssets\)/35576B8F24F55FF9C12583DF00605CDD/\\$file/BE+2018.pdf](https://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/35576B8F24F55FF9C12583DF00605CDD/$file/BE+2018.pdf)

³ http://www.ejustice.just.fgov.be/cgi_loi/change_lg.pl?language=fr&la=F&cn=1995030934&table_name=loi

Belgian Defense has been active in humanitarian demining during deployments in Afghanistan (2005-2018) and Lebanon (2006 –2014) and is active in a series of smaller deployments in other countries. The Royal Military Academy and the Service for Clearance and Destruction of Explosives (SEDEE- DOVO) are involved in research and development for improved humanitarian demining and in the training of demining personnel from third countries. Currently, Belgian Defense provides instructors in demining and ammunition management in the regional ‘Centre de Perfectionnement aux Actions Postconflituelles de déminage et de Dépollution’ in Benin, in order to teach trainees from the Sahel and Central-Africa. There is also a contribution of experts in the field of IED to MINUSMA.

Since 2010, Belgium has supported a broad range of mine-related projects in affected regions for an amount of approximately 29 million EURO's.

In 2019, Belgium contributed to the following interventions and programs:

Country	Organisation	Action	Project	Amount disbursed in 2019
Multi	ICRC	Risk education and victim assistance	ICRC's Special Appeal : Disability and Mine action	1.000.000 €
Chad	MAG	SALW and ERW risk education, PSSM	Reducing the threat posed by SALW, ammunition, mines and ERW in Chad	399.000 €
Iraq	Halo Trust	Clearance and training	Humanitarian IED clearance in Southern Fallujah: increasing safety and enhancing livelihoods for returning families	416.161€
Iraq and Syria	UNMAS	Risk education, clearance, victim assistance	Contributions to Iraq and Syria Mine action programs	2.000.000 €

Total amount in 2019: 3.845.161 Euros

Belgium also contributed in 2019 to global programs of Handicap International and to the non-earmarked budget of the ICRC.

Belgium contributes to the equipment of the Group of Five Sahel Joint Force (FC-G5S) in C-IED material with 1.000.000 € (period 2018-2022).

OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

1. Has your country notified the Depositary of its consent to be bound by the 2003 CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) once it enters into force? Is your country considering doing so?

Protocol V was ratified by Belgium on 25th January 2010.

2. If yes, at what stage is the process?

Cfr. Q 1.

3. Would your country be interested in receiving assistance in clearing or otherwise minimizing the risks and effects of ERW?

No.

4. Does your country have the capacity to assist others in clearing and minimizing the risks and effects of ERW? If so, please describe.

There's no distinction between mines and ERW from the viewpoint of Belgian assistance instruments. Therefore the answer to this question can be found in the QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES cfr. Part II question n° 11.
