



FSC.EMI/175/17
30 May 2017

ENGLISH only

**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE
VIENNA**

2017/17260111-AGİT DT/12447924

The Permanent Mission of Turkey to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions/Delegations of the participating States to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) and, in accordance with the Forum for Security Cooperation Decision No: 7/04 dated 24 November 2004, has the honour to submit the reply of Turkey to the Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Land Mines.

The Permanent Mission of Turkey to the OSCE avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Missions/Delegations of the participating States and to the CPC the assurances of its highest consideration.



Vienna, 30 May 2017

Encl.

- Permanent Missions/Delegations of the participating States to the OSCE
- Conflict Prevention Centre

Vienna

**TURKEY
(2016)**

OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

Part I

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)?

Turkey deposited its instruments of ratification on 2 May 2005. The protocol came into force for Turkey on 2 September 2005.

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.

Turkey's Amended Protocol II Report for 2016 was submitted to the UN on 3 April 2017. The report is available under the section "Amended Protocol II" of the Convention on Conventional Weapons website at the following address:

[http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/\(httpAssets\)/F1967573C1931C03C12581120041A7E6/\\$file/Turkey_NAR+2017_AP.II.pdf](http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/F1967573C1931C03C12581120041A7E6/$file/Turkey_NAR+2017_AP.II.pdf)

If no:

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

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

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

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

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, Turkey joined the Ottawa Convention in March 2004.

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.

Turkey's Article 7 report for 2016 was submitted to the UN within the required timeline (28 April 2017).

The report is available under the section "Article 7 Reports" Anti-Personnel Landmines Convention website at the following address:

[http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/\(httpAssets\)/3CC657947632EB3EC125811300505C12/\\$file/Turkey+2016.pdf](http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/3CC657947632EB3EC125811300505C12/$file/Turkey+2016.pdf)

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

(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?

The use of APMs on Turkish territory was banned by a directive dated 26 January 1998. Demining process has started since then. With humanitarian considerations in mind, Turkey had initially put into effect a renewable three year moratorium on 17 January 1996, banning the export and transfer of APMs. This moratorium was extended on 15 October 1998 for another three years and on 17 January 2002 it was extended indefinitely. Turkey became a party to the Ottawa Convention in March 2004 and afterwards established Turkish Military Demining Troops so as to fulfil her obligations.

In order to effectively destroy mines and other ordnance, a destruction facility was built by the Turkish Armed Forces, which entered into service in 2007.

Destruction of stockpiled mines have been completed.

The law on the establishment of a National Mine Action Centre to undertake humanitarian mine clearance activities was adopted by the Turkish Grand National Assembly on 22 January 2015 and was published in the Official Gazette on 03 February 2015, hence entering into force.

The above mentioned law entitles the Turkish Mine Action Centre (TURMAC), established under the Ministry of National Defence, to define policies towards mine and/or unexploded ammunition clearance activities within the territory of the Republic of Turkey, to plan and steer these activities, to monitor the execution of such activities in accordance with the established rules, to carry out the necessary coordination and cooperation with domestic and foreign institutions.

Demining of mined areas along Turkey's eastern borders started in 2016. This project is funded by the EU, Turkey and the UN; managed and overseen by the UNDP and implemented through commercial contracts with Denel MECHEM and RPS Engineering Company.

Border Security Surveillance System which consists of 730 km modular concrete wall and impoundment (supported by fence), roads and surveillance system started on Syrian Border in 2016. To provide safe construction of the system, military demining teams were deployed for clearance and verification operations.

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

Ministry of Youth and Sports (Sports Federation for the Disabled) and Veterans Physical Treatment, Education and Research Centre organize activities for mine victims.

Within the context of current legislations, mine victims who are unable to perform daily activities without assistance receive support in acquiring medicine and medical equipment and pay no additional fee.

Although a program specifically prepared for mine victims do not exist, within the context of existing laws, mine victims and their families receive monthly payments, employment opportunities, enterprising grant, free job counselling and courses according to their condition. Additionally, the work to develop a shared database specifically designed for mine victims, is still underway.

Financial assistance is provided by means of indemnity, salary and jobs.

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

Turkey mine action requires assistance for international experience in mine risk education, victim assistance and clearance to develop capacity of Turkish Mine Action Centre.

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

Turkey has the capacity to provide training on mine clearance within the framework of bilateral relations and the NATO Partnership for Peace (PfP) program. Additionally, Turkey is lead nation for Jeyranchel/Azerbaijan ERW/mine clearance project.