



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria
to the United Nations, the OSCE and other International Organizations**

Ref. № *Pr-20/11.1-869*

Vienna, 31 May 2017

NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the UN, the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions and Delegations to the OSCE, and to the Conflict Prevention Centre, and with accordance with the Forum for Security Cooperation Decision 7/04, has the honour to submit the reply of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Land Mines.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the UN, the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of the opportunity to renew to all Permanent Missions and Delegations to the OSCE and the Conflict Prevention Centre the assurances of its highest consideration.

Encl.

**To
All Permanent Missions and Delegations to the OSCE
The Conflict Prevention Center**

VIENNA



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BULGARIA'S CONTRIBUTION
OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

**To be submitted no later than 31 May of each year
(starting in May 2005)**

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)?

Answer: The Republic of Bulgaria is 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) as of 3 December 1998.

If yes:

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.

Answer:

[http://unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/\(httpAssets\)/AF600394ECF3D68CC125810F004FE730/\\$file/Bulgaria_NAR+2017_APIII.pdf](http://unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/AF600394ECF3D68CC125810F004FE730/$file/Bulgaria_NAR+2017_APIII.pdf) - reporting time period from 01 January to 31 December 2016 in English.

If no:

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

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

The Convention and all its Protocols are incorporated into Bulgarian law.

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

The Republic of Bulgaria has the capacity to fulfill the obligations stemming from the Protocol.

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

The Republic of Bulgaria has very limited capacity to assist.

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 Their Destruction?

Answer: The Republic of Bulgaria is a State Party to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and Their Destruction as of 4 December 1998.

(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.

Answer:

[http://unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/%28httpAssets%29/33E91AE4CF57A20EC1257FB9002B1142/\\$file/BG+2015.pdf](http://unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/%28httpAssets%29/33E91AE4CF57A20EC1257FB9002B1142/$file/BG+2015.pdf) - reporting time period from 01 January to 31 December 2015 in English.

The report for the period from 01 January to 31 December 2016 is in a process of submission.

(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 Mines? In case a moratorium has been introduced, what is its scope and duration and when was it introduced?

On 24 November 2015 the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria adopted a Law on the Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) and the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Ottawa Treaty). The Law entered into force on 8 December 2015. It prohibits any activities with cluster munitions and antipersonnel mines on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria, except those permitted by the Conventions. The Law establishes legal definitions about Anti-personnel land mines (APLM), transfer and other key terms as well as regulates the conditions and procedures for transfer, transportation and destruction of APLMs and the control over these activities. For the first time the Bulgarian legislation incorporates principles and rules of international humanitarian law and ensures full realization of the rights of all APLMs victims. The Law provides for assistance to APLMs victims, including medical care, rehabilitation, as well as

social and economic inclusion. The assistance includes not only the victims, but also their close relatives.

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

Answer: See the reply to Question 8 (c).

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

Answer: The Republic of Bulgaria has fulfilled all its obligations in accordance with the Convention and doesn't require additional assistance.

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

Answer: Bulgaria has limited capacity to assist others in mine action.

BULGARIA'S CONTRIBUTION OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

**To be submitted on a voluntary basis along with the OSCE Questionnaire
on Anti-personnel mines no later than 31 May of each year**

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

Answer: The Republic of Bulgaria has ratified the 2003 CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). The instruments of ratification was deposited on 7 November 2005.

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

Answer: The ratification process has been completed.

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

Answer: Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Bulgaria has the capacity to destroy unexploded ammunitions found accidentally or floated mines.

The Bulgarian Armed Forces perform tasks in ensuring navigational safety, conducting systematic surveillance and control, destruction of unexploded ammunition and mines remained from two world wars found in the territorial waters and the coastal zone of the Republic of Bulgaria.

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

Answer: The Republic of Bulgaria does not have capacity to assist others in clearing and minimizing the risks and effects of ERW.