



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland
to the United Nations Office and
the International Organizations in Vienna**

FSC.EMI/133/17
11 May 2017

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations Office and the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to all Delegations and Permanent Missions to the OSCE and to the OSCE Secretariat/Conflict Prevention Centre and pursuant to FSC.DEC/7/04, has the honour to submit the requested information on anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war for 2016.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Poland to the United Nations Office and the International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the all Delegations and Permanent Missions to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre the assurances of its highest consideration. *U.K.*



Vienna, 11 May 2017

To:

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

Vienna

The Republic of Poland

OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

Reporting period: 2016

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)?

YES. The Republic of Poland deposited its instrument of ratification of the Amended Protocol II on 14th of October 2003. The amended Protocol II entered into force in relation to Poland on 14th of April 2004.

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.

As enclosed.

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. The Republic of Poland deposited the ratification instrument to the Ottawa Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction on the 27th December 2012. In relation to Poland the Convention entered into force on the 1st June 2013.

- 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 most recent report is available at the following internet link:

[http://unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/\(httpAssets\)/EE58EC6EABFCD735C125810E005CA58B/\\$file/Poland+2016.pdf](http://unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/EE58EC6EABFCD735C125810E005CA58B/$file/Poland+2016.pdf)

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

Refer to point no 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?

In our initial report which is available at the following link:

[http://unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/\(httpAssets\)/981E071DBA17A089C1257C310050A5F9/\\$file/Poland+initial+report.pdf](http://unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/981E071DBA17A089C1257C310050A5F9/$file/Poland+initial+report.pdf),

we listed the legal measures that were introduced to implement the Convention in Poland (Form A, “National implementation measures”).

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

No, but as far as Polish citizens are concerned general regulations exist. Mine/UXO survivors are entitled to the same standards of public healthcare as all other insured persons. Military casualties are entitled to medicine and orthopaedic equipment free of charge.

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.

Poland has some capacities in this respect but any such engagement would have to be subject to a specific request and additional arrangements.

The Republic of Poland

OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

Reporting period: 2016

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?

YES - 26 of September 2011.

Is your country considering doing so?

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

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

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.

Poland has some capacities in this respect but any such engagement would have to be a subject to a specific request and additional arrangements.

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

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)

SUMMARY SHEET

Summary Reporting Format for Article 13 paragraph 4 and Article 11 paragraph 2, pursuant to the decision of the Fifth Annual Conference of the States Parties to CCW Amended Protocol II as stipulated in paragraph 20 of its Final Document, CCW/AP.II/CONF.5/2

NAME OF THE HIGH
CONTRACTING PARTY: POLAND

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 30.03.2017

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF

CONTACT: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Security Policy Department
Al. Szucha 23
00-580 Warsaw, POLAND
tel: +48 (22) 523 84 65
fax: +48 (22) 523 87 49

(Organization, telephones, fax, e-mail)

This information can be available to other interested parties and relevant organizations:



YES



NO

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

Reporting for time period

from: **01/01/2016**

dd/mm/yyyy

to: **31/12/2016**

dd/mm/yyyy

Form A: Dissemination of information:

☒ changed

☐ unchanged

(last reporting year:)

Form B: Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes:

☐ changed

☒ unchanged

(last reporting year: 2003)

Form C: Technical requirements and relevant information:

☐ changed

☒ unchanged

(last reporting year: 2003)

Form D: Legislation:

☐ changed

☒ unchanged

(last reporting year: 2003)

Form E: International technical information exchange, co-operation on mine clearance, technical co-operation and assistance:

☒ changed

☐ unchanged

(last reporting year:)

Form F: Other relevant matters:

☐ changed

☒ unchanged

(last reporting year: 2003)

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

☐ changed

☒ unchanged

(last reporting year: 2003)

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

**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: POLAND

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 30.03.2017

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF

CONTACT: Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Security Policy Department
Al. Szucha 23
00-580 Warsaw, POLAND
tel: +48 (22) 523 84 65
fax: +48 (22) 523 87 49

(Organization, telephones, fax, e-mail)

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 ☐

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

Form A Dissemination of information

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (a)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
Depositary [...] on [...]:

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

Remark:

High Contracting Party:

Poland

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2016

dd/mm/yyyy

to: 31/12/2016

dd/mm/yyyy

INFORMATION TO THE ARMED FORCES:

All soldiers of the Polish Armed Forces are instructed and trained in the International Humanitarian Law of Armed Conflict including the rules set by the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its annexed Protocols.

The relevant information is disseminated to them in the framework of:

- military and postgraduate studies, operational-tactical studies, operational-strategic studies and qualification courses dedicated for candidates for professional officers, officers, military commanders and legal advisers organized by Military Universities, Academies and Officer's Schools;
- training, special and qualification courses for officers, non-commissioned officers, privates and civilian personnel realized in training centers of all armed services;
- the routine process of improving professional qualifications of military personnel conducted by superiors and legal advisers in all military units;
- military exercises which require taking into account specific rules of the International Humanitarian Law norms and regulations.

Training in international law of armed conflicts and protection of cultural heritage is an important element of the preparation process of personnel for the peacekeeping and stabilization missions. All mission members are obliged to attend such training before deployment. In 2016 Polish Air Force Academy (PAFA) and Polish Naval Academy (PNA) organized international science conferences related to the International Humanitarian Law of Armed Conflict (including CCW and annexed Protocols). They were addressed to civilians and military personnel. Additionally PNA published the "International Humanitarian Law" yearbook.

INFORMATION TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION:

Civilian students received relevant information concerning the International Humanitarian Law of Armed Conflict (including CCW and annexed Protocols) during optional or obligatory courses organized by Polish Military Universities, Academies and Officer's Schools.

The Center for the Dissemination of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) under the auspices of the Main Board of the Polish Red Cross (PRC), operating since 1977 is tasked with the dissemination of information on IHL and the mission of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The Center is running the largest IHL Library (over 5 thousand volumes) which contains a special section on conventional weapons regulations. The library is used by students and post-graduates in law, political sciences, and international relations, as well as secondary school students and PRC workers and volunteers from across the country.

During 2016 the PRC Center for Dissemination of IHL organized a number of seminars, meetings and lectures devoted to international humanitarian law. Most of them were focused on legal aspects of landmines (including II Protocol to the CCW). It is worth mentioning a couple of the most important events:

- XX Polish School of International Humanitarian Law of Armed Conflict in Radziejowice
- an annual 5-day course for law and international relations students from civil and military universities, representatives of the Armed Forces, the Police, the Border Guard, the State Fire Service, Red Cross employees and volunteers. Lectures were given by experts on IHL from major Polish Universities and Armed Forces,
- Several lectures on means and methods of warfare during IHL courses for armed forces organized by War Studies University,
- Continuation of a e-learning course "Exploring humanitarian law" dedicated to the teachers of basic and secondary schools,
- XIX edition of Professor Remigiusz Bierzanek contest for the best PH. D., MA and BA thesis in humanitarian law and human rights and knowledge about the International Red Cross and Red Cross Movement;
- Coordination of the activities of the Commission for the Protection of the Emblem and related actions, including assessment of applications for use of the emblem and interventions in the event of misuse on a national scale,
- Coordination of the activities of the IHL Dissemination Commission including initiatives on promotion and dissemination of IHL, networking and knowledge sharing and publication and promotion of books.

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

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

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (e)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
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 Party:

Poland

Reporting for time period

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dd/mm/yyyy

to: 31/12/2016

dd/mm/yyyy

INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE:

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON MINE CLEARANCE:

In 2016 the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs contributed with 50 thousand US dollars in support of UNMAS's actions in Gaza ("Mitigation of the threat posed by explosive hazards in Gaza"). In the last two years Poland's total financial assistance to mine action and mitigation in Gaza amounted to 85 thousand US dollars. Gaza continues to be contaminated with ERWs consisting of uexploded aircraft bombs, tank shells and other munitions. For 2017 UNMAS has identified the following priorities in Gaza: protection of civilians from ERW threats, support to reconstruction activities and emergency preparedness.

At the reporting period Polish Armed Forces contributed to the alleviation of humanitarian problem caused by landmines, unexploded ordnance (UXO), improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). This was possible through the participation of the Polish Engineering Forces personnel in the stabilizing mission in Afghanistan. The PEF activities among others included: removal and destruction of mines, UXO, IEDs and other explosive remnants of war (in cases of emergency).

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

In 2016 6 Polish deminers formed an emergency team for demining and clearing operations. The unit remained on stand by and did not participate directly in mine clearance activities.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE:

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