

The OSCE Secretariat bears no responsibility for the content of this document and circulates it without altering its content. The distribution by OSCE Conference Services of this document is without prejudice to OSCE decisions, as set out in documents agreed by OSCE participating States.

FSC.EMI/138/25
19 May 2025

ENGLISH only



Permanent Representation of the Kingdom of
Belgium to the OSCE

Schönburgstrasse 10
1040 Vienna - AUSTRIA
T +43 1 505 63 64
E-mail: viennaosce@diplobel.fed.be
viennaosce.diplomatie.belgium.be
Twitter: @BelgiumOSCE

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 2024.

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, 15 May 2025

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 – 2024 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 enclosed

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.

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 enclosed

(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 was 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 1995¹. 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 clearance, victim assistance, mine risk education, local capacity building, universalization and advocacy of the Ottawa Convention. The main governmental donors/actors in this regard in Belgium are: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation, the Belgian Defense.

¹ 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 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 (BEL) EOD Group (SEDEE- DOVO) are involved in research and development for improved humanitarian demining and in the training of demining personnel from third countries.

From 01 May 2024 until 31 December 2025, BEL provides a pool of ten EOD Operators in support of UNMAS. Through NATO DCB, Belgium contributes to the UNMAS TMTAT (threat mitigation advisory team) EOD and C-IED.

The EOD operators provide ad-hoc support to the UNMAS, with train-the-trainer and mentoring missions. Belgium is the only troop contributing nation.

BEL signed the Letter of Intent regarding the Demining Capability Coalition for Ukraine.

Organized by the GICHD, the (BEL) EOD Group welcomed a Cambodian delegation during a two-day visit, while, on a field trip in Europe. This visit was conducted within the framework of a national benchmark dealing with residual contamination management.

BEL sent a military fact finding mission to the REHTC (Regional Explosive Hazards Training Centre) in Dushanbe - TJK, which is sponsored by OSCE and USA. The idea is to start as from 2025 a support to the training program in close collaboration with the (USA) armed forces.

Within means and capabilities and after thorough investigation, Belgium is prepared to continue providing assistance in mine action on demand in 2025.

In 2024, Belgium contributed financially to the following interventions and programs:

Country	Organisation	Action	Project	Amount disbursed in 2020
Iraq and Syria	UNMAS	Humanitarian mine action, including survey, clearance, risk education and victim assistance	Contributions to Iraq (750.000 €) and Syria (750.000 €) mine action programs	1.500.000 €
Angola and Cambodia	APOPO	Land release, incl. use of mine detection rats	A mine impact free Preah Vihear Province (Cambodia) and a mine free Cuanza Sul Province (Angola)	688.705 €
Azerbaijan	APOPO	Humanitarian mine action	support to safe return of internally displaced people through capacity building of the Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA)	249.967 €
Iraq	HAMAP	Humanitarian mine action	contribution to the mine action project "Safer Sinjar"	250.000 €
Ukraine	UNDP	Humanitarian mine action	contribution to the Mine Action Program	1.000.000 €

Ukraine	WFP/FAO	Humanitarian mine action	contribution to the joint program “restoring livelihoods and revitalizing rural communities affected by mines and explosive remnants of war”	1.000.000 €
---------	---------	--------------------------	--	-------------

Total amount directly disbursed for humanitarian mine action in 2024: 4.688.672 EUR

In 2024 Belgium also contributed to several pooled funds out of which i.e. mine action activities were funded.

* * *

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.

Belgian assistance instruments do not make a distinction between mines and ERW. Therefore the answer to this question can be found in the QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES cfr. Part II question n° 11.

**CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND
TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

Reporting Formats for Article 7 ¹

STATE PARTY:	BELGIUM
DATE OF SUBMISSION	30/04/2025
POINT OF CONTACT	M5 - Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Division of the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Co-operation Tel. +32.2.501.31.74 e-mail : ArmscontrolM5@diplobel.fed.be

Form D APMs retained or transferred (As adopted at the final plenary meeting on 02 December 2005)

¹ These reporting formats informally provided by Austria on disk are based on document APLC/MSP.1/1999/L.4 of 31 March 1999, as amended and decided upon by the First Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, held in Maputo from 3 to 7 May 1999. Tables of formats may be expanded as desired.

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

d) The types, quantities and, if possible, lot numbers of all anti-personnel mines retained or transferred for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques, or transferred for the purpose of destruction, as well as the institutions authorized by a State Party to retain or transfer anti-personnel mines, in accordance with Article 3"

State [Party]: BELGIUM reporting for time period from 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

1. a. **Compulsory** Retained for development of and training in (Article 3, para.1)

Institution authorized by State Party	Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
ARMED FORCES	Mine APers M35 Bg	810	0023PRB61	29 BN LOG - 260 CIE MUN
	Mine APers M35 Bg	43	0023PRB61	29 BN LOG -260 - RDM LEOPOLDSBURG
	Mine APers M35 Bg	58	0023PRB61/PRIO	29 BN LOG - 260 CIE MUN
Total	Mine APers M35 Bg	911		

Objective	Activity/project	Supplementary information
Education and training of EOD specialists and deminers with live ammunition Training militaries in "Mine Risk Education"	The use of M35Bg mines takes place during different sessions of courses organized by the Belgian Armed Forces.	priority for EOD community due to operational engagements.

1. b. Voluntary information:

Form D (continued)

2. Compulsory Transferred for development of and training in (Article 3, para.1)

Institution authorized by State Party	Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information: e.g. transferred from, transferred to
NA				

3. **Compulsory** Transferred for the purpose of destruction (Article 3, para.2)

Institution authorized by State Party	Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information: e.g. transferred from, transferred to
NA				

Form J: Other relevant matters

Remark: States Parties may use this form to report voluntarily on other relevant matters, including matters pertaining to compliance and implementation not covered by the formal reporting requirements contained in Article 7. States Parties are encouraged to use this form to report on activities undertaken with respect to Article 6, and in particular to report on assistance provided for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims.

State Party: **BELGIUM** reporting for time period from **01 January 2024** to **31 December 2024**

Narrative / reference to other reports

1. At this stage, no live mines (from the stock retained under Article 3) were used for research and development studies. Some of the Belgian studies are using data collected from live minefields abroad.

2. Belgian contribution to international assistance in 2024

Country	Organisation	Action	Project	Amount disbursed in 2020
Iraq and Syria	UNMAS	Humanitarian mine action, including survey, clearance, risk education and victim assistance	Contributions to Iraq (750.000 €) and Syria (750.000 €) mine action programs	1.500.000 €
Angola and Cambodia	APOPO	Land release, incl. use of mine detection rats	A mine impact free Preah Vihear Province (Cambodia) and a mine free Cuanza Sul Province (Angola)	688.705€
Iraq	HAMAP	Humanitarian mine action including local capacity strengthening	Contribution to the mine action project “Safer Sinjar”	250.000 €
Azerbaijan	APOPO	Humanitarian mine action	support to safe return of internally displaced people through capacity building of the Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA)	249.967 €

Ukraine	UNDP	Humanitarian mine action	contribution to the Mine Action Program in Ukraine	1.000.000 €
Ukraine	WFP/FAO	Humanitarian mine action including soil analysis and sustainable land use	contribution to the joint program “restoring livelihoods and revitalizing rural communities affected by mines and explosive remnants of war” in Ukraine	1.000.000 €

Total amount directly disbursed for humanitarian mine action in 2024: 4,688,672 EUR

From 01 May 2024 until 31 December 2025, Belgium provides a pool of ten EOD Operators in support of UNMAS. Through NATO DCB, Belgium contributes to the UNMAS TMAAT (threat mitigation advisory team) EOD and C-IED.

The EOD operators provide ad-hoc support to the UNMAS, with train-the-trainer and mentoring missions. Belgium is the only troop contributing nation.

BEL signed the Letter of intent regarding the Demining Capability Coalition for Ukraine.

Organized by the GICHD, the (BEL) EOD Group welcomed a Cambodian delegation during a two-day visit, while, on a field trip in Europe. This visit was conducted within the framework of a national benchmark dealing with residual contamination management.

Belgium also contributed in 2024 to several humanitarian pooled funds out of which i.e. humanitarian mine action activities were financed.

3. Other assistance provided by Belgium in 2024

Belgium has regularly organised EOD courses in French and English to train team leaders of other countries. Currently, these courses are organised on an ad hoc basis.

A delegation visited the Regional Explosive Hazards Training Centre (REHTC) in Dushanbe in September 2024 (OSCE framework). This visit is part of a future EOD and ICExH training project, with a planned training programme starting in 2026, in cooperation with the OSCE, USARCENT and the REHTC.

On December 5th, 2024 the Belgian Embassy in Bogota co-organized already for the 8th year in a row the ‘Premio CaMINA’ event together with the Embassy of Canada, Gran Tierra Energy (Canadian enterprise) and "Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas" (CCCM, local NGO part of the ICBL network). This to draw public attention to the work of associations of victims in the fight against antipersonnel mines.

Furthermore, several other Belgian embassies are involved in activities to sensitize or draw attention to the challenges posed by antipersonnel mines and ERW contamination.

4. Research and Development:

Research and development activities are conducted both at the national and international level. A national example is the PARADIS project (a Prototype for Assisting Rational Activities in Humanitarian De-mining Using Images from Satellites) led by the Royal Military Academy (RMA) with the participation of the Department of Geography (IGEAT) of the Free University of Brussels (ULB). Its results are still used by different actors.

The NGO APOPO (<http://www.apopo.org/>), in collaboration with the University of Antwerp and funded inter alia by the Belgian Government, started a research project in 1997 on the use of rats for scent detection of mines. The African giant pouch rat (*Cricetomys gambianus*) was selected for this task and successfully trained. In 2004 the first group of mine detection rats passed the licensing tests according to the international mine action standards (IMAS). APOPO became an international NGO active in humanitarian demining and is still employing rats for survey of contaminated areas.

From 2012 to 2015 the Royal Military Academy coordinated TIRAMISU, an international project to develop a comprehensive modular toolbox for the main humanitarian mine action activities, from survey up to the disposal of explosive hazards. TIRAMISU offers a comprehensive, integrated and modular solution for tackling large contaminated areas. The main financial contribution to the project was provided by the European Framework Program 7 - Security. The results of the project continue to be exploited by the International CBRNE Institute established in Les Bons Villers, Belgium.

Starting from October 2021 and lasting until September 2023, the Belgian company Space Applications Services N.V. and the Belgian Royal Military Academy are leading a research project, called AIDED, on the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the detection of explosive devices. AIDED will use a set of state of the art Artificial Intelligence algorithms able to identify unconventional (IEDs) and conventional (buried mines) explosive devices, and autonomously plan offline and run-time missions plans. It will also provide positioning, navigation and mapping to control a fleet of robots that cooperate quickly to identify a safe passage in a high-risk area. The AIDED project is financed by the European Commission and managed by the European Defence Agency in the framework of the Preparatory Action on Defence Research.

**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)**

Provisional Reporting Formats for Article 13 para 2 and Article 11 para 2.

NAME OF HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY	BELGIUM
DATE OF SUBMISSION	<u>31/03/2025</u>
NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT	Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Co- operation M5 Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation <u>ArmscontrolM5@diplobel.fed.be</u>

Form A Dissemination of information

Article 13 / 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	BELGIUM	reporting for time period from	01.01.2024	to	31.12.2024
------------------------	----------------	--------------------------------	------------	----	------------

Information about the Armed Forces

a. General Information:

Officers trained as “Advisers in the Law of Armed Conflict” are available in each unit (up to battalion or independent company level) to advise military commanders on the application of the Law of Armed Conflict. The education programme of these advisers encompasses inter alia general information about (amended) Protocol II. Legal advisors with in depth knowledge of Protocol II are also available to advise Units and Commanders on any legal issue regarding mines, booby-traps and other devices.

The Operational Law Manual (currently under revision) was distributed within Belgian Defence in 2016 with the aim of addressing legal questions pertaining to an operational context. The legal framework for mines and booby-traps is dealt with in Chapter 8 “Weapons, means and methods of warfare”.

b. Specific Information:

Combat engineers and EOD personnel involved in mine activities are educated and trained in all matters related to the Belgian doctrine in accordance with STANAG 2036 Land mine laying, marking, recording and reporting procedures, 2143 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Principles and Minimum standards of proficiency, 2485 Countermine operations in land warfare and this Protocol.

These documents are translated into two Belgian doctrinal documents:

CLAND-TTP-MILENG4-LEC-418 Procédure en matière de pose, marquage, repérage et compte-rendu de champs de mines »,

- ACOT-TTP-ENGTFD-LECQ-030 « Déminage en Ops » (Draft). This document remains a draft as it was specifically written for UNIFIL BAC/demining mission. Once a similar mission is planned, this document is reactivated.

Explosive Risk Education is part of basic military education for all soldiers (in reference to ACOT-GID-ICCSLAC-DMTG-001/DRMT on JICCS). Every year, soldiers receive a refreshment training on mine awareness. Specific training is provided before any operational deployment and is tailored to the risks that the armed forces could be facing during the operation in question.

Information to the civilian population

The “law of 10 August 1998 approving 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, adopted in Geneva on 3 May 1996” was made public through publication in the Belgian Official Journal.

On a regular basis, representatives of the Defense Department give lectures as part of the IHL courses organised by the Belgian Red Cross and/or International Committee of the Red Cross. General or specific education related to means and methods of warfare, including the issue of ERW, and in particular Protocol V, is included in these courses.

The Armed Forces Engineer School contributes to BGT (Belgian Generic Training) organised by FPS Foreign Affairs with an ERW module. BGT is a mandatory module for every civilian wanting to participate in a Civilian Crisis Management or Peacebuilding mission.

Form B **Mine clearance and rehabilitation programs**

Article 13 / 4 / b “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:

(b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programs;"

Remark:

High Contracting Party	BELGIUM	reporting for time period from	01.01.2024	to	31.12.2024
------------------------	----------------	--------------------------------	------------	----	------------

Mine clearance programs

NOT APPLICABLE: the country is not affected by minefields

For international cooperation: see Form E

Rehabilitation programs

NOT APPLICABLE: the country is not affected by minefields

For international cooperation: see Form E

Form C Technical requirements and relevant information

Article 13 / 4 / c “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:

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

Remark:

High Contracting Party	BELGIUM	reporting for time period from	01.01.2024	to	31.12.2024
------------------------	----------------	--------------------------------	------------	----	------------

Technical requirements

- a. The procedures in use for the recording of minefields are in accordance with those requested in the Protocol. For the recording, marking and control of minefields in operation, Belgium is acting in accordance with 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 prohibited by the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Ottawa Convention) and by national law.
- c. Self-destruction and self-deactivation: not applicable.
- d. Signalisation: see answer in paragraph a above.

Any other relevant information

Form D**Legislation**

Article 13 / 4 / d “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:

(d) Legislation related to this Protocol;

Remark:

High Contracting Party **BELGIUM**

reporting for time period from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024

Legislation

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

Law of 8 June 2006 concerning the regulation of economic and individual activities with weapons.

Law of 8 January 2004 approving the modification of Article 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, adopted in Geneva on 21 December 2001.

Law of 30 March 2000 on the definitive Prohibition of Antipersonnel Mines.

Law of 10 August 1998 approving 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, adopted in Geneva on 3 May 1996.

Law of 10 August 1998 approving the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction, done in Oslo on 18 September 1997.

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 (the Law of 3 January 1933 has been repealed by the above-mentioned law of 8 June 2006).

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

International cooperation on mine clearance

1. Projects:

Total amount directly disbursed in 2024 for humanitarian mine action: 4,688,672 EUR

- HAMAP: contribution to the mine action project “Safer Sinjar” in Iraq: 250,000 €
- The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS): contributions to the Iraq and Syria mine action programs: 1,500,000 €
- APOPO is an acronym from Dutch which stands for “Anti-Persoonsmijnen Ontmijnende Product Ontwikkeling”, or in English, Anti-Personnel Landmines Detection Product Development: contribution as part of a five-year program and funding over the periode 2022-2026 in Cambodia “A mine impact free Preah Vihear Province” and in Angola “a mine free Cuanza Sul Province”: 688,705 € (part of a total funding of 3,5 MEUR over 5 years).
- APOPO: support to safe return of internally displaced people through capacity building of the Mine Action Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (ANAMA): 249,967 €
- UNDP: contribution to the Mine Action Program in Ukraine: 1,000,000 €
- WFP/FAO: contribution to the joint program “restoring livelihoods and revitalizing rural communities affected by mines and explosive remnants of war” in Ukraine, 1,000,000 €

Belgium also contributed in 2024 to several humanitarian pooled funds out of which i.e. humanitarian mine action activities were financed.

2. Research and Development:

Research and development activities are conducted both at the national and international level. A national example is the PARADIS project (a Prototype for Assisting Rational Activities in Humanitarian De-mining Using Images from Satellites) led by the Royal Military Academy (RMA) with the participation of the Department of Geography (IGEAT) of the Free University of Brussels (ULB). Its results are still used by different actors.

The NGO APOPO (<http://www.apopo.org/>), in collaboration with the University of Antwerp and funded inter alia by the Belgian Government, started a research project in 1997 on the use of rats for scent detection of mines. The African giant pouch rat (*cricetomys gambianus*) was selected for this task and successfully trained. In 2004 the first group of mine detection rats passed the licensing tests according to the international mine action standards (IMAS). APOPO became an international NGO active in humanitarian demining and is still employing rats for survey of contaminated areas.

From 2012 to 2015 the Royal Military Academy coordinated TIRAMISU, an international project to develop a comprehensive modular toolbox for the main humanitarian mine action activities, from survey up to the disposal of explosive hazards. TIRAMISU offers a comprehensive, integrated

and modular solution for tackling large, contaminated areas. The main financial contribution to the project was provided by the European Framework Program 7 - Security. The results of the project continue to be exploited by the International CBRNE Institute established in Les Bons Villers, Belgium.

Starting from October 2021 and lasting until September 2023, the Belgian company Space Applications Services N.V. and the Belgian Royal Military Academy are leading a research project, called AIDED, on the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the Detection of Explosive Devices. AIDED will use a set of state of the art Artificial Intelligence algorithms able to identify unconventional (IEDs) and conventional (buried mines) explosive devices, and autonomously plan offline and run-time missions plans. It will also provide positioning, navigation, and mapping to control a fleet of robots that cooperate quickly to identify a safe passage in a high-risk area. The AIDED project is financed by the European Commission and managed by the European Defence Agency in the framework of the Preparatory Action on Defence Research.

Form F **Other relevant matters**

Article 13 / 4 / f “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:

(f) other relevant matters.

Remark:

High Contracting Party **BELGIUM** reporting for time period from 01.01.2024 to 31.12.2024

Other relevant matters

Belgium has regularly organised EOD courses in French and English to train team leaders of other countries. Currently, these courses are organised on an ad hoc basis.

Belgium has signed an MoU with UNMAS providing for mobile training teams on explosive hazards. A second agreement was signed mid-2024 and is valid until the end of 2025. The scope of the agreement is the appointment of Experts on Mission in support of UNMAS providing support with all kind of explosive hazard training, being it conventional or improvised explosive devices.

On December 5th, 2024 the Belgian Embassy in Bogota co-organized already for the 8th year in a row the ‘Premio CaMINA’ event together with the Embassy of Canada, Gran Tierra Energy (Canadian enterprise) and "Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas" (CCCM, local NGO part of the ICBL network). This to draw public attention to the work of associations of victims in the fight against antipersonnel mines.

Furthermore, several other Belgian embassies are involved in activities to sensitize or draw attention to the challenges posed by antipersonnel mines and ERW contamination.

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

Article 11 para 2 “The High Contracting Parties shall provide information to the database on mine clearance established within the United Nations System, especially.....on:

- 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 01.01.2024 To 31.12.2024

Means and technologies of mine clearance.

For detection purposes, two different man portable detectors are used, one based on the magnetic principle, the other one 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:

- DOVO/SEDEE (Service for the removal and destruction of explosive devices)
- ComOpsLand MILENG (Operational Command Land – Military Engineers Branch)

The Belgian military experts working for DOVO/SEDEE have NATO degrees and qualifications for:

- EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)
- IEDD (Improvised Explosive Device Disposal)

National points of contact on mine clearance

Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Department of the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs
Tel. 00 32 2 501 31 74 – E-mail: ArmscontrolM5@diplobel.fed.be