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un citās starptautiskajās organizācijās Vīnē
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to the UN, OSCE
and other International Organizations in Vienna*

No. EDSO-11459

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to the UN, OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to all Permanent Delegations and Missions to the OSCE, and to the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE, and has the honour to submit Latvia's response to **the OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Mines and on Explosive Remnants of War (Reporting period: 2020)**.

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

Vienna, 31 May 2021



**To: All Permanent Missions and
Delegations to the OSCE,
CPC of the OSCE**

OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

Republic of Latvia

Reporting period: 2020

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)?

The Amended Protocol II (*Protocol On Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices as Amended on May 3, 1996 (Protocol II, as amended on 3 May 1996)*) annexed to the 1980 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 was ratified by Latvia on August 22, 2002 and came into force on February 22, 2003.

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 most recent national report can be found at United Nations CCW Amended Protocol II Database.¹

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

n/a

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

n/a

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

n/a

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

n/a

¹ United Nations CCW Amended Protocol II Database is available here <https://www.un.org/disarmament/ccw-amended-protocol-ii/national-annual-reports-and-data-base/ccw-ajii-database/>

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?

On May 19, 2005 the Parliament of Latvia ratified the *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destructor (Ottawa Convention)*. The instrument of accession was deposited in Depositary in July, 2005. Latvia became a full member of Ottawa Convention on January 1, 2006.

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 national report can be found at United Nations Article 7 Database.²

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

n/a

(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?

Anti-Personnel Mines are not produced or manufactured in Latvia. Latvia introduced a moratorium on the export and transit of anti-personnel mines in 1995. There are no time limits for this ban. The National List of Strategic Goods and Services include anti-personnel mines into the list of goods to be controlled additional to those included in the EU regulations as well as prohibit export and transit of anti-personnel mines.

Since 2010 Latvia is bound by the Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War 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 V).

National Legislation of the Republic of Latvia:

- Law on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (in force since June 2, 2005).

- Law on the Circulation of Goods of Strategic Significance (*Chapter VII Administrative Offences in the Field of the Circulation of the Goods of Strategic Significance and Competence in Administrative Offence Proceedings*) imposes administrative liability in the field of the circulation of the goods of strategic significance.

- Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 645 of September 25, 2007 on the National List of Strategic Goods and Services include anti-personnel mines into the list of goods to be controlled

² United Nations Article 7 Database is available here <https://www.un.org/disarmament/anti-personnel-landmines-convention/article-7-reports/article-7-database/>

additional to those included in the EU regulations as well as prohibit export and transit of anti-personnel mines.

- The Criminal Law (in force since April 1, 1999) imposes liability for unauthorized manufacture, repair, acquisition, storage, carrying, transportation, forwarding and sale of firearms, explosives and explosive devices as well as for smuggling of explosive devices.

- Law on Administrative Liability (in force since July 1, 2020) imposes liability for violations of provisions of circulation, manufacturing, storage and use of strategic goods as well as their export, import and transit.

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

There are no special programs for victims of anti-personnel mines. However, there are general provisions for victims included in the Law on State Compensations to Victims (in force since June 20, 2006). The Law provides that a natural person who, in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Criminal Procedure Law, has been recognised as a victim has the right to receive the State compensation for moral injury, physical suffering or financial loss resulting from an intentional criminal offence.

The Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No.279 of April 4, 2009 "Regulations on Receiving of Social Rehabilitation Services from the State budget in the Social Rehabilitation Institution" entitle persons with functional impairment, who comply with the criteria set out in the regulations, to receive state funded social rehabilitation services.

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

No assistance is required. There are no production facilities or mined areas in the territory of the Republic of Latvia. Destruction program of stockpiled anti-personnel mines was finished in year 2006. Mines that were retained for training were completely destroyed in 2010.

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

Latvian National Armed Forces continuously train Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) specialists for destruction of unexploded ordnance. Latvian National Armed Forces Combat support and Combat service support training Centre (EOD branch) offers International Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance Course and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Course.

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 each year.

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?

The Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War of 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 entered into force for Latvia on March 16, 2010.

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

n/a

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

n/a

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

Latvian National Armed Forces Combat support and Combat service support training Centre (EOD branch) offers International Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance Course and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Course.