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Eesti Vabariigi Alaline Esindus OSCE juures
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Estonia to the OSCE

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NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Estonia to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe presents its compliments to the Missions/Delegations to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre and has the honor to submit Estonia's response to the OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Landmines.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Estonia to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Missions/Delegations to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 17 May 2021



-All Missions/Delegations to the OSCE

-Conflict Prevention Centre

VIENNA

OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES ESTONIA

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

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.

The most recent report can be found at:

<https://geneva-s3.unoda.org/ccw-ajii-database-dump/Estonia/Estonia%202021.pdf>

(<https://www.un.org/disarmament/ccw-amended-protocol-ii/national-annual-reports-and-data-base/ccw-ajii-database/>, "Estonia")

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?

Estonia is in full compliance with the provisions of the Amended Protocol II of the CCW.

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.

Since 1999, Estonia has annually contributed to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance. In recent years, Estonia has prioritized mine action assistance through UNMAS in areas liberated from Daesh in Syria and Iraq. Over the time period of 2016-2019, our contribution amounts to 130 000 USD in total. In 2020, Estonia contributed to UNMAS for mine action activities in Iraq and Syria in the amount of 30 000 USD.

Since early 2000's, personnel from Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit of the Estonian Defence Forces has taken part in demining efforts in Afghanistan. In April 2020, four deminers from the Estonian Defense Forces and one engineer commander from the

1st Infantry Brigade were sent to Afghanistan on a new mission. Estonians serve in Afghanistan as part of the German contingent in Mazar-e-Sharif.

From 2009-2013, Estonia was among the lead nations for NATO/PfP Trust Fund project on ERW including anti-personnel land mines' clearance and medical rehabilitation support to Georgia (NATO/PfP Georgia III Trust Fund). The objectives of the project were the development and enhancement of Georgia's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) capacity, through the provision of specialist EOD equipment and training to the Georgian Armed Forces and the provision of the establishment of a physical rehabilitation centre at the Military Hospital in Gori. Estonia's contribution to the Trust Fund was EUR 136,667. In 2013, a continual project was launched to the previous NATO/PfP Trust Funds. The objective of the NATO/PfP Trust Fund project was EOD clearance at the former SKRA ammunition depot and further development training to the previously trained EOD Company. Estonia's contribution to the Trust Fund was EUR 100,000.

In 2016-2017, Estonia launched a project to support the establishment of humanitarian demining training programme in the Ukrainian Lviv State University of Life Safety. The main goal of the project was to support establishment of the training system in the field of humanitarian demining in Ukraine. The project continued until the end of 2019. Estonia contributed to the project over 152 000 EUR in total. In the framework of the project, methodology of the explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) officers' training in Ukraine and their training curricula was developed. Ukrainian students and instructors have received trainings in Estonia and the whole concept of EOD training in Lviv State University of Life Safety was elaborated. Special attention was turned to use of the International Mine Association Standards (IMAS) in the EOD practice in Ukraine. As an outcome, the EOD training department of the university started functioning in full scale. Estonia has previously supported the Ukrainian Emergency Situations Service in the field of humanitarian demining. The final fund of the last project was 76 600 EUR.

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

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 can be found at:

<https://geneva-s3.unoda.org/artvii-database-dump/Estonia/Estonia%202020.pdf>

[\(https://www.un.org/disarmament/anti-personnel-landmines-convention/article-7-reports/article-7-database/, "Estonia"\)](https://www.un.org/disarmament/anti-personnel-landmines-convention/article-7-reports/article-7-database/)

(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 Convention is part of Estonia's national legal system and Estonia is in full compliance with the provisions of the Convention.

The Strategic Goods Act in force from March 1 2020 explicitly prohibits the transfer of antipersonnel mines and the related services, except in the case when it is absolutely necessary for the purpose of training or the demolition thereof. For the purposes of this Act the transfer of strategic goods is the import, export, transit and transfer of defence-related products within the European Union.

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

There are no special rehabilitation programmes for persons injured by mines in Estonia (there are no mined areas in Estonia). If an incident happens, the injured person will be treated in a medical facility under the jurisdiction of the MOD (the facility is not meant solely for mine victims but for all injured servicemen) and in civilian hospitals.

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.

Please refer to question 6 in PART I of the Questionnaire.

**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?

YES

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

The Protocol entered into force for Estonia on 18 June 2007.

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.

Since 1999, Estonia has annually contributed to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance. Estonia is determined to give ongoing support for humanitarian demining activities and mine action.

Humanitarian demining is defined as one of the priority areas in the Government's strategy for Estonia's development cooperation and humanitarian assistance. Estonia has increased contributions over the past few years and continues to do so. This includes financial support to the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), as well as to clean-up of various explosive remnants of war and mine-clearance activities under several bilateral and international humanitarian projects.

In recent years, Estonia has prioritized mine action assistance through UNMAS in areas liberated from Daesh in Syria and Iraq. Over the time period of 2016-2019, our contribution amounts to 130 000 USD in total. In 2020, Estonia contributed to UNMAS for mine action activities in Iraq and Syria in the amount of 30 000 USD.

In 2017, the Estonian Rescue Board's EOD Center donated 3 special busses for humanitarian deminers in Ukrainian Emergency Situations Service. Total price of donation was 21 200 EUR.

Estonia has been active in providing assistance to and building up Georgia's capacity in the spirit of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. From 2007–2009 Estonia was one of the lead nations of NATO/PfP Georgia II Trust Fund for the demilitarization of rockets and missiles in Georgia. The project comprised the demilitarisation of S-8 Air to Surface unguided missiles, and Alazan and Kristall anti-hail rockets. Estonia contributed EUR 30,000 to the project.

From 2009 to 2013, Estonia was among the lead nations for NATO/PfP Trust Fund project on ERW including anti-personnel land mines' clearance and medical rehabilitation support to Georgia (NATO/PfP Georgia III Trust Fund). The objectives of the project were the development and enhancement of Georgia's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) capacity, through the provision of specialist EOD equipment and training to the Georgian Armed Forces and the provision of the establishment of a physical rehabilitation centre at the Military Hospital in Gori. Estonia's contribution to the Trust Fund was EUR 136.667.

In 2013, a continual project was launched to the previous NATO/PfP Trust Funds. The objective of the NATO/PfP Trust Fund project was EOD clearance at the former SKRA ammunition depot and further development training to the previously trained EOD Company. Estonia's contribution to the Trust Fund was EUR 100,000.

Please also refer to questions 6 and 11 in PARTS I and II of the Questionnaire.

The most recent national report of Protocol V of the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW) on Explosive Remnants of War can be found at:

<https://geneva-s3.unoda.org/ccw-pv-database-dump/Estonia/2021.pdf>

[\(https://www.un.org/disarmament/ccw-protocol-v-on-explosive-remnants-of-war/national-reporting-and-database/ccw-protocol-v-database/](https://www.un.org/disarmament/ccw-protocol-v-on-explosive-remnants-of-war/national-reporting-and-database/ccw-protocol-v-database/), "Estonia")