



**Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria
to the United Nations, the Organisation for Security Cooperation in Europe and
Other International Organisations in Vienna**

Ref. № 296

May 2024

NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Bulgaria to the UN, the OSCE and Other International Organisations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Permanent Missions and Delegations of all participating States to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE, and in accordance with the FSC Decision No. 7/04 has the honour to submit herewith 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 Organisations in Vienna avails itself of the opportunity to renew to Permanent Missions and Delegations of all participating States to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre of the OSCE the assurances of its highest consideration.

**ALL PERMANENT MISSIONS AND DELEGATIONS TO THE OSCE
THE CONFLICT PREVENTION CENTER
VIENNA**



OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

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 Amended Protocol II was ratified by the Bulgarian National Assembly on 3 December 1998.

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: Publicly available

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

Answer: The Ottawa Treaty was ratified by the Bulgarian National Assembly on 4 September 1998.

8. (a) If yes, please attach the most recent annual report submitted by your country in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention or give the appropriate electronic address for the report.

Answer: Publicly available

(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 the scope and duration and when was it introduced?

Answer: 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 was last amended in December 2019.

In June 2016, Republic of Bulgaria also amended Articles 337–339 of its Penal Code to establish penal sanctions for violating the prohibitions in the new implementation law on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Ottawa Treaty).

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

Answer: 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.

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

Answer: All existing stockpiled APMs on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria have been destroyed by 30 December 2000 (with the exception of APMs retained in accordance with art.3)

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

Answer: The Republic of Bulgaria does not have the capacity to assist others in mine action.

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 on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) once it enters into force? Is your country considering doing so?

Answer: The CCW Protocol V was ratified by the Bulgarian National Assembly on 7 November 2005.

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

Answer: The Republic of Bulgaria is not an ERW affected country. Explosive munitions are used only in specified areas (training ranges, firing grounds) under controlled circumstances.

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 the capacity to assist others in clearing and minimizing the risks and effects of ERW.