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FSC.EMI/154/20
25 May 2020

ENGLISH only



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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-9530

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 the Latvian response to **the OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Mines and on Explosive Remnants of War (Reporting period: 2019)**.

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, 25 May, 2020

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

OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

Republic of Latvia

Reporting period: 2019

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 report can be found at:

[https://unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/\(httpAssets\)/790EF5FC3E6FBA4DC125855900504ECB/\\$file/Latvia.pdf](https://unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/790EF5FC3E6FBA4DC125855900504ECB/$file/Latvia.pdf)

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

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 report can be found at:

[https://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/\(httpAssets\)/F5B2CAFA320C1202C125855700340E99/\\$file/Latvia+2019.pdf](https://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/F5B2CAFA320C1202C125855700340E99/$file/Latvia+2019.pdf)

(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 List of National 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.

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).
- Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No. 645 of September 25, 2007 on the List of National 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.
- Latvian Administrative Violations Code imposes liability for violations of provisions of circulation, manufacturing, storage and use of strategic goods and arms and explosive devices as well as their export, import and transit.
- The Criminal Law imposes liability for smuggling of explosive devices. Section XX (Article 233) of the Criminal Law stipulates punishment for unauthorized manufacture, repair, acquisition, storage, carrying, transportation, forwarding and sale of weapons and explosives.

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).

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 landmines. However, there are general provisions for victims included in the Law on State Compensations to Victims of 2006. The Law provides that a natural person, who in accordance with the procedures specified by the Criminal Procedure Law has been recognized a victim, has the right to receive a state compensation regarding moral injury, physical suffering or financial loss. The right to the State compensation shall exist, if as a result of an intentional criminal offence the death of the person has occurred or severe or moderate bodily injuries to the victim have been caused.

The Cabinet of Ministers Regulations No.279 of April 4, 2009 "Regarding the Procedures by Which Persons Receive Social Rehabilitation Services in Social Rehabilitation Institutions and Requirements for the Social Rehabilitation Services Providers" 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 APMs 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 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.