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Permanent Mission of the Republic of Latvia to the UN, OSCE
and other International Organizations in Vienna*

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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: 2021)**.

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, 13 June, 2022

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



OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

Republic of Latvia

Reporting period: 2021

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 has been submitted to the CCW Implementation Support Unit and should 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-apidb-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 Destruction (Ottawa Convention)*. The instrument of accession was deposited in Depository 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.

- Law on the Handling of Weapons (in force since August 10, 2019) (*Chapter XX Administrative Offences in the Field of the Handling of Weapons, Ammunitions, Their Components, and Special Means and Competence in Administrative Offence Proceedings*)

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

imposes administrative liability in the field of the handling of weapons, ammunitions, their components, and special means.

- 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 (Section 233) as well as for smuggling of explosive devices (Section 190), for moving of goods of strategic importance or other valuable property, explosive, weapon and ammunition across the State border of the Republic of Latvia in any illegal way (Section 190.¹), for violation of the provisions for the circulation of goods of strategic significance (Section 237.¹).

- Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 645 of September 25, 2007 "National List of Strategic Goods and Services" includes 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.

- Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No. 657 of July 20, 2010 "Procedures for Issuing or Refusal to Issue a Licence for Goods of Strategic Significance and Other Documents Related to the Circulation of Goods of Strategic Significance" which foresees that the Committee is entitled to refuse the issuance of a licence for export, transit, and brokering transactions to the goods of the Common Military List of the European Union, including sending of software and technologies, using means of electronic communication, also on the basis of the following criterion: obligations of Latvia not to export anti-personnel mines of any kind.

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.

Law on Social Services and Social Assistance (in force since January 1, 2003) establishes principles for the provision and receipt of social work, caritative social work, social care, social rehabilitation, vocational rehabilitation services and social assistance, the range of persons who have the right to receive these services and assistance, and also the principles for payment and financing of social care, social rehabilitation and vocational rehabilitation services.

The Cabinet of Ministers Regulation No.578 "Regulations on Receiving of Social Rehabilitation Services from the State budget in the Social Rehabilitation Institution" (adopted 3 December 2019) entitle persons with functional impairment, who comply with the criteria set out in the regulations, to receive state funded social rehabilitation services.

If victims are soldiers or national guardsmen, then also following legislative acts could be applicable: Law on Remuneration of Officials and Employees of State and Local Government Authorities (in force since January 1, 2010), which foresees e.g. provisions concerning benefits to be disbursed in the event of injury, mutilation or other damage to health or in the event of death of soldier (Section 21) and National Guard of the Republic of Latvia Law (in force since

September 1, 2010), which foresees similar provisions for national guardsmen (Section 34, 36) and related Regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers.

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. Latvia provides support in the area of medical rehabilitation for wounded Ukrainian soldiers and civilians.

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.