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*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia
to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna*

No. 1164

Note Verbale

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Serbia to the OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to Missions and Delegations to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre, and in accordance with the Decision 7/04 of the Forum for Security Cooperation, has the honor to transmit herewith the reply to the OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Mines and Explosive Remnants of the War.

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



Vienna, 24 December 2020

Delegations/Permanent Missions to the OSCE
The Conflict Prevention Centre
Vienna

OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Mines

(Contribution by the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia)

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 it is.

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

On 15 December 2010, the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia adopted the Law on Ratification of the Protocol on Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices of 1980, as amended on 3 May 1996, annexed to the Convention on Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects.

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

Mines are not available for unauthorised persons: they are safeguarded in depots that are under constant surveillance: the possibility of misuse has been practically eliminated; the work on developing anti-personnel mines (APM) and booby-traps has been stopped.

On 28th January 2005, the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro concluded a contract under number LU-UM/4500137147 with NAMSA for the execution of the Project for demilitarisation of total quantities of APM. The organisations in charge of direct execution of the Project were the "TRZ Kragujevac" (Technical Repair Facility in Kragujevac) and the company "Prva Iskra - Namenska" Barič, at which the "TRZ Kragujevac" performed APM disassembling, and the "Prva iskra-namenska" Barič recycled military explosive by its conversion into a type for commercial purposes. Based upon these procedures, 1.404.819 APM (2.170 tons) were disassembled, out of which 1.393.313 pieces belonged to the Serbian and Montenegrin Armed Forces, and 11.506 pieces were taken over from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Serbia. Out of the total quantity of the destroyed APM, 199.387 pieces were in the territory of Montenegro, and all of them were transported to the "TRZ Kragujevac" and destroyed there.

Pursuant to the Ottawa Convention, the Republic of Serbia has retained 5.565 APM out of the total stockpiles, 5.104 pieces being kept for the purposes of the Armed Forces and 461 pieces for the purposes of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia.

During 2008, in the Serbian Armed Forces, 1.905 pieces of APM were destroyed while 5 pieces were spent for testing of protective equipment in the Technical Testing Centre.

In 2009, 25 pieces of AP mines were discarded and destroyed, and 10 pieces of mines were spent for the testing of protective equipment in the Technical Testing Centre.

In 2010, the retained AP mines were not spent by the Serbian Armed Forces.

In 2011, 10 pieces of PMA-2 type mines were discarded and destroyed in TRZ Kragujevac. The mines were discarded and destroyed due to their unfavourable technical condition.

In 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015, no retained AP mines were spent by the Serbian Armed Forces.

In 2016, 10 APMs (types: PMA-1 ... 4 pcs, PMA-2 ... 3 pcs, and PMA-3 ... 3 pcs) were disassembled. The disassembling process was done in order to use APM bodies for service dog training in explosive detection. The associated fuses were removed from PMA-2 and destroyed.

In 2017, 5 APMs (types: PMA-1 ... 2 pcs, PMA-2 ... 1 pc, and PMA-3 ... 2 pcs) were disassembled. The disassembling process was done in order to use APM bodies for service dog training in explosive detection. The associated fuses were removed from PMA-2 and destroyed.

In 2018, no retained AP mines were spent by the Serbian Armed Forces.

In 2019, no retained AP mines were spent by the Serbian Armed Forces.

Accordingly, there are 3,134 pieces of APM in the Serbian Armed Forces. We must note that the Ministry of Defence does not have information on the quantity and types of ammunition possessed by the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Serbia.

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

The Republic of Serbia has received assistance for destruction of APM according to the Project specified in item 3 of this Questionnaire. The total value of the Project is EUR 1,689,996, and the Contract value is EUR 1,350,343.31. The difference between the total Project value and the Contract value represents the Fund for covering the unanticipated costs and the costs of NAMSAs for managing the Project.

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

The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia has the capacity to offer the services of the "TRZ Kragujevac", as the organisation in charge of performing the disassembly (destruction) of APM, at an average price of EUR 0.91 per piece.

6. **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, the Republic of Serbia ratified the Convention on 18th September 2003 and became a State Party to it on 1st March 2004 (as the State Union of Serbia and Montenegro).

7. (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 full report under Article 7 of the Convention is developed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia based on the data of the competent line ministries (Ministry of Defence, Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice and the Mine Action Centre of the Government of the Republic of Serbia).

(b) **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 Republic of Serbia has not adopted specific legislation to address the humanitarian objectives of the Convention because the ratification of the Convention implies that the Convention has become a part of the positive law in place in the Republic of Serbia (under the responsibility of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Serbia).

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

There are no specific measures in place for rendering assistance to victims. Hospitals and rehabilitation centres provide all necessary assistance to mine victims – prosthetic devices, rehabilitation and education in the field of social and legal protection (under the responsibility of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia).

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

Coordination of activities related to humanitarian demining and management of projects related to the implementation of Article 5 of the Convention "Destruction of mines in mined

areas" is the responsibility of the Mine Action Centre of the Government of the Republic Serbia.

Mine stockpiles destruction was performed at the "TRZ Kragujevac" in the period from 1st July 2005 to 7th May 2007 as per Contract No. LU-UM/4500137147 of 28th March 2005, concluded with NAMSA.

This Project was funded by donations from eleven countries. The leading donor countries were Canada and Austria with € 500.000 each. Apart from them the Project was also financially supported by Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Ireland, Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and Spain with amounts between EUR 10.000 and EUR 200,000.

Assistance to victims is provided in specialised institutions which need donations in equipment, education and prostheses (under the responsibility of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia).

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

The Serbian Armed Forces and the "TRZ Kragujevac" are qualified and equipped for rendering assistance to other countries in organisation, training and during the process of anti-personnel landmines destruction itself.

OSCE Questionnaire on Explosive Remnants of War

(Contribution by the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia)

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?

After the MoD Emergency Situations Department that had been responsible for the implementation of activities in the field of implementation of Protocol V was disbanded, the responsibility for this area was transferred to the Department of Emergency Situations of the Ministry of the Interior as of 1st July 2010.

The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Serbia has no information on the current situation regarding the consent to be bound by the 2003 CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War.

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

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

The Republic of Serbia is interested in eliminating from its territory all unexploded ordnance either remnants of war or dispersed as a result of an emergency.

The Serbian Armed Forces is qualified for finding, deactivating and destroying explosive ordnance and clearing mine fields and minimizing the risks and effects of remnants of war in the territory of its home country. For the realisation of these tasks, it is necessary to provide additional funds for equipment, insurance and fringe benefits for units – expert teams that would conduct these activities.

The International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF) has accepted the proposal submitted by the Mine Action Centre to organise in the Republic of Serbia a Basic course for training EOD specialists in accordance with the International Humanitarian Demining Standards. According to the ITF schedule, this Course was conducted in the period from 3rd December 2007 to 27th March 2008 with 35 attendees from the MoD and the Serbian Armed Forces, who completed the Course. In addition to this, seven students who excelled have also completed the Team Leaders Course.

The Serbian Armed Forces is interested in getting assistance in equipment and training in detection, excavation and disposal of unexploded air bombs, great mass rocket and other projectiles at depths exceeding 0.5 metres.

In 2017, a project organised by USEUCOM, was launched to train demining instructors and medical personnel in accordance with the Programme of Human Demining in three stages, with 6 months long interruptions between the phases.

The US Department of Defence has donated to the Ministry of Defence – Serbian Armed Forces demining equipment in the value of 266,428.14 US dollars and medical equipment used for humanitarian demining in the value of 69,393.82 US dollars.

Upon NATO proposal a project was launched titled “Strengthening capabilities of Serbian Armed Forces for disposal of unexploded ordnance” that would be financed from the NATO Programme “Science for Peace and Security”. The initial estimated value of the project is 400,000 euros with possible increase to over a million euros. The aim of the project is to enhance the capabilities of the Serbian Armed Forces in the field of demining and disposal of

unexploded ordnance in military complexes. The envisaged duration of the project is 36 months from the date of adoption.

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

The Serbian Armed Forces and the "TRZ Kragujevac" are qualified and equipped for providing assistance to other countries in organising, training and in the process of mine clearance and minimising the risks and effects of the explosive remnants of war. Upon the completion of the Course, according to the schedule of activities and organised by the ITF, 35 persons are qualified to perform basic activities and 7 to be team leaders, all in accordance with the International Humanitarian Demining Standards.

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

UPDATED INFORMATION PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 7, PARAGRAPH 2 OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION

SUBMITTED 30 APRIL 2020 COVERING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2019 TO 31 DECEMBER 2019

A. National implementation measures

1. No additional legal, administrative and other measures were taken during the previous calendar year to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited under the Convention.

B. Stockpiled anti-personnel mines

2. As of 31 December 2019, the Republic of Serbia possessed 3,134 stockpiled anti-personnel mines:

Type	Quantity Possessed	Lot Numbers
PMA-1	494	Unknown
PMA-2	596	Unknown
PMA-3	540	Unknown
PMR-2A	504	Unknown
PMR-3	500	Unknown
PROM-1	500	Unknown
TOTAL	3,134	

1. During 2019, Serbian Armed Forces destroyed none of anti-personnel mines.

Type	Quantity Destroyed	Lot Numbers
TOTAL	0	

C. Anti-personnel mines retained or transferred for permitted purposes

2. As of 31 December 2019, the Republic of Serbia retained 3,134 anti-personnel mines for purposes permitted under Article 3 of the Convention:

Type	Quantity Retained	Lot Numbers
PMA-1	494	Unknown
PMA-2	596	Unknown
PMA-3	540	Unknown
PMR-2A	504	Unknown
PMR-3	500	Unknown
PROM-1	500	Unknown
TOTAL	3,134	

3. The Republic of Serbia has authorised Ministry of Defence (MOD) to retain anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes.

4. The Republic of Serbia retains anti-personnel mines for training of the demining personnel, training of mine detection dogs, testing demining machines and studying the effect of the blast of various types of anti-personnel mines on demining equipment and testing of the protection equipment.

D. Areas known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines

5. Not under the MoD jurisdiction.

E. Technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines

6. The Republic of Serbia has no additional information on the technical characteristics of anti-personnel mines owned or possessed.

Type	Dimensions	Fusing	Explosive content		Metallic content	Colour photo attached	Supplementary information to facilitate mine clearance.
			type	grams			
PMA-1, 1A	140 mm x 70 mm x 30 mm	UPMAH-1 (chemical)	TNT	200	/	/	Mine is plastic, without metal elements.
PMA-2	68 mm x 32 mm	UPMAH-2 (chemical)	TNT	70	/	/	Mine is plastic, without metal elements and waterproof closed.
PMA-3	103 mm x 36 mm	UPMAH-3 (chemical)	TETRYL	35	/	/	Mine is plastic, without metal elements and waterproof closed.
PMR-2, 2A	66 mm x 132 mm	UPMR-2, UPMR-2S (mechanical)	TNT	100	1,700 g	/	Its fragments are dangerous within the range of 50 m. Detection with mine detectors is possible.
PMR-3	80 mm x 150 mm	UPMR-3 (mechanical)	TNT	410	3,000 g	/	Its fragments are dangerous within the range of 100 m. Detection with mine detectors is possible.
PROM-1	80 mm x 150 mm	UPROM-1 (mechanical)	TNT	420	2,580 g	/	Its fragments are dangerous within the range of 50 m. Detection with mine detectors is possible.
VS-50	90 mm x 45 mm	UVS-50 (chemical)	RDX	43	/	/	Mine is plastic, without metal elements and waterproof closed.

F. Conversion or decommissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities

7. The Republic of Serbia has no additional information on the conversion or decommissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities. See the report submitted in 2019 for information that has already been provided by the Republic of Serbia on the conversion or decommissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities.

G. Victim assistance

8. There are no specific measures in place for rendering assistance to victims. Military and civilian hospitals and rehabilitation centres provide all necessary assistance to mine victims – prosthetic devices, rehabilitation and education in the field of social and legal protection (under the responsibility of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia).

H. Cooperation and assistance

9. The Serbian Armed Forces maintain a capability to survey, search for, detect, clear and destroy landmines. This capability includes many types of detection equipment, mechanical clearance assets, disposal experts and specialist search and clearance teams.

10. The Republic of Serbia has the capacities for decommission of the landmines and unexploded ordnance. More detailed data were given in the report submitted in 2019.

Annex I: Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Act

1. Not under the MoD jurisdiction.

Annex II: Areas known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines as of 31 December 2019, and the estimated date of completion

1. Not under the MoD jurisdiction.

Annex III: Areas released, 1 January – 31 December 2019

1. Not under the MoD jurisdiction.