

584th Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation
FSC Coordinator on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition
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Mission of Denmark to the OSCE, IAEA and CTBTO

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Visit of Potential Donors to Ukraine

Please allow me as the FSC coordinator for Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition to provide you with some information on an upcoming visit to Ukraine in September 2009 for potential donors for the project on cleanup of Explosive Remnants of War on Crimea.

In October 2007 the Ukrainian Ministry of Emergency Situations submitted a request to the FSC for assistance in clearing contaminated areas of Explosive Remnants of War. The OSCE conducted an assessment visit in June 2008 and the project was uploaded in the OSCE system with a total budget of 361.200 EUR.

The FSC was briefed on the project by the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine on 10 December 2008 (FSC.FR/4/08)

The objective of the project is to enhance the capacity of Ukraine to clear ERW-contaminated areas in a safe and effective way. This will be achieved by providing Ukrainian EOD units on site with up-to-date equipment and training.

Let me provide you with some background information on the project:

The city of Kerch was exposed to heavy fighting during WWII. Artillery and aerial bombs shelled the city and the harbour, and lots of ERW have been discovered in the area. Later, an old Cold War ammunition storage blew up and there has not been an organized clearance operation on the site.

Near the city of Sevastopol the Black Sea Fleet ammunition storage located in underground caves was blown up during the fighting in WWII. Remaining ammunition becomes unstable over the years and could self ignite, and should an explosion occur inside the caves, it could lead to further detonations with possible fatal consequences to the inhabitants in the area, as well as damage to the infrastructure.

Near the city of Bila Tserkva in Kiev Region, an ammunition depot exploded in a train accident in the 1960s. There is no information on the precise size of the contaminated area, neither on the amount and type of ammunition to be found there.

The visit for potential donors is planned to take place in the period Monday 28 September to Thursday 1 October 2009. For those participating States who are interested in supporting this project and would like to take part in the visit to Crimea I would need to know before the summer recess.

You are welcome to contact me for further information after this meeting.