

Geneva, 11 December 2002

The Republic of Austria

National annual report

Submitted in accordance with Article 13, para. 4 of the
Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines,
Booby-Traps and Other Devices
as Amended on 3 May 1996 to the CCW

PROTOCOL ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF MINES,
BOOBY-TRAPS AND OTHER DEVICES AS AMENDED ON 3 MAY 1996 ANNEXED
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 II AS AMENDED ON 3 MAY 1996)

Provisional Reporting Formats for Article 13 para 2 and Article 11 para 2.

NAME OF HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY	<u>The Republic of Austria</u>
DATE OF SUBMISSION	<u>16 October 2002</u>
NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT	Mr. Wernfried Köffler, Minister, Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs Tel: (+43-1) 53115/3356, fax (+43-1) 53185-228 e-mail: wernfried.koeffler@bmaa.gv.at
	<hr/> (Organization, telephones, fax, email)

This information can be made available to all interested parties and entities:

☒

YES

☐

NO

☐

Partially only the following forms:

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

Article 13 / 4 / a „The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ...
on:

Remark:

High Contracting Party	Austria	reporting for	1 Jan. 2001	to	31 Dec. 01
		time period from			

The information submitted in its previous report 1st January 2000 – 31 December 2000 remains valid. Austria considers that there is no further need for specific implementation measures flowing from the contents of the amended Protocol II with regard to anti-personnel mines and booby-traps due to the implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction and of the Federal Law on the Ban of Anti-Personnel Mines ("Bundesgesetzblatt (BGBl) I Nr. 13/1997"). The destruction of stockpiles of anti-personnel mines has been completed in 1995 and the use of booby traps has been prohibited by Federal Act (see also remarks made under Form D).

All existing regulations with regard to the provisions of the amended Protocol II had been corrected by the end of 1999 on a provisional basis. Instruction and training of soldiers is going on and encompasses active personnel as well as non-active personnel when activated temporarily for routine military activities. A period of 2 to 4 years is under the particular features of the militia-system in place in Austria to bring the training to a close.

There are no changes to the previous reports concerning the period 27th January 1999 to 31st December 2000. Since the amended Protocol II has been transformed into Austrian Law the content has been published and is therefore available to the civilian population.

Form B**Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes**

Article 13 / 4 / b „The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:

(b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes;“

Remark:

High Contracting Party **Austria** reporting for **1 Jan 2001** to **31 Dec. 01**
 _____ time period from _____

Mine clearance programmes

As indicated previously, Austria is a non-mine-affected country (including mines, booby traps and other devices). Nevertheless discoveries from UXO and APL left from previous wars do occur. In the reporting period, 11 UXO left from World War II were discovered and destroyed.

Rehabilitation programmes

During the reported time period no person in Austria became a victim of mines, booby-traps or other devices. Despite that fact, Austria has been developing and establishing a variety of acts and principles to ensure social security and, depending on particular situations, full rehabilitation.

Form C**Technical requirements and relevant information**

Article 13 / 4 / c „The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:

(c) steps taken to meet technical requirements of this Protocol and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;

Remark:

High Contracting Party **Austria** reporting for time **1 Jan. 2001** to **31 Dec. 01**
 period from _____

Technical requirements

The response given by Austria in its previous three reports covering the period 27th January 1999 to 31st December 2000 remains also valid for this reporting period. The Austrian Armed Forces do not possess mines, booby-traps and other devices which are not in compliance with the technical provisions of this Protocol or which would be in contradiction with the obligations from other international treaties. The Austrian Armed Forces will not use improvised explosive devices which are not in compliance with the technical provisions of this Protocol. The Austrian Armed Forces are prepared to record and mark locations of any weapons covered by this Protocol in accordance with the respective provisions.

Any other relevant information

Austria did not claim for deferment of compliance with respect to Art.2.c. and 3.c. of the Technical Annex.

There are no indication of Austrian companies producing weapons, which are not in compliance with the provisions of amended Protocol II or which would violate other treaty obligations entered by Austria.

Form D**Legislation**

Article 13 / 4 / d „The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:

(d) legislation related to this Protocol;

Remark:

High Contracting Party **Austria** reporting for time **1 Jan 2001** to **31 Dec 01**
 _____ period from _____

Legislation

No changes to the previous reports: Amended Protocol II is integral part of the Austrian Law. The Protocol came into effect on 27 January 1999 and was published under the reference number „Bundesgesetzblatt (BGBl) III Nr. 17/1999“

In addition, following legal instruments are applicable in Austria with regard to the use certain weapons: Federal Law on the Ban of Anti-Personnel Mines ("Bundesgesetzblatt I Nr. 13/1997"), the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Production, Stockpiling and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, the Geneva Conventions and their respective Protocols.

Form E **International technical information exchange, cooperation on mine clearance, technical cooperation and assistance**

Article 13 / 4 / e „The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ... on:

(e) measures taken on international technical information exchange, on international cooperation on mine clearance, and on technical cooperation and assistance;

Remark:

High Contracting Party **Austria** reporting for time **1 Jan 2001** to **31 Dec 01**
 period from

International technical information exchange

NIL

International cooperation on mine clearance

Austria is providing assistance to mine action activities through bilateral programs and is supporting as a Member State mine action activities of the European Union. On a bilateral basis Austria has contributed during the reporting period to activities of international agencies and organisations or NGO's for demining, mine awareness and mine victims assistance programs in following countries: Albania (EAPC/NAMSA mine destruction project), Bosnia and Herzegovina (ICRC mine victim assistance), Croatia (UNDP/CROMAC mine detection dogs), Cambodia (NGO mine victim assistance), Mozambique (Support to IND demining and awareness building program), Nicaragua (NGO mine awareness program), Uganda (ICRC mine victim assistance) and to UNOCHA's mine action program in Afghanistan. Austria has also contributed to the Slovenian International Trust Fund (ITF) for mine victim assistance.

In addition, considerable funding has been pledged for mine action in Afghanistan for the period 2002-2004.

Technical cooperation and assistance

Austria has continued to provide during this reporting period mine/UXO clearance teams in the framework of UNDOF, KFOR.

Training programmes on mines and UXO's are offered by Austrian military personnel on Golan (UNDOF) and Kosovo (KFOR)

Form F

Other relevant matters

Article 13 / 4 / f „The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depositary ...
on:

(f) other relevant matters.

Remark:

High Contracting Party **Austria** reporting for time **1 Jan 2001** to **31 Dec. 01**
_____ period from _____

Other relevant matters

Nil

Information to the UN-database on mine clearance

- information concerning various means and technologies of mine clearance, and lists of experts, expert agencies or national points of contact on mine clearance

High Contracting Party	A	reporting for time	1 Oct. 2001	to	31 Dec.01
		period from			

No changes for this reporting period 1st January to 31st December 2001.

As was previously reported, governmental experts in Austria for humanitarian demining operations as well as for military mine clearance activities are usually member of the Austrian armed forces. About 75 persons are trained in accordance with international practices and standards for such operations. The deployment of such experts is decided strictly on a case by case basis in accordance with the rules regulating the operation of members of the Austrian armed forces abroad in accordance with Austrian constitutional and legal requirements. Operation teams can be composed up to 4 persons. The following equipment is used for mine clearance: Schiebel AN-19/2, VALLON 1612B, MD 8, Minelab F1A1, Minex.FD2.

There are several commercial companies which are offering in Austria services for demining and UXO-clearance operations. For a list see the national points of contact.

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