

**SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE
STATES PARTIES TO AMENDED
PROTOCOL II 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**

CCW/AP.II/CONF.7/NAR.48
13 December 2005

ENGLISH ONLY

Geneva, 23 November 2005

THE HELLENIC REPUBLIC

National annual report

Submitted in accordance with Article 13, paragraph 4 and Article 11 paragraph 2 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

GE.05-64590

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)

Reporting Formats for Article 13 paragraph 4 and Article 11 paragraph 2

NAME OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY

Hellenic Republic

DATE OF SUBMISSION

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The information contained in this Report may be made available to other interested Parties, Organizations and the public.

This information can be available to other interested parties and relevant organizations

☐ YES

☐ NO

☐ Partially, only the following forms:

A ☐

B ☐

C ☐

D ☐

E ☐

F ☐

G ☐

Form A Dissemination of information

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (a) “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
Depositary ... on:

(a) dissemination of information on this Protocol to their armed
forces and to the civilian population;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party	Hellenic Republic	reporting for time period from	<u>Sep 21, 2004</u> to <u>Sep 20, 2005</u>
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Information to the armed forces

The appropriate doctrine, operational and training publications and courses of instruction of the armed forces of the Hellenic Republic have been revised as necessary to incorporate the requirements of Amended Protocol II. The interpretation of the provisions of the Protocol and their practical implementation has become part of the training the armed forces of the Hellenic Republic receive in International Humanitarian Law and the Law of War.

Specific units and personnel of particular specialties receive extended instructions.

Information to the civilian population

The law by which the Hellenic Parliament ratified Amended Protocol II was published in the Official Government Gazette on November 03, 1998 and is, therefore, in the public domain. The general population of the Hellenic Republic has also been informed through the national press that Hellas also ratified the CCW and its Protocols and signed & ratified the 1997 Ottawa Convention.

Form B Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes

Article 13, “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
paragraph 4 (b) Depository ... on:

(b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party	Hellenic Republic	reporting for time period from	<u>Sep 21, 2004</u>	to	<u>Sep 20, 2005</u>
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Mine clearance programmes

A huge mine clearance programme is still under way in vast areas of Western Macedonia and Ipiros in the North-West part of the Hellenic Republic, in “suspect areas” containing not only mines but also booby-traps, UXOs and other devices dating from World War II and the 1946-1949 era. There are no properly defined minefields in this area and no maps, the number of dangerous devices to be removed is very large and the weather conditions are adverse for the most part of the year, resulting in the very slow progress of works. It is worth mentioning that the “suspect areas” to be cleared and secured in the mountains of Grammos and Vitsi alone, measure well over 40.000 hectares. – **During 2005, 153,132 m² were cleared and secured in the above area. From 1st March 2004 until 20th September 2005, 8,982 antipersonnel mines were removed and destroyed in the area of Evros (North-East part of the Hellenic Republic), along the border with Turkey.**

Rehabilitation programmes

There are no mine victims among the Hellenic population. – Few mine casualties suffered during the last years by illegal migrants who try to cross the border coming from Turkey along river Evros in the North-East part of the Hellenic Republic, are treated in the hospital of Alexandroupolis or other major hospitals in northern Hellas and then offered full disabled people programmes (including prosthetic services) through the Hellenic National Health System, free of charge. (**Note:** All minefields along the border with Turkey in the Evros Province are clearly defined and marked, well above any standard established by Amended Protocol II and the relevant NATO STANAGs. Mine casualties among illegal migrants are suffered from time to time because they are led to the border along river Evros at night and then instructed to ignore any mine fences and markings and walk into the Hellenic territory. Some times they are even aided in cutting the wire and led into minefields!). – Hellas offers, free of charge, health treatment through its National Health System to people coming from various Balkan states, including people injured by landmines.

Form C Technical requirements and relevant information

Article 13, “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
 paragraph 4 (c) Depository ... on:

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

Remark:

High Contracting Party	Hellenic Republic	reporting for time period from	<u>Sep 21, 2004</u>	to	<u>Sep 20, 2005</u>
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Technical requirements

Hellas has taken all the steps necessary to meet the technical requirements of the Protocol. All mines, booby-traps and other devices in the inventory of the Hellenic armed forces comply fully with the technical provisions of Amended Protocol II.

Any other relevant information

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Form D Legislation

Article 13, “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
paragraph 4 (d) Depository ... on:

(d) legislation related to this Protocol;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party	Hellenic Republic	reporting for time period from	Sep 21, 2004	to	Sep 20, 2005
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Legislation

Amended Protocol II was ratified by law 2652/98, published in issue numb. 249 of the Official Government Gazette on November 03, 1998, and thus became *part of the internal Hellenic legislation* according to the relevant provision of the Constitution. No other legislation is required to enable the Hellenic Republic to carry out its obligations under the Protocol.

The Hellenic Republic also ratified the CCW and its Protocols I, II and III by law 1979/91, published in issue numb. 186 of the Official Government Gazette on December 09, 1991. Protocol IV was ratified by law 2484/97, published in issue 75 of the Official Government Gazette on May 16, 1997. – The Ottawa Convention (MBT) was ratified by law 2999/02, published in issue 71 of the Official Government Gazette on April 08, 2002 and came into force on April 25, 2003.

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

Article 13, “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
paragraph 4 (e) 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 Hellenic reporting for time
Party Republic period from Sep 21, 2004 to Sep 20, 2005

International technical information exchange

The Hellenic Republic participated in the all the recent meetings of the Standing Committees of the Ottawa Convention, namely in the meetings of the Committees for “mine clearance, mine awareness and mine action technologies” and “stockpile destruction”.

International cooperation on mine clearance

In 2004, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic provided the Greek NGO ‘IMI’ with 1.9 million euros for demining operations in Iraq and Lebanon. In 2003 the MFA provided the same NGO with 4.4 million euros for demining in Iraq, Lebanon and Bosnia & Herzegovina.

International cooperation on technical cooperation and assistance

The Hellenic Republic takes part in the Joint Action of the EU Member States providing financial and technical assistance to landmine victims and affected countries.

Form F Other relevant matters

Article 13, “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
paragraph 4 (f) Depositary ... on:

(f) other relevant matters.”

Remark:

High Contracting Party	Hellenic Republic	reporting for time period from	<u>Sep 21, 2004</u>	to	<u>Sep 20, 2005</u>
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Other relevant matters

The Hellenic Republic does not manufacture, import or export mines.

Specialized personnel of the Hellenic contingent in Kosovo with KFOR, run mine awareness courses for the local population.

The Multinational Peace Support Operations Training Centre (MPSOTC) near the city of Kilis in Macedonia, northern Hellas – established in 1998 and subordinated to the Hellenic National Defence General Staff – offers high level theoretical and practical education & training in PSOs and International Humanitarian Law, to personnel (officers, NCOs & troops) of the Hellenic armed forces as well as of the armed forces of various other countries of South-Eastern Europe.

Form G Information to the UN-database on mine clearance

Article 11,
paragraph 2 “Each High Contracting Party undertakes to provide information to the database on mine clearance established within the United Nations System, especially 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	Hellenic Republic	reporting for time period from	<u>Sep 21, 2004</u> to <u>Sep 20, 2005</u>
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Means and technologies of mine clearance

The Hellenic Army basically employs manual mine clearance. International practices and standards in mine clearance are followed. – Canine detection is also employed in certain circumstances.

Lists of experts and experts agencies

For details please contact the point of contact detailed below.

National points of contact on mine clearance

Hellenic Army General Staff/Engineers Directorate, Stratopedo Papagou, Holargos, Athens, Greece 155 62.
