

Statement by Greece to the Meetings of the Standing Committees 11 April 2014
Article 4

Mr./ Mrs. Co-Chair,

As it is the first time we take the floor under this item, allow me to thank the two Co-Chairs of Article 4, namely Norway and Poland, for their very constructive and 'hands-on' approach in encouraging states to implement Article 4.

Since our last statement to the 13MSP last December, we are pleased to announce that progress has been made in terms of meeting our national obligations as per the requirements of Article 4. First of all, on 6 February 2014, the competent authorities of the MoD issued a directive pertaining to the security of the transport procedure of the mines being shipped to Bulgaria. Subsequently, on 24 February 6,528 "DM-31" mines were transported to Bulgaria, on the basis of a transport license issued on 27 January.

On 28 February 2014, the competent Bulgarian authorities re-issued the International Import Certificate (I.I.C), following a proposal of the Greek MoD, which requested for a revision of the I.I.C, so that it reads that the mines are transported for "Demilitarization and Disposition Process".

Soon thereafter, on 17 March 2014 the competent Greek authorities issued a transport license for 51,298 "DM-31" mines, which will be transported to Bulgaria in the coming weeks. Moreover, on 20 March 2014 5,088 "M2" mines and 2,160 "MI6" mines were transported to Bulgaria, while on Monday, 14 April, 15,000 mines will be transported to Bulgaria.

Finally, we would like to inform partners that it is our intention to announce in Maputo that the process of destruction is well underway, so that we can comply with Article 4 of the Convention as soon as possible. We stand ready to answer questions which partners may have and provide clarification if required.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.