

ICRC Statement
Standing Committee on Stockpile Destruction
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, 11 April 2014

The ICRC would like to thank **Belarus**, **Greece** and the **Ukraine** for their updates today. We welcome the positive news from **Belarus** that with the support of the European Commission, construction of the destruction facility has been completed and the first destruction trials of PFM-1 mines took place on 26 March 2014. The ICRC trusts that by the Third Review Conference the trials will have concluded and that stockpile destruction will be underway at a rapid pace. By this time, we also hope that Belarus will be able to share details of the anticipated rate of destruction and the timeframe provided in the contract between the European Commission and EXPAL for completion of the destruction programme.

We also welcome the news that **Greece** began transporting anti-personnel mines to Bulgaria in February this year for destruction and that further transfers are scheduled to take place in the coming weeks. We strongly hope that by the Third Review Conference, Greece will be able to declare substantial progress with its destruction programme, as well as a date for its completion.

In regards to stockpile destruction in the **Ukraine**, the ICRC thanks the Ukraine and the US for their updates. We acknowledge Germany's important support, which has enabled the destruction of over 300,000 PFM-1 mines in 2013, and are very pleased to hear Germany's commitment to continue this support in 2014. We are nevertheless concerned about the high numbers of stockpiled anti-personnel mines remaining in the **Ukraine** and the delays in commencing the destruction of the 3 million PFM-1 mines within the NATO Partnership for Peace Project. We urge all partners involved in this project – the Ukraine, the European Commission and the NATO Supply Agency – to finalise all the necessary agreements so that destruction under this project can begin as soon as possible.

We note that in addition to the 3 million PFM-1 mines I have just mentioned, there is a need to make plans for the destruction of almost the same number of PFM-1 mines that are not part of the EC-funded programme (some of which we understand are being destroyed with German support). In addition, the Ukraine has previously reported an ongoing stockpile of 149,096 POM-2 mines, and we would welcome more information on their destruction in the Ukraine's next Article 7 report.

We look forward to hearing further developments from all three States at the Third Review Conference.