

**MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE GENERAL STATUS AND OPERATION
OF THE
CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND
TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

GENEVA, 24 JUNE 2011

**STATEMENT OF THE GERMAN DELEGATION
ON ARTICLE 3: UPDATE ON MINES RETAINED FOR PERMITTED PURPOSES**

(ADDRESS)

Despite of the great achievements in implementing the Convention and the Cartagena Action Plan, mined areas unfortunately continue to constitute a horrible threat for the civilian population as well as for soldiers deployed in military operations.

The need for the development of mine detection and destruction techniques as well as for training in these techniques will remain unchanged for the foreseeable future.

Whenever possible, the German Armed Forces act as follows for training purposes: using mine-dummies or surrogate mines, using permitted alternative ammunition, or using technical descriptions as an alternative to the use of live mines. But in Germany's view, in many instances no alternative can substitute tests with live anti-personnel mines.

Germany retains a limited number of live anti-personnel mines for permitted purposes in a so-called „APM-Pool“, namely for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance and mine destruction techniques. The necessary amounts, types and estimated future requirements are reviewed on an annual basis.

Since 1999, the number of APM retained by Germany for permitted purposes has been substantially reduced by 805 in total. Those 805 APM have been used in Germany for non-operational purposes permitted by the Convention. The numbers used each year varied in the past, ranging from a minimum of 4 APM in 2005 to a maximum of 270 APM in the year 2000. The average number annually used for training, testing and research purposes is approximately 68 APM. Additionally, a small number of mines is being used for the training of mine detection dogs in accordance with NATO Standards. Since those mines will not be consumed during training, their numbers remain unchanged.

To be more specific, retained APMs are needed in particular for the following purposes:

- Development of safeguards of wheeled vehicles against the effects of mine explosions.
- Testing and evaluation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) against

the effect of mine explosions.

- Testing of detection technologies.
- Testing and evaluation of metal detectors and multi sensor systems.
- Testing and evaluation of mechanical demining equipment.
- Documentation of the ageing process of explosives contained in APM for the development of specific disposal / clearing methods.
- Training of dogs at the Federal Armed Forces School of Dog Handling.

These programmes will have to be continued, based on a regular review of realistic current and future needs. The retention of a limited number of APM's of various types remains therefore indispensable for Germany. It goes without saying that an effective and responsible handling of the German APM-Pool is ensured at any point in time.

Thank you.