



European Union

Statement by

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**Meetings of the Standing Committees
of the Convention on the Prohibition of Anti-Personnel Mines
(Geneva, 27-30 May 2013)**

Standing Committee on Mine Clearance

Geneva, 28 May 2013

- CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY -

28 May 2013

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I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The following countries align themselves with this declaration: Croatia*, Turkey§, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, Montenegro*, Iceland‡, Serbia*, Albania*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

The European Union remains deeply committed to supporting all kinds of demining activities and is determined to cooperate with States that need and request support in meeting their commitments under the Convention.

The European Union Council Decision of 13 November 2012 seeks to support States Parties in implementing their mine clearance commitments in such a way that they can ensure the expeditious identification of all mined areas under their jurisdiction or control, and provide for the clearance and release of these areas as soon as possible to enable individuals, communities and nations to benefit from land once considered dangerous.

Specifically with respect to mine clearance, the EU Council Decision provides resources to support up to five States Parties in carrying out a comprehensive mid-term appraisal of the implementation of the mine clearance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan, including through the organisation of national workshops.

In addition to supporting national stakeholders' workshops, the Council Decision provides resources for follow-up technical missions in response to recommendations contained in the mid-term appraisals.

So far, one EU supported comprehensive national mid-term appraisal has been carried out. On 26-27 March, Peru hosted a workshop in Lima which featured a joint appraisal of Peru and Ecuador's actions to fulfil the mine clearance aspects of the Cartagena Action Plan. The workshop successfully outlined current progress and the remaining challenges

* Accessing Country Croatia and the Candidate countries former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia as well as potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

§ Candidate Country

‡ Candidate Country Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and of the European Economic Area.

while critically examining areas for improvement. Overall, the EU-supported effort undertaken by Peru and Ecuador highlighted the two countries' model of bilateral cooperation, which they are calling "Walking Together."

In addition to the effort with respect to Peru and Ecuador, the EU supported the ISU to conduct – just last week – a preparatory mission to Colombia with a view to conducting a comprehensive national mid-term appraisal later in the year. Additionally, the ISU will carry out a preliminary mission to Tajikistan later this week and to the DRC later this year with a view to supporting comprehensive national mid-term appraisals

Beyond the above mentioned Council Decision projects, the EU through its other instruments, in addition to individual Member States' contributions, has also committed significant funds in 2012 to mine clearance projects in Afghanistan, Chad, Colombia, DRC, Laos, Libya, Myanmar, Niger, Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan and Sri Lanka.

Thank you