Statement of the Netherlands on the destruction of stockpiled APM

In 1996 the Netherlands had a stockpile of more than 250,000 anti-personnel mines.

By the end of 1998, the Netherlands had rapidly destroyed nearly all of these mines.

As we reported in detail in our Article 7 reports, we destroyed in the years 1996, 1997 and 1998 a stockpile of 45,026 mines of the type AP 23. In 1997 the Netherlands also destroyed the complete stockpile of 209,500 AP 22 mines.

Since then, a stockpile of only 272 Gators remained. As the Netherlands indicated in the article 7 reports, the aim was to destroy this last stockpile as soon as possible, but it took us some time to get this last remaining stockpile destroyed.

I am therefore happy to be able to announce today that the Netherlands has destroyed the last APM stockpile (of 272 Gators) in December last year.

Thank you.

For any further questions please contact Alexander Verbeek at ag.verbeek@minbuza.nl