

As you know in March 2004 Romania finished the stockpile destruction. Today presentation has the purpose to give you an overview on the destruction process, to make clear what we had to destroy and what has been done.

Romania had two institutions having antipersonnel landmines to be destroyed:

- Ministry of Interior had 27,445 APLs of three types that belonged to the border police units that came from the Ministry of Defense;
- Ministry of Defense that had 1,049,394 mines of five types in the initial stockpile to destroy.

So the total stockpile to be destroyed in 2001 when the treaty entered into force for Romania consisted of 1,076,839 mines of five types.

The destruction was approached differently in the two ministries. Ministry of Interior had a small stockpile consisting only of blast mines and decided to destroy the mines by open detonation. Ministry of Defense decided to have another approach. The mines were collected from all units in some destruction points where four types were dismantled, pieces destroyed and TNT burnt. For one type the destruction was done by open detonation only 10 at once.

The stockpile of the Ministry of Interior was destroyed fast in June – July 2001. Ministry of Defense started the destruction in August 2001 and completed it officially in March 2004.

At the beginning of the destruction process Romania decided to retain 4,000 mines for training and development. Ministry of Defense retained all these mines. In 2003 due to the reduction of the Romanian Military the was taken to reduce the amount of mines retained to 2,500.

In 2003 were donated 3,265 APLs to United States to a center for testing and development of detection and demining equipment.

So the amount of mines to be destroyed increased with 1500 pcs. due to the mines initially planned to be retained, and decreased with the 3,265 donated mines. So Romania destroyed 1,075,074 mines.

The legal framework consists of the Ratification Law which contains only the translation of the text of the Ottawa Convention and the Government Decision for the implementation which imposes the national interdictions and draws measures for the coordination of the implementation.

Art 280 of the Romanian Penal Code imposes penalties

Romania organized two ceremonies. First ceremony marked the beginning of the MoD stockpile destruction in August 2001 and the second one celebrated the completion of the destruction in March 2004.

Canada and Norway supported the destruction of the stockpile in Romania by a donation offered in 2003.