Annual Meeting of the Member State Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention,
Geneva (30 November – 4 December)

Stockpile destruction

Statement of the Republic of Bulgaria

Following the information we provided during the Ottawa Intersessional meeting in June
regarding the incident with the APLMs, transferred from Greece for destruction in a
Bulgarian private demilitarization factory, we would like to briefly update partners on the
latest developments. In the beginning of July a team of Greek experts visited the site and
discussed with the Bulgarian counterparts the modalities for the return of the remaining
APLMs to Greece. On our side we have undertaken all legal measures needed to export the
munitions to Greek territory. Security of the mines is continuously provided; they are kept in
sealed and secured warehouses of the factory.

We expect our constructive cooperation with the Greek side to continue and solve the issue
as soon as possible.

I would like to inform also, that in the context of our commitment to the spirit and the goals
of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions and
led by the understanding that the national legislation is an important element in this regard,
a Law on Implementation of these conventions was adopted by the Bulgarian Parliament last
week, upon initiative by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in cooperation with committed
parliamentarians.

The new legislation will strengthen the implementation of both International Treaties by
introducing, among others elements, specific procedures for assisting victims and their
families. It also envisages a strict interagency control on all activities concerning landmines
and cluster munitions permitted under the Conventions’ provisions with the important role
of the Bulgarian Armed Forces’ expertise.