

**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.