

Intervention ^{by} Denmark, 19 September 2006 at the 7th Meeting of the State Parties of the Ottawa Convention, Geneva

Madame

^{by} He. of Section Cape Neri

✓ President, ~~Secretary-General~~, distinguished delegates, Dear colleagues.

It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the Danish Government to give you a status on the Danish minefield on the peninsular with the name of Skallingen.

99% of the estimated 1.4 million landmines deployed during the Second World War in Denmark were removed. ^{Shortly after the war.} The balance left ^{was} ~~is~~ located on Skallingen, a peninsular in southwest Jutland on the North Sea coast.

~~According to information obtained from maps and other records, the mines left were laid in a random distribution and consisted of several types, including both anti-tank and anti personnel mines.~~

The mines remaining are located in dunes, beach, and marsh habitat.

Approximately 10 % of the total area of Skallingen is mine affected. The area is a very dynamic environment with fluctuations in ground levels over time due to the movement of the dunes. Furthermore, Skallingen is protected under several international directives and conventions, including the Ramsar

environmental convention.

Skallingen is not inhabited and the most common usage of the area is for grassing and tourism. No incidents associated with the mines on Skallingen have officially been recorded since 1946.

~~Danish Authorities have researched and monitored the mineaffected areas and the functionality of the mines.~~

During the summer of 2005, an eight kilometre long IMAS compliant fence was erected to replace and compliment an old fence and sign postings. A total of approximately 295 hectares is fenced off from the public. ~~This includes a buffer zone due to the inconsistency in the available mapping information.~~ Of the approximately 295 hectares, 90 hectares is beach, which is deemed to be mine polluted due to the eroding coastline.

^{partly}
The Danish Government concluded in November 2005 a political agreement regarding Skallingen with a view to the fiscal bill for 2006. The agreement

allocates a total of 86 million DKKR (approx. 13 million US Dollars) for the clearing of mines in the dune and beach areas on Skallingen.

The Danish Coastal Authority was given the task of clearing the landmines. A project organisation has been established, and it was decided to execute the de-mining through a competitive international tendering process. Extensive historic research, surveying, mapping, technology review, and test trials ^{highlight} ~~were~~ ^{were} conducted and formed the basis for the tendering process.

~~Already this is done~~

~~It was decided that~~ part of the area was to be released to the public ~~during~~ mid-2006 and three areas were identified as giving the biggest net value to the public upon release.

~~The time constraints imposed required an interactive approach to the planning. We are pleased to record that the cooperation between governmental agencies, local authorities, NGO's, and other stakeholders promoted this interactive approach and secured all required permits within time constraints.~~

The tendering process was web based and 18 companies from three continents applied for prequalification. Of these five companies or consortia were pre-qualified. They submitted their price and proposals in early May this year. Do note that it was a "turn key tender": The companies were to present

how they would conduct the clearance and this formed part of the contract award criteria. A British company was awarded the contract and started in early June, and the first area was released on July 1st. The total area to be cleared and released this year is approx. 18.5 hectares.

As of September 1st a larger number of stock mines and teller mines have been removed on the beach. But for 2 detonators, all of them have been rendered non-functional by the environment. ~~It is expected that a significant number of functional land mines will be found in the dunes where clearance is yet to commence.~~

Mine clearance in the adjoining sea is conducted by special units under the Danish Armed Forces who coordinates their effort with the Danish Coastal Authority.

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A new tender for mine clearance in 2007 ~~= 08~~ is under preparation and will be advertised ⁱⁿ January 2007. Work will commence in the spring of 2007. This tender will draw extensively on the experiences from this years' work.

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We have experienced that it is an intricate process to clear WWII mines under these circumstances and we look forward to continue to report on the progress ~~over time~~ and to continue to share the knowledge gained from

clearing these antique mine fields. Many international partners have already paid visits to Skallingen to learn ^{from} ~~about~~ our experience and to gain access to our data. We will continue to stand ready to share our experience to the benefit of our common mine clearance mission.

Madame Chair,

Thank you ~~mr. Chairman~~

Within the Ottawa
Community