9th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the
Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and transfer
of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction

Geneva, 24-28 November 2008

Mine Clearance
27 November 2008

Mr. President,

As it has been repeatedly stated by this delegation, on previous
occasions, Greece has maintained minefields, along the Evros river, in the
North-East part of the country, along the border with neighboring Turkey,
since 1974. A total of 24,751 antipersonnel mines were emplaced in the
above mentioned areas, of which 22,589 M16 type and 2,162 M2 type.

All minefields have been clearly defined and marked and have double-
fenced perimeters, well above the requirements of established NATO
standards.

Clearance of antipersonnel mines in the Evros minefields, started
immediately following the ratification of the MBT, and is carried out by the
Land Minefield Clearance Battalion (TENX), under the responsibility of the
Ministry of Defense.

According to official data provided for the purpose of this meeting by
the Ministry of Defense, as of 20 November 2008, Greece has completed de-
mining operations in 49 of the minefields in question, while operations
continue in the remaining 8.

Out of the total of 24,751 antipersonnel mines in the above mentioned
mined areas, 21,403, corresponding to 86.47%, have been cleared and
destroyed.

With an average cost of 800,000 EUROS per year, the total cost of the
operation so far has reached the sum of 3.5 million EUROS.

Given the progress achieved so far on clearance operations, in
compliance with the provisions of article 5 of the Convention, Greece will fulfill
its mine clearance obligations, by 2010, 4 years in advance of the deadline of
2014, established by the relevant provision of the Convention.

I thank you Mr. President