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

30 September 2010

Original: English

Tenth Meeting

Geneva, 29 November – 3 December 2010

Item 13 of the provisional agenda

Consideration of requests submitted under article 5

**Request for an extension of the deadline for completing
the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance
with Article 5 of the Convention
Executive Summary**

Submitted by Denmark

1. At the time of ratification of the Convention, the only mined areas in Denmark were those from the Second World War situated at the Skallingen peninsula on the Danish west coast. These have had little impact on the local community and there have been no victims since 1946. With the ratification of the Convention, Denmark committed itself under article 5 of the Convention to release these areas by 1 March 2009.

2. At ratification, the total mined area in Denmark measured approximately 300 hectares (3 square kilometres). The threat from the mines was unknown. As the mined areas were defined in old minefield records, the first step was to make these records fit with the modern map and to define the exact boundary between areas which were cleared and released in 1945-1957 and the area which was not released. This resulted in the suspect area being reduced to 186 hectares.

3. Also at ratification, Denmark did not have a structure suited for dealing with large scale mine clearance. The Danish Coastal Authority under the Danish Ministry of Transport owns the mined area and was appointed to establish an organisation to plan and manage the clearance of the area. When mine clearance was initiated in 2005, the affected 186 hectares was divided in three sub areas. Area 1 was dealt with in 2006 by the British contractor ELS, releasing 19 hectares of beach and dunes. Area 2 was dealt with by the Danish consortium Minegruppen from May 2007 to April 2008, releasing another 47 hectares of beach and dunes.

4. At the Ninth Meeting of the States Parties in 2008, Denmark requested and was granted a 22 month extension of its article 5 deadline until 1 January 2011. During this extension period, Denmark committed to complete technical survey, carry out an environmental impact assessment and public consultations, proceed with the tendering process in order to undertake all necessary survey and other preparations and develop a release plan for the last mine affected area in Denmark.

5. The original request indicated the following as circumstances that impeded implementation in a ten year period following entry into force: (a) Skallingen is protected by international directives and Conventions due to its environmental value and any activity which may disturb or deteriorate its high natural qualities, including demining, must proceed in accordance with these regulations; and, (b) Existing information with respect to Area 3 was insufficient to confirm the extent to which the area contains mines, particularly given that mines were laid in random distribution, that the environment – consisting of dunes, beach and marsh habitat – is very dynamic, and, that ground levels fluctuate, shifting the location and depths of mines. Moreover, the condition of the mines was also unknown.

6. The decision on timing and methods for the last approximately 120 hectares awaited the technical experience obtained in the two first clearance areas as well as a technical survey of the remaining area. The technical survey was conducted in 2008-2009 and resulted in a threat assessment for the remaining area based on which clearance criteria could be established.

7. Areas 1 and 2 have both been cleared using a combination of sifting of large volumes of sand and datalogging metal detection followed by point target excavation of targets identified in the datalog. The process has been monitored by external quality assurance contractors and sample quality control has been conducted in completed areas. The project was funded by the Danish Government which has also provided the funds for the remaining clearance.

8. The remaining mined area is 121.2 hectares. Denmark requests an extension of 18 months until July 2012 to address this remaining area. For technical reasons the area is considered to consist of five different terrain types, each of which provides different conditions for the mines:

- (a) 9.2 hectares of dune or dyke.
- (b) 6.6 hectares of marshland covered with dunes.
- (c) 68.3 hectares of frequently flooded low marshland.
- (d) 29.1 hectares of high marshland.
- (e) 8.0 hectares of beach.

9. The mine threat is different for each of these terrain types and so the clearance criteria and planned clearance methods are different as well.

<i>Area category</i>	<i>Clearance Criteria</i>	<i>Clearance Method</i>
Dike/Dune	Items: All explosive items which are larger or the same size as a detonator mounted on a ZZ-42 fuse Depth: 0-200 cm below surface	Sifting
Marshland covered with dune	Items: All explosive items which are larger or the same size as a detonator mounted on a ZZ-42 fuse. Depth: Danger layer of 90 cm above the estimated 1944 surface to 80 cm under the estimated 1944 surface	Sifting
Low marsh	Items: Teller mines Depth: 0-50 cm	Metal detection with geo-mapping and data-logging

<i>Area category</i>	<i>Clearance Criteria</i>	<i>Clearance Method</i>
High marsh	Items: All mines, UXO and parts of mines and UXO containing metal (all metal indications must be investigated and removed for QC reason) Depth: 0-20 cm	Metal detection
Beach	Items: Teller mines Depth: 0-130 cm	Metal detection with geo-mapping and data logging

10. The key milestones toward the release of the remaining area in July 2012 are listed below. If the mine clearance is completed before the deadline of December 2011, the area will be released earlier than July 2012.

<i>Period</i>	<i>Process</i>
August 2008 to December 2009	Technical survey of the area Environmental impact assessment. Analysis of recovered mines from the technical survey. Studies of terrain and surface changes between 1944 and 2009.
January 2010 to May 2010	Tender process
May 2010 to July 2010	Mobilisation of operational setup
July 2010 to December 2011	The clearance conditions give the contractor until the end of 2011 to complete the clearance plus additional time for weather down days. Scheduled activities in 2010: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surface proving (clearance of surface-near AT-mines) of areas which needs vehicle access. • Sifting of dikes and dunes. • Clearance of beach. • Clearance of low marshland. Scheduled activities in 2011: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sifting of dikes and dunes. • Clearance of low marshland. • Clearance of high marshland.
January 2012 to June 2012	Quality control and buffer time to absorb delays, weather down days etc.
July 2012	Final release of Area 3 at Skallingen