

**CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND
TRANSFER OF ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

Reporting Formats for Article 7 ¹

STATE PARTY:	BELGIUM
DATE OF SUBMISSION	30/04/2023
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Form D APMs retained or transferred (As adopted at the final plenary meeting on 02 December 2005)

¹ These reporting formats informally provided by Austria on disk are based on document APLC/MSP.1/1999/L.4 of 31 March 1999, as amended and decided upon by the First 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, held in Maputo from 3 to 7 May 1999. Tables of formats may be expanded as desired.

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

d) The types, quantities and, if possible, lot numbers of all anti-personnel mines retained or transferred for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques, or transferred for the purpose of destruction, as well as the institutions authorized by a State Party to retain or transfer anti-personnel mines, in accordance with Article 3"

State [Party]: **BELGIUM** reporting for time period from **01 January 2022** to **31 December 2022**

1. a. **Compulsory** Retained for development of and training in (Article 3, para.1)

Institution authorized by State Party	Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
ARMED FORCES	Mine APers M35 Bg	3.041 EA		As of 31 December 2011
	Mine APers M35 Bg	2.569 EA		As of 31 December 2012
	Mine APers M35 Bg	2.564 EA		As of 31 December 2013
	Mine APers M35 Bg	2.564 EA	0023PRB61 (XBBG)	As of 31 December 2014
	Mine APers M35 Bg	2.288EA		As of 31 December 2015
	Mine APers M35 Bg	2.288 EA		As of 31 December 2016
	Mine APers M35 Bg	2.118 EA		As of 31 December 2017
	Mine APers M35 Bg	2.066 EA		As of 31 December 2018
	Mine APers M35 Bg	2.044 EA		As of 31 December 2019
	Mine APers M35 Bg	2.021 EA	0023PRB61 (XBBG)	As of 31 December 2020

	Mine APers M35 Bg	967 EA	0023PRB61 (XBBG)	As of 31 December 2021. 31 EA were consumed. 1023 EA were defused.
	Mine APers M35 Bg	958 EA	0023PRB61 (XBBG)	As of 31 December 2022 9 EA were destroyed by DOVO. (Lot: 0023PRB61) 1.183 EA were irreversibly defused.
Total	Mine APers M35 Bg	958 EA		

Objective	Activity/project	Supplementary information
Education and training of EOD specialists and deminers with live ammunition Training militaries in "Mine Risk Education"	The use of M35Bg mines takes place during different sessions of courses organized by the Belgian Armed Forces.	priority for EOD community due to operational engagements.

1. b. Voluntary information:

Form D (continued)

2. **Compulsory** Transferred for development of and training in (Article 3, para.1)

Institution authorized by State Party	Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information: e.g. transferred from, transferred to
NA				

3. **Compulsory** Transferred for the purpose of destruction (Article 3, para.2)

Institution authorized by State Party	Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information: e.g. transferred from, transferred to
NA				

Form J: Other relevant matters

Remark: States Parties may use this form to report voluntarily on other relevant matters, including matters pertaining to compliance and implementation not covered by the formal reporting requirements contained in Article 7. States Parties are encouraged to use this form to report on activities undertaken with respect to Article 6, and in particular to report on assistance provided for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victims.

State Party: **BELGIUM** reporting for time period from **01 January 2022** to **31 December 2022**

Narrative / reference to other reports

1. At this stage, no live mines (from the stock retained under Article 3) were used for research and development studies. Some of the Belgian studies are using data collected from live minefields abroad.

2. Belgian contribution to international assistance in 2022

Country	Organisation	Action	Project	Amount disbursed in 2020
Iraq and Syria	UNMAS	Humanitarian mine action, including survey, clearance, risk education and victim assistance	Contributions to Iraq (1.000.000 €) and Syria (1.000.000 €) mine action programs	2.000.000 €
Angola and Cambodia	APOPO	Land release, incl. use of mine detection rats	A mine impact free Preah Vihear Province (Cambodia) and a mine free Cuanza Sul Province (Angola)	633.000 €
Syria	MAG	Humanitarian mine action	Humanitarian Mine Action in support of IDPs and returning communities in areas of Raqqa, north-east Syria previously occupied by ISIS	250.000 €

Total amount directly disbursed for humanitarian mine action in 2022: 2.883.000 EUR

Belgium contributes to the equipment of the Group of Five Sahel Joint Force (FC-G5S) in C-IED material with 1.000.000 € (period 2018-2022).

From 01 May 2022 until 30 April 2024, BEL provides a pool of five EOD Operators in support of UNMAS. Through NATO DCB, Belgium contributes to the UNMAS TMAT (threat mitigation advisory team) EOD and C-IED.

The EOD operators provide ad-hoc support to the UNMAS, with train-the-trainer and mentoring missions. Belgium is the only troop contributing nation.

Belgium also contributed in 2022 to several humanitarian pooled funds out of which *inter alia* humanitarian mine action activities were financed: Central Emergency and Response Fund, Ukraine Humanitarian Fund, Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund, Yemen Humanitarian Fund, Nigeria Humanitarian Fund (total Belgian contribution for 2022 to these specific funds was 46 million €).

3. Other assistance provided by Belgium in 2022

NA

4. Research and Development:

Research and development activities are conducted both at the national and international level. A national example is the PARADIS project (a Prototype for Assisting Rational Activities in Humanitarian De-mining Using Images from Satellites) led by the Royal Military Academy (RMA) with the participation of the Department of Geography (IGEAT) of the Free University of Brussels (ULB). Its results are still used by different actors.

The NGO APOPO (<http://www.apopo.org/>), in collaboration with the University of Antwerp and funded inter alia by the Belgian Government, started a research project in 1997 on the use of rats for scent detection of mines. The African giant pouch rat (*cricetomys gambianus*) was selected for this task and successfully trained. In 2004 the first group of mine detection rats passed the licensing tests according to the international mine action standards (IMAS). APOPO became an international NGO active in humanitarian demining and is still employing rats for survey of contaminated areas.

From 2012 to 2015 the Royal Military Academy coordinated TIRAMISU, an international project to develop a comprehensive modular toolbox for the main humanitarian mine action activities, from survey up to the disposal of explosive hazards. TIRAMISU offers a comprehensive, integrated and modular solution for tackling large contaminated areas. The main financial contribution to the project was provided by the European Framework Program 7 - Security. The results of the project continue to be exploited by the International CBRNE Institute established in Les Bons Villers, Belgium.

Starting from October 2021 and lasting until September 2023, the Belgian company Space Applications Services N.V. and the Belgian Royal Military Academy are leading a research project, called AIDED, on the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for the detection of explosive devices. AIDED will use a set of state of the art Artificial Intelligence algorithms able to identify unconventional (IEDs) and conventional (buried mines) explosive devices, and autonomously plan offline and run-time missions plans. It will also provide positioning, navigation and mapping to control a fleet of robots that cooperate quickly to identify a safe passage in a high-risk area. The AIDED project is financed by the European Commission and managed by the European Defence Agency in the framework of the Preparatory Action on Defence Research.
