

**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	30/04/2024
POINT OF CONTACT	M5 - Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Division of the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Co-operation Tel. +32.2.501.31.74 e-mail : ArmscontrolM5@diplobel.fed.be

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 2023** to **31 December 2023**

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	816	0023PRB61	29 BN LOG - 260 CIE MUN
	Mine APers M35 Bg	13	0023PRB61	29 BN LOG - 260 CIE MUN
	Mine APers M35 Bg	4	0023PRB61	DOVO - RMD MEERDAAL
	Mine APers M35 Bg	43	0023PRB61	29 BN LOG -260 - RDM LEOPOLDSBURG
	Mine APers M35 Bg	58	0023PRB61/PRIO	29 BN LOG - 260 CIE MUN
Total	Mine APers M35 Bg	934		

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 2023** to **31 December 2023**

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 2023

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 (750.000 €) and Syria (750.000 €) mine action programs	1.500.000 €
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)	643.963€
Angola	NPA	Humanitarian mine action	Humanitarian Mine Action intervention in Bengo province in Angola	344.444 €
Ukraine	OSCE	Humanitarian mine action	support to enhance the effectiveness of national authorities in conducting environmental rehabilitation with focus on humanitarian mine action	250.000 €

Total amount directly disbursed for humanitarian mine action in 2023: 2.738.407 EUR

From 01 May 2022 until 30 April 2024, Belgium 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.

Belgian Defence donated and provided training and EOD equipment for Ukraine (State Emergency Services and National Police) with a total value of 2,6 million euro. This included 4 Water Abrasive Cutting Systems and 3 vehicles with CMD intervention kits and EOD suits.

Belgium also contributed in 2023 to several humanitarian pooled funds out of which i.e. humanitarian mine action activities were financed: Central Emergency and Response Fund, Ukraine Humanitarian Fund, Yemen Humanitarian Fund, Syria Cross-border Humanitarian Fund, Palestine Humanitarian Fund (total Belgian contribution for 2023 to these specific funds was 39 million €).

3. Other assistance provided by Belgium in 2023

Belgium has regularly organised EOD courses in French and English to train team leaders of other countries. Currently, these courses are organised on an ad hoc basis.

On November 30th, 2023 the Belgian Embassy in Bogota co-organized already for the 7th year in a row the ‘Premio CaMINA’ event together with the Embassy of Canada, Gran Tierra Energy (Canadian enterprise) and "Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas" (CCCM, local NGO part of the ICBL network). This to draw public attention to the work of associations of victims in the fight against antipersonnel mines.

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.
