



**MISSION PERMANENTE
DE LA REPUBLIQUE DU
BELARUS AUPRES DE
L'OFFICE DES NATIONS UNIES
ET DES AUTRES
ORGANISATIONS
INTERNATIONALES A GENEVE**

Nº 08-03/4300

29 December 2014

Excellency,

Referring to the provisions of paragraph 5 of the Maputo Action Plan adopted during the Third Review Conference 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 (APMC) held in Maputo, Mozambique on 23-27 June 2014 I have the honour to forward to you the following information.

“After the dissolution of the Soviet Union the Republic of Belarus became a possessor of nearly 3,3 million anti-personnel mines (APMs) of PFM type.

The destruction of APMs of PFM type is considered as a unique problem within the APMC. Technical complexity, associated with the destruction of PFM was not foreseen during drafting of the APMC and no provisions to extend Article 4 obligation of the Convention were envisaged.

From a technical point of view the PFM-1 mines are cluster munitions designed to be disbursed by different types of delivery systems, including rockets and cluster bombs.

H.E. Mr. Pedro Comissario,
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Mozambique
President of the Third Review Conference
of the States Parties to the APMC

Geneva

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The PFM-1 mines contain dangerous liquid explosives. Destruction of these mines by a method of the open detonation creates harmful consequences for the population and environment. Today the international community has a very limited experience in destruction of huge numbers of mines of the given type with the use of ecologically friendly technologies. Such an understanding was reflected in many documents adopted by the meetings of the States Parties to the APMC.

As it was repeatedly indicated in many occasions, the Republic of Belarus has no possibilities to accomplish the destruction of the stockpiled PFM mines without the assistance of the international community.

The Belarusian side expresses its gratitude to the European Union for its efforts to assist Belarus in destroying the PFMs stockpiles.

This assistance program is based on the following documents:

Financing agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the European Commission on implementation of the project "Destruction of PFM-1 series ammunition in Belarus", dated 22 January 2008, and

Arrangement in the form of Exchange of Letters between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the European Commission on the European Commission project "Destruction of PFM-1 series ammunition in Belarus", dated 14 September 2009.

Upon results of tender held in 2010 the company Explosivos Alaveses SA (EXPAL) of Spain was selected as a contractor for implementation of the above-mentioned project. In December 2010 the European Union signed the contract with EXPAL.

In 2011-2014 EXPAL as a contractor of the EU funded project conducted its activities to construct the Destruction Facility in Belarus. The Belarusian side always provided necessary administrative and technical support to EXPAL to perform this task.

On 26 March 2014 the Spanish company conducted first practical destruction of limited number of PFM-1 mines within the project.

As of 24 December 2014, EXPAL destroyed 487 944 PFM-1 mines in total. According to estimation of EXPAL, all mines, apart from those considered being in an unsafe condition, will be destroyed by 1 November 2016 (the expected schedule for destruction of PFM-1 in Belarus received from EXPAL is annexed).

The Republic of Belarus remains committed to its obligations under the APMC and pursuing all possible means to ensure its compliance with Article 4 as soon as possible. However it has been repeatedly stated that accomplishment of this task requires the further international assistance including financial support of the joint Belarus-EU project by the European Union as well as timely implementation of working plans by EXPAL.

Belarus is ready to make every effort for successful realization of the joint Belarus-EU project which will allow the Belarusian side to carry out its obligations under Article 4 of the APMC.

The Belarusian side will inform the States Parties to the APMC on any new developments according to mechanisms established by the Convention.”

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Enclosure: 1



Mikhail Khvostov
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Expected schedule for destruction Contract No 2010/254-582

03/11/2014

Types of ammunition units	Number of mines per unit	Units		Expected Number of mines for destruction		Number of mines rejected to date		Expected deadline for destruction
		Number	%	PFM-1	PFM-1S	PFM-1	PFM-1S	
KSF-1 Canister	Total 72 mines (in 4 clusters)	24,564	61.4	1,768,608	-	3,816		sep-15
KSF-1S Canister	Total 64 mines (in 4 clusters)	11,3	28.3	-	723,2		-	feb-16
BKF-PFM-1S Canister	Total 156 mines (in 6 clusters)	2,651	6.6	-	413,556		-	may/jun-16
9M27K3 Rocket warhead	Total 312 mines (in 12 clusters)	1,478	3.7	-	461,136		-	oct-16
Total		39,993		3,366,500		3,816		