

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

Submitted by Cyprus

To: H.E. Remigiusz A. Henczel
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Poland
Chair of the AP Mine Ban Convention Committee on Article 5 Implementation
c/o Implementation Support Unit
Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2c
1211 Geneva

27 March 2015

Excellency, dear Colleague,

I have the honour to address this letter to you in your capacity as Chair of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention's Committee on Article 5 Implementation, in order to formally submit – in accordance with the relevant provisions of Article 5.3 – a request on behalf of the Republic of Cyprus for a further 3-year extension, until 1 July 2019, of the deadline to fulfil its obligation under Article 5.1 to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control.

As I am sure you are aware, the circumstances that made necessary the initial request for an extension – namely, the fact that certain parts of Cyprus's sovereign territory are occupied by the Turkish Armed Forces and therefore de facto outside the control of the Government – remain unfortunately unchanged to date.

As these occupied areas have been, since the time when the initial request for an extension was submitted, the only ones in the jurisdiction of Cyprus that remain emplaced with anti-personnel mines, I would kindly refer you to all relevant documentation appended to the initial request for an extension of the deadline with regard to the requirements of Article 5.4, as information contained therein remains valid in its entirety. This initial request, which was submitted in April 2012, is available to all delegations on the Convention's website.

I thank you in advance and I take this opportunity to convey to you, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Andreas Ignatiou
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus