



*Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus
Geneva*

Ref.: 24.11.011.063 (625/98)

Geneva 11 August 2021

Dear Madam Chair,

I have the honour to refer to your letter dated 25 June 2021, by which you convey a request of the Committee on Article 5 Implementation to provide additional information about Cyprus' request to extend until 1 July 2025 the deadline for completing the obligations emanating from Article 5. Further to this, allow me to point out the following:

With regards to the question 1(a), please be informed that in 2019, eighteen (18) suspected hazardous areas were checked and declared mine-free. These areas were defined as potentially hazardous on the basis of information of the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus, whereby non-anti-personnel mines had been laid in these areas. The successful inspection of these eighteen suspected areas was achieved following a 2019 agreement between the President of the Republic of Cyprus and the leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, in the context of the confidence-building measures. Of those 18 suspected hazardous areas, nine were in the areas under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, whereas the other nine were in the occupied areas of the Republic of Cyprus. Following the work that the United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus and the United Mine Action Service have undertaken the areas were checked and declared mine-free.

Regarding question 1(b), I would like to underline that the Government of the Republic of Cyprus remains committed in constructively cooperating with the aim to remove all mines from the territory of Cyprus. As regards specifically anti-personnel mines, it should be noted that since there are no anti-personnel minefields laid by the Authorities of the Republic of Cyprus within the buffer zone, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus has not been requested to allow access in that respect.

Lastly, in relation to question 2, it is currently not possible for the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, under the existing circumstances in Cyprus imposed by the continuous occupation by the Turkish Armed Forces of areas in which anti-personnel mines are known to

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be emplaced or in which mines are suspected to be emplaced, to develop and implement actions relating to carrying out detailed, costed and multi-year plans for mine risk education and reduction in affected communities. Such plans can be developed and implemented by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus once it retains the control over the areas mentioned above.

I remain at your disposal for any further clarifications.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of stylized initials and a long horizontal stroke.

Christos Makriyiannis
Chargé d' Affaires, a.i.