

Hellenic Republic
21th Meeting of the States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty
Geneva, 20-24 November 2023
Statement on Stockpile Destruction

Mr. President, Dear colleagues,

At the outset, we would like to express our heartfelt congratulations to Ambassador Thomas Göbel and his team, as well as to the Implementation Support Unit, for their tireless efforts to organize the 21st meeting of the States Parties. We would like to assure you that our delegation fully supports your endeavors.

In light of this, we wish to provide a brief update on our efforts to destroy the remaining stockpile of APLMs, since the intersessional meetings held last June.

On July 11, 2023, 8.445 APLMs were safely transferred to Demil-Tech company's facilities in Croatia for destruction.

On October 3, 2023, the Demil Tech Company issued the relevant destruction protocol for these mines. However, it is important to note that this protocol does not fully align with Demil-Tech's contractual obligations towards the Hellenic Defence Systems Company (HDS), as it lacks the required countersignature of the Croatian authorities.

In this context, the competent departments of both the Hellenic Ministry of National Defence and the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs have, in accordance with the spirit of cooperation outlined and promoted by the Ottawa Convention, initiated communication with the relevant Croatian authorities to facilitate the fulfillment of the aforementioned contractual obligation.

At this point, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to Croatia for their positive stance in addressing this issue and for the exceptional level of cooperation thus far.

Last but not least, we would like to reiterate that Greece fully recognizes its obligations under the Ottawa Convention, and despite challenges, we remain committed to our shared goal of a world free of Anti-Personnel Landmines.

Thank you for your attention.