

HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Intersessional Meetings of the States Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty
Geneva, 19-21 June 2023
Statement on Stockpile Destruction

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 in organizing these important meetings to share information on the progress made and the remaining challenges in preparation of the 21MSP

Your unwavering dedication guarantees concrete outcomes and we want to assure you that our delegation fully supports your endeavors.

Mr President, Dear Colleagues,

Greece has undertaken all possible efforts to fulfill its contractual obligations under the Ottawa Treaty and thus ensured the destruction of its Anti-Personnel Landmines (APLMs) stockpile through a contractual agreement with the Hellenic Defence Systems (HDS) company.

In light of this, we would like to provide an update on our continued efforts to destroy the remaining stockpile of APLMs since the 20th States Parties meeting.

Mr President, Dear Colleagues,

On November 28, 2022, the 5th amendment to the contract between HDS and the competent Department of the Hellenic Army General Staff for the destruction of the APLMS stockpile was signed. The said amendment foresees the transportation and destruction of the remaining quantity of APLMs at the installations of Demil-Tech company in Croatia within a period of 18 months, notwithstanding of course any future unforeseen circumstances beyond our control.

Furthermore, on March 16, 2023 the competent Croatian authorities issued the necessary documents for the import of the APLMs into the Croatian territory.

Following that, on May 3, 2023, the relevant department of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs granted the HDS the required export license for the transportation of the APLMs from Greece.

The HDS company is currently preparing to transport the first cargo of APLMS to the installations of the Demil Tech company in Croatia. The transportation of the mines is scheduled to take place in the upcoming days and HDS is making all the necessary arrangements to ensure a smooth, safe and timely delivery that will put the destruction process back on track.

At this point, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the Croatian authorities for their exceptional level of cooperation during this process.

Mr President, Dear Colleagues

Since becoming a party to the Ottawa Convention, the Hellenic Republic has spared no effort in meeting all its contractual obligations. Regarding our commitment arising from Article 4 of the Convention, we have consistently addressed the complications that have arisen with utmost transparency and sincerity. These challenges should not be construed as an intentional failure or a lack of willingness to comply with the Convention's obligations, but rather as obstacles resulting from circumstances beyond our control.

Last but not least, we would like to reiterate that the Hellenic Republic fully recognizes its obligations stemming from the Ottawa Convention and remains committed to our shared goal of a world free of Anti-Personnel Landmines.

Thank you