



Hellenic Republic
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2nd Review Conference to the Mine Ban Treaty

Statement on Mine Clearance
Cartagena de Indias – Colombia
30/11-4/12/2009

H.E. Ambassador Emmanuel Papadoyorgakis
Head of Delegation

1. Greece ratified the Convention on 25 September 2003. The Convention entered into force for Greece on 1 March 2004. In its initial transparency report submitted on 31 April 2005, Greece reported that there were areas in the country that contained anti-personnel mines. In doing so, Greece acknowledged that it had an obligation under Article 5 of the Convention to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control as soon as possible and no later than 1 March 2014.
2. In reporting on all mined areas under its jurisdiction or control containing or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines, Greece informed the States Parties that, in 1974, anti-personnel mines were emplaced in 57 mined areas in the northeast part of the country, on the Evros River, along Greece's border with Turkey, containing a total of 24,751 antipersonnel mines of which 22,589 were M16 type and 2,162 were M2 type. **The 57 mined areas covered a total area of 1.928.806 square meters.** All mined areas were clearly defined and marked, well above established standards, in accordance with Article 5, paragraph 2 of the Convention. **The cost of the demining process which begun immediately after entry into force amounted to 7.560.203 euros.**
3. Clearance of anti-personnel mines in these mined areas was carried out by the Land Minefield Clearance Battalion (TENEX), under the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence. Involved in the demining and destruction process were 143 experts who unearthed the APLMs, defused them and turned them over to the bomb squad for destruction in specially designated areas.
4. As a result of efforts undertaken since Greece submitted its initial transparency report, Greece declares that it has fulfilled its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention by having determined that there are no longer areas under the jurisdiction or control of Greece in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced. Upon declaring completion, 57 mined areas with a total area of 1.928.806 square meters in which anti-personnel mines were known to be emplaced has been released through survey and clearance.
5. In the event that previously unknown mined areas are discovered after this date, Greece will:
 - i. report such mined areas in accordance with its obligations under Article 7 and share such information through any other informal means such as the Intercessional Work Programme;
 - ii. ensure the effective exclusion of civilians in accordance with Article 5 and;
 - iii. destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in these mined areas as a matter of urgent priority, making its need for assistance known to other States Parties, as appropriate.
8. Greece is proud of the fact that it has indeed complied with Article 5, paragraph 1, "as soon as possible", having destroyed all emplaced anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control **more than four years prior to its deadline to do so.**

1/12/2009