



**Embassy of Estonia
Washington, DC**

February 23, 2009
No 1-9/39

Office of Mr. Stephen D. Goose
Executive Director
Human Rights Watch
1630 Connecticut Ave., NW, #500
Washington, DC 20009

Please find enclosed a letter from Mr. Urmas Paet, The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Riina Mettas'.

Riina Mettas
Assistant to the Ambassador
Embassy of Estonia



Välisminister
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Estonia

Stephen D. Goose
Executive Director
Human Rights Watch
1630 Connecticut Ave NW #500
Washington DC 20009, USA

12 February 2009, No.03.3-1/2157

Dear Mr Goose

Thank you for your letter dated on 30 of January, 2009, where you request information concerning Estonia's policy and practice regarding cluster munitions.

Estonia is greatly concerned by the humanitarian impact of cluster munitions to civilian population around the world and we welcome the efforts of international community to curb the production, sale and usage of cluster munitions that are unreliable or without any self-destruction mechanism.

In terms of the international cooperation in achieving the above mentioned goal, our priority has always been the negotiations in the CCW framework as they include all major cluster munitions producers and owners and concentrate to the limitation process. Estonia regrets that it was not possible to achieve consensus on the draft protocol in the CCW framework in 2008. We continue to support the CCW negotiations and will participate fully in the 2009 GGE meeting sessions. We also call on all High Contracting Parties of CCW to negotiate in good spirit, remain constructive and work to achieve consensus in the future CCW negotiations. We believe that a future CCW protocol on cluster munitions and CCM could co-exist side by side similarly to the Amended Protocol II of CCW and the Ottawa Convention on land mines.



Estonian Defence Forces possess a small amount of cluster munitions (type DM-632) which can be used on howitzers for training and defensive purposes. However, Estonia has never produced or used cluster munitions.

We hope that the forthcoming two weeks of the GGE meeting sessions in February and April will be productive and lead to a common understanding on a new draft protocol of the CCW creating universally accepted norms vis-à-vis cluster munitions.

Sincerely,

Urmas Paet

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Urmas Paet', written over the printed name.