



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

Your letter

Reference

Contact
spge

Vaduz
10 February 2009

Dear Mr. Goose,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 30 January 2009 addressed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Principality of Liechtenstein, Ms. Rita Kieber-Beck. On behalf of Ms. Kieber-Beck I am glad to provide you with the following information:

Liechtenstein shares your appreciation of the importance of the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions and has expressed its commitment to prohibit the use, development, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions by its signature of the treaty on 4 December 2008.

I can inform you that Liechtenstein does not maintain armed forces and does not stockpile any kind of cluster munitions and has never stockpiled any kind of cluster munitions in the past. Liechtenstein has never used, developed, produced or transferred any kind of cluster munitions.

In 1923, Liechtenstein and Switzerland concluded a Customs Union Treaty under which Liechtenstein became part of the Swiss Customs Territory. Due to the Customs Union Treaty, the import and export of goods is governed by Swiss legislation in Liechtenstein. With regard to the legal implementation of the 2008 Convention on Cluster Munitions by Liechtenstein and Switzerland an amendment of the Swiss Federal Act on War Material (Schweizerisches Kriegsmaterialgesetz), which is to a large extent applicable to Liechtenstein, will be necessary.

As to the ratification of international conventions that are not of self-executing character the Liechtenstein practice first wants the internal legislation to be adopted before these conventions are ratified. This practice has been established for the purposes of legal

security. Therefore, Liechtenstein will have to wait for the Swiss legal implementation and ratification of the 2008 Convention of Cluster Munitions before ratifying the Convention.

I hope the foregoing information is useful for your report on state policy and practice regarding cluster munitions. I remain at your disposition in case you have further questions.

Yours faithfully

Ch. Stehrenberger

Christine Stehrenberger
Deputy Director