

Landmines and Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council Member States

Prepared for the Ad Hoc Working Group on SALW and Mine Action

Mine Ban Treaty Status

States Parties

Albania	Estonia	Luxembourg	Slovakia
Austria	France	FYR Macedonia	Slovenia
Belarus	Germany	Malta	Spain
Belgium	Greece	Moldova	Sweden
Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)	Hungary	Montenegro	Switzerland
Bulgaria	Iceland	Netherlands	Tajikistan
Canada	Ireland	Norway	Turkey
Croatia	Italy	Portugal	Turkmenistan*
Czech Republic	Latvia	Romania	United Kingdom*
Denmark	Lithuania	Serbia	Ukraine

Signatories

Poland

States Not Party

Armenia	Georgia*	United States (US)
Azerbaijan*	Kazakhstan*	Uzbekistan
Finland	Russia	

* These countries have not joined Amended Protocol II of the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW), which regulates the use of mines.

Contamination

More than 70 countries have a mine problem, of which 20 are Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) member states: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, BiH, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Georgia, Greece, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, UK (Falkland Islands/Malvinas), and Uzbekistan.

Clearance

Under Article 5 of the Mine Ban Treaty, States Parties must clear all known mined areas under their jurisdiction or control within 10 years of the treaty entering into force for that state.

Three EAPC member states, Bulgaria, France (Djibouti) and FYR Macedonia, have met their mine clearance obligations under Article 5. Albania plans to complete clearance by the end of 2009, ahead of its August 2010 clearance deadline.

Eighteen States Parties have declared they are not able to meet their deadlines and requested an extension to complete clearance, including 15 countries with deadlines in 2009 and three countries with deadlines in 2010.

Four EAPC member countries with 2009 clearance deadlines requested and were granted extensions to complete mine clearance:

Country	Length of Extension (years)	Revised Clearance Deadline
BiH	10	1 March 2019
Croatia	10	1 March 2019
Denmark	1.8	1 January 2011
UK	10	1 March 2019

Tajikistan, whose clearance deadline is in 2010, has requested an extension of nine years and nine months. States Parties will take a decision on Tajikistan's request at the Second Review Conference of the Mine Ban Treaty in November/December 2009.

Casualties

In 2007, 5,426 casualties caused by mines, explosive remnants of war (ERW), and victim-activated improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were recorded in 78 countries and areas, including 17 EAPC member states.¹ A total of 1,401 people were killed, 3,939 injured, and the status of the remaining 86 is unknown.

Risk Education

In 2007, risk education was deemed adequate in 23 countries (including four EAPC member states) and inadequate in 38 countries (including seven EAPC member states).

	Adequate Risk Education Coverage	Inadequate Risk Education Coverage
States Parties	Croatia, FYR Macedonia	Albania, Belarus, BiH, Tajikistan, Ukraine
States Not Party	Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan	Armenia, Russia

“Adequate” coverage means that a program was capable of providing appropriate risk education for at-risk groups and was able to respond to emerging situations. “Inadequate” means that appropriate risk education was not delivered on a scale to match the threat or geographical coverage necessary.

Use of Antipersonnel Mines

In 2007 and 2008 only two governments continued to use antipersonnel mines, Myanmar (Burma) and Russia.

In June 2006, Russian officials confirmed to Landmine Monitor that Russian forces continued to use antipersonnel mines in Chechnya, both newly emplaced mines and existing defensive minefields. In discussions with Landmine Monitor since 2006, Russian officials have not stated that use of antipersonnel mines has stopped. Landmine Monitor will continue to cite Russia as an ongoing and active user of antipersonnel mines until an official denial is made and confirmed by the facts on the ground.

¹ Casualties were recorded in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, BiH, Croatia, France, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Ukraine, and the US.

There were allegations of use of antipersonnel mines by both Georgia and Russia during the fighting in August 2008, but each side denied it, and Landmine Monitor found no evidence of mine use.

Production

More than 50 states are known to have produced antipersonnel mines and 38 have ceased production, including 24 EAPC member states.² Two EAPC member countries, Russia and the US, continue to be listed as producing antipersonnel mines.

In May 2008, the Vice Chief of Staff of the US Army stated that the XM-7 Spider Networked Munition would be procured in a configuration that only allowed command detonation. Previously, the Spider system contained a feature that would permit it to function in a victim-activated mode, making it incompatible with the Mine Ban Treaty. This would have constituted the first production of antipersonnel mines by the US since 1997. However, research and development continues on the Intelligent Munitions System which contains a victim-activated capability. Legislation has been introduced in the Congress that would block production of the systems.

Stockpile Destruction

Article 4 of the Mine Ban Treaty obliges all States Parties to destroy their stockpiles of antipersonnel mines no later than four years after entry-into-force of the treaty for that state. Eighty-five Mine Ban Treaty States Parties have completed destruction of their antipersonnel mine stockpiles including 33 EAPC member states.

Greece and Turkey are in serious violation of the treaty after failing to meet their 1 March 2008 deadline to complete the destruction of stocks. At the end of May each reported still having about 1.3 million mines to destroy. Belarus also missed its 1 March 2008 destruction deadline with 3.4 million antipersonnel mines remaining to destroy. However, Belarus is working to secure funding to destroy its stocks of PFM-type mines, which are difficult and costly to destroy, and completed destruction of all its non-PFM-type mines at the end of 2006. Ukraine has until 1 June 2010 to destroy its stockpiled antipersonnel mines, but stated at the end of May 2009 that it is unlikely to meet the deadline.

Russia and the US, which have not joined the Mine Ban Treaty, are reported to have stockpiles of 24.5 million and 10.4 million antipersonnel mines respectively. Poland, a signatory state, declared a stockpile of 333,573 antipersonnel mines at the end of 2008 and, indicated that it had destroyed some 651,000 mines during the year.

Transparency Reporting

Under Article 7 of the Mine Ban Treaty, States Parties are required to submit annual transparency reports. As of 1 June 2009, 53% of States Parties had submitted their annual transparency reports due 30 April 2009. The compliance rate for EAPC members is an impressive 90%. Reports are outstanding from Iceland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, and Turkmenistan.

Poland, a signatory state, has submitted voluntary transparency reports annually since 2002, and Azerbaijan submitted a voluntary report in 2008.

² The following EAPC member states have ceased mine production: Albania, Austria, Belgium, BiH, Bulgaria, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the UK.

Poland, a signatory state, has submitted voluntary transparency reports annually since 2002, and Azerbaijan submitted a voluntary report in 2008.

National Implementation Legislation

Article 9 of the Mine Ban Treaty states that “Each State Party shall take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited” by the treaty.

Fifty-seven States Parties have passed new domestic laws to implement the treaty and fulfil the obligations of Article 9, including 21 EAPC member states.³ Twenty-seven States Parties are in the process of completing implementation legislation, and 38 States Parties, including 15 EAPC members, have indicated that they do not believe any new law is required to implement the Mine Ban Treaty.⁴ Landmine Monitor is unaware of any progress Turkmenistan has made in enacting appropriate domestic measures to implement the Mine Ban Treaty.

It is important for States Parties to pass legislation that includes penal sanctions for any potential future violations of the treaty, and provides for full implementation of all aspects of the treaty.

³ The following EAPC states have enacted domestic legislation on accordance with Article 9 of the Mine Ban Treaty: Albania, Austria, Belgium, BiH, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the UK.

⁴ Belarus, Bulgaria, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, FYR Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, and Turkey have indicated they do not believe any new law is required to implement the Mine Ban Treaty.