VERBAL NOTE

The Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva presents its compliments to the CCW Implementation Support Unit of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in Geneva and has the honour to transmit herewith Finland’s CCW compliance report as well as the annual reports on the implementation of Protocol II and Protocol V for the period of 31 March, 2016 to 31 March, 2017.

The Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the CCW Implementation Support Unit of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in Geneva the assurance of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 3 April, 2017

Attachment: CCW compliance report
Annual report on the implementation of Protocol II
Annual report on the implementation of Protocol V

CCW Implementation Support Unit of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs at Geneva
CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS (CCW)

Reporting Formats
pursuant to the Decision of the Third Review Conference on the establishment of a Compliance mechanism applicable to the Convention, as contained in its Final Declaration, Annex II, Paragraph 5 (CCW/CONF.III/11, Part II)

NAME OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY: FINLAND

PARTY TO:
- x Protocol I (Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments)
- x Protocol II (Protocol on Mines Booby-Traps and Other Devices)
- x Amended Protocol II (amended Protocol on Mines Booby-Traps and Other Devices)
- x Protocol III (Protocol on Incendiary Weapons)
- x Protocol IV (Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons)
- x Protocol V (Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War)

ACCEDED TO:
- x amended Article I

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 4 MARCH 2005 (PROTOCOL V)

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NOTE: Pursuant to paragraph 5 of the above Decision the High Contracting Parties have agreed "to provide information to the Secretary-General in advance of the Meeting, which will be circulated by the Secretary-General to all the High Contracting Parties, on any of the following matters:

1 Please indicate individually for the CCW and each Protocol (if different)
(a) Dissemination of information on the Convention and its annexed Protocols to their armed forces and to the civilian population;
(b) Steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and its annexed Protocols and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;
(c) Legislation related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols;
(d) Measures taken on technical co-operation and assistance; and
(e) Other relevant matters.”

Each of the items listed above are provided as separate individual forms to be filled out by each High Contracting Party accordingly.
Form A  Dissemination of information

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information […] on:

(a) Dissemination of information on the Convention and its annexed Protocols to their armed forces and to the civilian population;”

High Contracting Party:  Finland

Information to the armed forces

- Basic training material on the CCW Convention and its protocols and their humanitarian nature has been produced and delivered to the troops.
- The Finnish Defence Forces has published instructions and operating procedures concerning protocol V on December 2009. More detailed instructions and operating procedures concerning the use of mines were published during year 2012.

Humanitarian law

During their military service conscripts are given some training in humanitarian law including the Convention and its annexed Protocols. In addition, they are often dealt with in exercises in one form or another.

Cadets receive additional training in humanitarian law including the Convention and its annexed Protocols at the National Defence University. In addition, the employees – both military and civilian – of the Finnish Defence Forces have the possibility of attending a two-day-course in humanitarian law organized by the Finnish Red Cross. Approximately 30 to 40 officers and other employees of the Defence Forces attend these courses organized twice a year. Every year several employees of the Defence Forces, either officers or legal advisors, also attend the International Military Courses on the Law of Armed Conflict organized by the International Institute of Humanitarian Law in San Remo, Italy. Both courses feature also the Convention and its annexed Protocols.

Information to the civilian population

Among other activities, Finland as the Presidency of the European Union released a Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on November 13, 2006 on the entry into force of the Convention of Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War.

Any other relevant information

The National Coordination Group of Small Arms Experts includes representatives of the ministries involved with arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the representatives of national non-governmental organisations tackling with the issues. The group discusses inter alia the Finnish
policy concerning conventional weapons, implementation of the national, regional and global provisions and regulations. The group meets regularly under the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and it has representatives from the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Trade and Industry. The representatives from other authorities (custom, border control etc.) are invited to participate whenever necessary. Also non-governmental organisations are invited regularly. E.g. a briefing on the results of the last CCW Meeting of the States Parties was given to the Coordination Group in its meeting in February 2007.
Form B     Technical requirements and relevant information

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information […] on:

(b)   Steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and its annexed Protocols and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;”

High Contracting Party:     Finland

Steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and its annexed Protocols

- Regarding protocols I, III and IV, all technical adjustments, if any, were made in the 1980’s and 1990’s.
- The instructions and operating procedures required by the Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) have published within the Defence Forces in such a way that the requirements will be fully included in the materiel development, courses of action and training of the Army.
- The requirements of ERW will also be taken into consideration in future materiel procurement. Equipment for marking system of the dangerous area has been developed using requirements of the International Mine Action Standards. The procurements were carried out during the year 2012.

Any other relevant information
Form C   Legislation

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information […] on:

(c) Legislation related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols;”

High Contracting Party: Finland

Legislation

The Convention and its Protocols I-III have been brought into force by a Decree issued by the President of the Republic (874/1983) on 2 December 1983.

Protocol IV has been brought into force by a Decree issued by the President of the Republic (434/1998) on 30 July 1998.

Amended Protocol II has been brought into force by a Decree issued by the President of the Republic (851/1998) on 3 December 1998.

The amended Convention has been brought into force by a Decree issued by the President of the Republic (770/2004) on 22 December 2004.

Protocol V has been brought into force by a Decree issued by the President of the Republic (945/2006) on 12 November 2006.

The Penal Code has been amended by an Act (212/2008) and it has entered in force on 1 May 2008.

The Decree of the Ministry of Defence on Military Explosives (772/2009) was issued on the basis of paragraphs 3 and 4, Section 3, of the Act on Safety in the Handling of Dangerous Chemicals and Explosives (390/2005). The Decree entered into force on 1 November 2009.

Any other relevant information

The Decree of the Ministry of Defence on Military Explosives (772/2009) concerns both explosives meant for military activities that are in the possession of the Finnish Defence Forces and those in the possession of the Border Guard.
Form D  Technical co-operation and assistance

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information […] on:

(d) Measures taken on technical co-operation and assistance;”

High Contracting Party: Finland

International technical co-operation
-

International technical assistance
-

Any other relevant information
-
Form E  Other relevant matters

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information […] on:

(e) Other relevant matters.”

High Contracting Party: Finland

Other relevant matters
- Finland has fulfilled the obligations specified in protocol V (ERW).