

~~Draft~~ Statement for the First Meeting of States Parties to Protocol V
November 5, 2007

Aub. Petritsch

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Let me start by expressing my delegation's full support for the statement made by the delegation of Portugal on behalf of the European Union.

At the outset, I wish to voice my sincere congratulations for your assumption of the post as chair of our meeting. Your well-known esprit and energy will guarantee that this meeting will yield the results that are necessary for a good and constructive take-off of Protocol V to the CCW.

Mr. Chairman,

As a State Party to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, Austria attaches utmost importance to the CCW and its Protocols. We believe that Protocol V in particular will be key in addressing the issue of Explosive Remnants of War in the future. The specific significance of Protocol V is also highlighted by the fact that – unlike other Protocols to the CCW – it contains specific provisions on issues related to assistance to those human beings that fall victim to any explosive remainder of military confrontation. In our view, this highlights the humanitarian face of Protocol V.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, Austria has ratified the CCW and Protocols I, II, III and IV to the CCW. It is therefore an honour and pleasure for me to inform this important gathering that on October 1, 2007 Austria has submitted to the UN Secretary General as depositary of the treaty its consent to be bound by Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War.

In concluding, Mr, Chairman, let me assure you of my delegations fullest support to your endeavours in ~~presiding over our meeting.~~

Thank you very much.

Leading

to a successful outcome.