

ITALY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE GENERAL STATUS / ART. 3

(25 MAY 2012)

Thank you Madame Co-chair,

Italy believes that transparency is one of the major pillar on which the Ottawa Convention is built. We would like to honor this principle providing updated information related to Italy's implementation of art. 3.

The training programme for Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel and Mine Detection Dogs is carried out by the Italian Army and is structured in 5 distinct courses, aimed at enabling engineers to perform specific tasks of increasing difficulties, namely:

- "Explosive Ordnance Disposal - first level", focused on clearance on site of explosive ordnance in situations where special techniques or equipment are not required;
- "Explosive Ordnance Disposal - second level", focused on detection, clearance and destruction of explosive ordnance that require significant skills and solid experience, as well as the utilization of advanced techniques and tools;
- "Improvised Explosive Device Disposal Course", aimed at the detection, identification, removal and disposal or destruction of Improvised Explosive Disposals;
- "MINEX Course", which qualifies engineers to clear minefields and mined roads;
- "Biological and Chemical Explosive Ordnance Disposal Course", which aims at training personnel to operate in case of biological or chemical devices.

In this framework, for the time being, the Italian Armed Forces is not developing new detection and destruction techniques.

During 2011, for training purposes, the Italian Armed Forces destroyed 26 anti-personnel mines belonging to 5 different types. Other live mines were used during the training activities without being destroyed. As a consequence, the total number of mines detained pursuant to article 3 of the Convention decreased from 669 to 643.

Every year between 300 and 350 Explosive Ordnance Disposal specialists are trained and qualified.

We consider important to underline that the number of mines detained by the Italian Armed Forces is based on the number of personnel trained. Indeed, in our view, the ratio between the number of mines detained and the number of personnel trained in mine detection,

clearance and destruction remains the main indicator of a correct (or inaccurate) compliance with of article 3.

Thank you for your attention