

Standing Committee Meeting 21 – 25 May 2012, Geneva

Update on the Danish process of mine clearance in accordance with Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention

Honorable Co-chairs and Co-rapporteurs, Distinguished Delegates, Dear Colleagues

Denmark is in the final process of fulfilling its obligations in accordance with Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention. At the 9th Meeting of State Parties, Denmark was granted a 22 month preliminary extension for preparing and presenting a final release plan. This request for an additional 18 months was approved at the 10th MSP. According to the extension the remaining mined area have to be completed before July 2012.

The Danish Government provides the funding, which is estimated to approximately 100 Million Danish Kroner/ [19.6 Mio. US dollars / 13.4 Mio. Euros].

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The remaining minefield was established in 1944 on the west coast of Jutland at the peninsula of Skallingen. There have been no mine accidents in this minefield since 1946 and the impact to the local community is insignificant.

The clearance project is managed by the Danish Coastal Authority under the Ministry of Transport. The clearance has been conducted by different contractors in three steps of which the two first were completed in 2006 and 2008 respectively.

The ongoing clearance of Area 3 is conducted by the Danish contractor "Damasec/J.Jensen".

Area 3 involves 120 hectares of marsh, dunes, dikes and beach. Operations in this area commenced in July 2010. By November 2011 the contractor responsible of the clearance reported the task completed. The Danish Coastal Authority has completed quality assurance and quality control procedures of approximately 92 hectares which were all found to be in accordance with the required quality and accordingly accepted for release.

The Danish Coastal Authority conducted quality control of the remaining 28 hectares successively as they were completed by the contractor during second half of 2011. The quality control of these areas was conducted by the NGO Danish Church Aid (DCA). During this quality check, 3 ap-mines were found as well as a number of metal pieces.

The mines and metal pieces found during the first quality control raised the concern that the clearance in the high marsh areas in general has not been adequate. In December The Danish Coastal Authority therefore requested re-clearance of 28 hectares of marshland areas.

The Contractor, Damasec/J.Jensen, commenced re-clearance in March 2012. By 7th of May 14 hectares or 50% had been re-cleared. This is slightly behind the schedule, but the

contractor has expanded their demining capacity and will have completed the clearance before the deadline of 1st July 2012. However, the schedule is rather tight and there is not much buffer time to correct possible failures. As the re-clearance is subject to QC, there is a risk that some minor areas which fails this new QC will still need processing after the 1st of July.

Denmark still expects to fulfil its article 5 obligations and the clearance is planned to be completed before the deadline of July 2012. However, as the clearance and following quality control is conducted right up to the deadline, there could be some minor failed areas to correct, also after the 1st July. If this is relevant, the correction will continue immediately after the clearance.

Denmark will continue to keep State Parties informed of our progress and actions.

Thank you for your attention.