

Standing Committee on Cooperation and Assistance,  
25 May 2012, Geneva  
The availability of assistance and procedures to obtain it

Madame Co-Chair,

I would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to participate in this panel and speak from the donor perspective.

I will try to be concrete and practical in outlining how mine action functions in the EU architecture.

The relevant EU policy document on mine action are the Guidelines on European Community Mine Action 2008-2013. The guidelines can be downloaded from the EEAS website [http://eeas.europa.eu/anti\\_landmines/docs/guidelines\\_08\\_13\\_en.pdf](http://eeas.europa.eu/anti_landmines/docs/guidelines_08_13_en.pdf). These Guidelines will help you to understand in greater detail mine action programming in the EU system and, in particular, how EC mine action is being integrated into development and cooperation policies.

**1) What assistance is the EU able to offer?**

There is a range of instruments that can be deployed in support of mine action. Depending on the specific type of the problem and the individual situation on the ground in the country concerned, different instruments are relevant.

After the repeal of two specific APL regulations and a dedicated horizontal APL budget line, most EC technical and financial assistance related to APL and ERW must be financed by EC instruments for external assistance, namely the geographic instruments. Thematic instruments such as the **Humanitarian Aid Instrument** and the **Instrument of Stability** can also be used in specific cases and to some extent.

In crisis/immediate post-conflict situations: Landmines, UXO, ERW and Cluster Munitions can be addressed under the **Instrument for Stability art. 3 (crisis response)**, but only in response to a situation of urgency, crisis or emerging crisis to preserve human life and to facilitate early recovery.

If the presence of mines is a **long-term problem** that has a negative socio-economic impact, this issue has to be prioritised in the Country Strategy and addressed under the **geographic cooperation instrument**.

Funding can also be provided under the **CFSP budget** through Council Decisions on specific actions. We must highlight, though, that for the EU, mine action is considered mainly part of the development policy and therefore the role of CFSP is more limited. A new Council Decision in support of the implementation of the Cartagena Action Plan is currently being finalised. This decision will focus in particular on victim assistance, compliance with mine clearance commitments and universalization efforts.

Given the fact that most mine action is now funded by geographic programmes, it is essential that mine action is integrated into Country Strategy Papers or Regional Strategy Papers and their respective National Indicative Programmes or Regional Indicative Programmes. The programming exercise is carried out by the geographic desks in close cooperation with the delegations. The programming phase for the next financial cycle is just starting right now. Hence, it is a particularly good time to make us aware of your urgent needs as these can then potentially be taken into account during the current programming.

## **2) For whom is EU assistance available?**

Assistance can be provided, for instance, on stockpile destruction, mine clearance, mine victim assistance, rehabilitation and reintegration, mine awareness and mine risk education. Mine action may also appear as an important activity as part of a wide range of areas such as peace-building and support, humanitarian aid and assistance, post-conflict reconstruction, and development.

## **3) How may EU assistance be obtained?**

As explained above, there is no longer a horizontal APL budget line. Depending on the specific situation, interested parties would need to get in touch with the individual geographic desks or our colleagues responsible for the Instrument for Stability, CFSP colleagues or those responsible for the Humanitarian Aid Instrument. In case you are not aware of an individual contact point in the EU system, please get in touch with the EEAS focal point in Brussels or myself in the EU Delegation in Geneva, who will be happy to assist you in finding the right interlocutor.

## **4) Whom to contact?**

EEAS focal point for mine action is [carolin.thielking@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:carolin.thielking@eeas.europa.eu), who can be contacted on all relevant issues and help identify specific individual interlocutors in the EU system for support on mine action. DEVCO, ECHO and ELARG also have focal points on mine action that can be contacted. Whereas the EEAS has the overall lead and gives the policy guidelines, it is up to each DG to implement mine action under their responsibility.

Thank you Madame Co-Chair