

Statement by Greece to the Standing Committee Meetings (May 21-25 2012)-

Article 4

Mr. President,

Since our last statement to the 11MSP in Cambodia in December, progress in terms of continuing the destruction of the APLM stockpiles has been slow, pending the decision of the court pertaining to the legal dispute between the Greek State and Hellenic Defence Systems (EAS). Given that we have been asked on several occasions by NGOs to provide a clear picture of the judicial process, allow me to proceed to a detailed outline of the case at hand.

- 1) On 16 June 2010, following a Ministerial Decision and an arbitral award, the contract between the State and "EAS" was revoked, on the basis that the EAS had violated the terms of the contract (delays in the destruction process).
- 2) On 18 December 2010, "EAS" filed a request for suspension of the execution of the arbitral award to the Administrative Court of Appeals.
- 3) On 8 February 2011 the Administrative Court of Appeals issued an order which suspended the execution of the arbitral award of 2010 until the final decision of the Court of Appeals is issued.
- 4) The main proceeding of the Administrative Court of Appeals will take place, as scheduled on 27 September 2012.

In the meantime, the Ministry of Defence has submitted a request to the Legal Counsel of the State, in which it has asked for an expedition of the main proceeding, in order that it takes place before 27 September 2012. Until then, any other action is neither possible nor legal, in accordance with Greek legislation.

Mr. President,

Since its accession to the Ottawa Convention, Greece has spared no efforts to comply with all its obligations. With regard to our obligations emanating from Article 4 of the Convention, we have always addressed the complications which have arisen with the utmost transparency and sincerity. These complications should not in any way be construed as a deliberate failure or lack of willingness to comply with the Convention's obligations, but rather as a hurdle, exacerbated by the objective and unprecedented economic difficulties which our country is facing. Finally, Mr. President, we would be ready to answer questions which partners may have and provide clarification if required.