

**STATEMENT BY THE SLOVENIAN DELEGATION AT THE STANDING
COMMITTEES TO THE OTTAWA CONVENTION**

31 JANUARY 2002

Slovenia signed the Ottawa Convention on 3 December 1997 – as one of the first signatories – and ratified it on 27 October 1998. Slovenia is very supportive of the objectives of international mine action and is committed to destroy its stockpiled landmines by March 2003.

Slovenia has no minefields. When we started with the destruction in 1998, the Slovene Army had in possession around 171.000 APM. At the beginning we encountered some difficulties which were: finding an appropriate location and lack of trained personnel and the destruction was slower until last year when the difficulties were overcome. To date, around 90,000 mines, more than half of the stock has been destroyed by our own means and technology.

We would like to express again our commitment to reduce the number of mines retained for development and training in mine detection, mine clearance, and mine destruction techniques under Article 3.