



PERMANENT MISSION OF TURKEY
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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Office of the President of the 12th Meeting of the States Parties (12 MSP) of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and On Their Destruction and has the honour to enclose herewith the report and electronic version of its three annexes on the request for extension of the deadline for fulfillment of obligations under Article V of the said Convention.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other International Organizations in Switzerland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the President of the 12MSP the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 29 March 2013



Encl: as stated

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EXTENSION REPORT -TURKEY-

Executive summary

History:

Anti-personnel landmines were laid along the borders and certain areas outside borders until from 1955 till 1998. The purpose of the emplacements was to reinforce security of the borders and military bases in fight against separatist terror organization and also as an additional security measure during the cold war era.

With the end of the cold war and changes in security perceptions, efforts towards disarmament, arms control and confidence and security building measures gained importance on a global scale. In this context, the use of anti-personnel land mines was stopped in addition to reductions in conventional arms.

In line with the growing international sentiment against anti-personnel landmines, Turkey issued a three-year moratorium on all transfers of APLMs on 17 January 1996. The moratorium was subsequently extended twice, and on 17 January 2002 extended indefinitely. On 26 January 1998, the Turkish Armed Forces was issued orders to effectively ban the use of APLMs and to draft a plan to clear areas other than borders of mines, leading to the commencement of mine clearance activities.

Following a decision to win international recognition to Turkey's intent to abolish the use, production and transfer of APLMs, a law on the approval for the ratification of the Ottawa Convention was enacted and later published in the Official Gazette on 15 March 2003. Approval for accession to the Convention was delivered on 25 September 2003 to the UN Secretary-General and Turkey assumed its obligations emanating from the Convention as a state party as of 1 March 2004.

Current situation and projects:

As it has been indicated in previous MSPs, Standing Committee meetings and Article 7 reports, a great majority of anti-personnel mines in Turkey are found along the borderlines. Turkey's western borders with Greece and Bulgaria, as well as the border with Georgia however, are mine-free.

A total of 637 mined areas containing 97.446 mines in an area measuring a total of 2.615.648 square meters are located around military installations throughout 11 Provinces and an additional 2.537 mined areas containing 906.497 mines in an area measuring a total of 212.116.659 square meters are located in border areas along 14 Provinces.

In addition to the areas highlighted above, there are a total of 346 suspected mined areas. These areas are suspected due to accidents that have occurred in these areas. The size of these areas is unknown.

Since the initiation of clearance activities a total of 6 areas have been cleared on the Syrian border leading to the clearance of 1.150.297 square meters and culminating in the clearance of

974 anti-tank mines and 760 anti-personnel mines. This progress has been carried out by the Turkish Army and mine clearance companies.

In addition to this clearance, an additional 24.287 anti-personnel mines have been cleared from areas other than border areas and in border areas other than the Syrian border in order to achieve military objectives. These areas are not considered cleared given that, in most cases, only a section of an area has been cleared to allow safe passage of military personnel.

Mine clearance along Turkey's southern border constitutes the priority, in particular the borderline with Syria, which is the longest land border of Turkey. The "*Law on the Tender and Mine Clearing Activities along the Land Border between Turkey and Syria*", adopted by the Turkish Parliament and approved by the President on 17 June 2009, provides the necessary legal basis for mine clearing activities along the border between Turkey and Syria. On that basis, the Ministry of National Defence is entrusted with the task of implementation.

In this context, the project for the initiation of clearance was started in February 2011, with the signing of a "Sales Agreement for Quality Management, Consultancy Support and Certification" between the Ministry of Defence and NAMSA, now the NATO Support Agency (NSPA). This was followed by the announcement of a tendering process in April 2011 and following submission of files by candidate firms, establishment of a short-list of firms in consultation with NSPA. Subsequently, a second and more detailed assessment of firms was conducted and short-listed firms were invited for tender. In May 2012, the firms were taken to the Syrian border for site survey. The survey covered an area of 527km. The final selection process of companies is currently continuing and the signing of contracts is expected to take place as soon as the evaluation process is completed.

The mobilization process of the teams to take their designated positions along the border area before clearance work can actually begin is expected to take around three months.

On condition of absence of any force-majeure that would delay the clearance activities, completion of clearance of mines along the Syrian border is expected at the end of 2019.

In carrying out the duties entrusted to it, the Ministry of Defence has established a "Project Implementation Group" to determine the precise coordinates of the mined areas, which will then be entered on digital maps. The Ministry of Finance is responsible for the financing of the project.

The project to clear the mined borderline with Syria, which is 911 km long and on average 350 metres wide, is a major undertaking by any standard. The project not only entails clearance of mines in a safe and environmentally sound manner, but also involves the simultaneous establishment of a new physical border security system with the involvement of other sub-contractors.

Established in pursuant to the law on the clearance of mines along the Syrian border, an "Inter-Ministerial Coordination Board", which commenced working on 26 October 2010, is responsible to coordinate work between relevant government bodies pertaining to mine clearance activities and related undertakings. The board meets regularly and practically functions as the "National Mine Action Authority".

Equally important in this context has been the coordinated work by the Board for the development of Turkish Mine Action Standards (TMAS). "International Mine Action Standards

(IMAS)” has constituted a template for TMAS to a great extent. In the meantime, a similar set of standards has been prepared to be utilized on the Syrian border prior to full adoption of Turkish Mine Action Standards.

Accordingly, once the necessary national legislation is enacted, the Inter-Ministerial Coordination Board will officially assume the functions of a “National Mine Action Authority”.

“The Law on the Establishment of a National Mine Authority and Mine Action Centre” has already been drafted and is awaiting final input from other Ministries, upon which it will be presented to the Prime Ministry, and thereon submitted to the Parliament.

The Turkish-Syrian border has been divided into six segments taking into account various factors, including -most of all- physical properties of the areas. The segments have a different order of priority based on this assessment and clearance activities will follow this prioritized order.

The total length of the borderline is 911 kilometres and the mined area, including the adjacent mine-free security buffer, is just over 190 square kilometres

As has been the case with Turkey’s Article IV activities, clearance activities along the Syrian border and in areas other than borders, are being fulfilled by means of national sources, with earmarked finances.

Another project towards fulfilling Article V obligations of Turkey, is the decision to start clearance on the eastern borders of Turkey, starting north and moving southwards; and to operationalize this in the light of experience gained from the massive scale clearance on the Syrian border*.

**(Should current events across the border in Syria render the area of clearance activities insecure for clearance teams and thus necessitate delay in their dispatch to the area, it is possible that clearance work at the eastern borders begins at an earlier date than the Syrian border. Thus, commencement of clearance activities along the Syrian border does not necessarily constitute a prerequisite to beginning work along the eastern borders.)*

The sum of the area that will be cleared of mines within the framework of the first phase of a three-phase project is 13.5 million square meters.

The second phase of this three-phase project to clear the area further south of the eastern borders has also been prepared and covers an approximate area of 2.4 million square meters. The financing agreements for both the first and second phases of the projects have been signed with the EU at the end of 2012.

Nearly two-thirds of the total estimated cost of the three-phase project will be covered by the EU under the “Pre-accession Financial Assistance Scheme”.

Turkey’s eastern and southern borders are not only very long but also topographically very difficult, regional security issues notwithstanding. While the work on clearance of mines has begun rather belatedly due to bureaucratic necessities and other factors, serious work has been ongoing for some time and there is genuine effort and political will to proceed apace for the fulfilment of Article V obligations of Turkey.

The third phase of clearance along the eastern and south-eastern borders encompasses an area stretching along the southernmost border of Iran and covering the entire Iraqi border area. Drafting of a project that would include the modalities for financing of this phase is yet to begin.

Until now, mine clearance in areas other than borders has been conducted only on a limited scale to clear pathways for urgent needs. Full clearance activities in areas other than borders are awaiting the establishment of the National Mine Action Authority and the Mine Action Centre which will supervise the mine clearance activities in Turkey and issue certificates in accordance with the IMAS. The continuation of terrorist threat is also a factor creating security problems for mine clearance operations and teams. Work on the establishment of the National Mine Action Authority and the Mine Action Centre by the Turkish Ministry of National Defence is ongoing. It is predicted that mine clearance for in these areas will be conducted between the years of 2015 and 2022 following the establishment of the National Mine Action Authority and the Mine Action Centre in accordance with acquired experiences from the mine clearance projects for the Syrian and Eastern borders and will be finished in 2022.

Humanitarian and economic implications of landmines to Turkey:

Within the span of nine years since Turkey has joined the Ottawa Convention, a total of 316 people have been killed and another 734 injured due to APLM-related incidents. The majority of the casualties are directly as a result of APLMs emplaced by the PKK/KADEK/KONGRA-GEL terror organisation, and to a lesser extent, accidents caused by trespassing into mined areas. To this day, landmines continue to remain a safety concern for both military personnel and civilians alike. Actual casualties are often compounded by the extensive use of IED's by the same terror organisation.

On the economic front, losses are incurred by the local populace mainly due to inaccessibility to a portion of arable land –especially along the Syrian border- and also due to casualties among livestock that stray into minefields.

It is initially estimated that an 8-year extension period (until March 2022) will be required for the clearance of all laid anti-personnel mines in Turkey. This timeframe is subject to revision pending progress with tenders and clearance activities on the ground.

Turkey commits itself to advise States Parties of any alteration to the timeframe.

1. Origins of Article 5 Implementation Challenge:

As part of its defence policy at the time, Turkey laid anti-personnel mines in order to reinforce security of its borders with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq and Syria as well as around military installations in its fight against separatist terrorist organizations.

In addition to mines laid by security forces, separatist terror organization has also been employing both mines and IEDs, hence rendering the clearance process more complex.

2. Nature and extent of the original Article 5 challenge: quantitative aspects

Areas that contain mines

Mined areas in Turkey are located around military installations and in border areas. A total of 637 mined areas containing 97.446 mines in an area measuring a total of 2.615.648 square meters are located around military installations throughout 11 Provinces and an additional 2.537 mined areas containing 906.497 mines in an area measuring a total of 212.116.659 square meters are located in border areas along 14 Provinces.

In addition to the areas highlighted above, there are a total of 346 suspected mined areas. These areas are suspected due to accidents that have occurred in these areas. The size of these areas is unknown.

The following is an overview of mine contamination in Turkey:

Known mined areas located around Military Installations

Location	Province	Type of contamination	Number of Mined Areas	Size of mined areas (square meters)	Number of mines	Date of emplacement
Areas other than borders	Diyarbakır	Military Installations	38	75.700	3.636	1993-1997
	Batman	Military Installations	15	11.000	284	1993-1994
	Siirt	Military Installations	36	125.000	1.416	1991-1993
	Mardin	Military Installations	16	90.000	2.573	1993-1994
	Tunceli	Military Installations	156	710.000	12.189	1993-1995
	Bingöl	Military Installations	59	275.000	2.387	1994-1997
	Bitlis	Military Installations	75	455.000	853	1993-1997
	Ardahan	Military Installations	4	438.000	2.280	1993
	Hakkâri	Military Installations	71	23.985	47.654	Unknown
	Şırnak	Military Installations	162	363.463	24.064	Unknown
Van	Military Installations	5	48.500	110	Unknown	
Total			637	2.615.648	97.446	

Known mined areas located in border areas

Location	Province	Number of Mined Areas	Size of mined areas (square meters)	Number of mines	Date of emplacement
Armenian border	Ardahan	15	597.225	9.724	1993
	Kars	22	662.285	10.578	1993
	İğdır	6	32.010	132	1994
Azerbaijani border	İğdır	1	85.800	2.994	1997

Iranian border	Iğdır	13	3.359.380	41.151	1993-1996
	Ağrı	122	6.797.790	113.294	1993-1998
	Van	133	2.984.640	32.504	1991-1993
	Hakkâri	239	1.180.000	11.625	1991-1993
Iraqi border*	Hakkâri	316	1.526.130	15.223	1991-1998
	Şırnak	399	4.391.399	53.823	1991-1993
Syrian border	Gaziantep	681	55.200.000	218.891	1955-1960
	Hatay	191	23.700.000	41.676	1955-1960 1993-1997
	Mardin	231	54.000.000	164.387	1955-1960 1993-1997
	Şanlıurfa	168	57.600.000	190.495	1955-1960
Total		2.537	212.116.659	906.497	

(*) Number of mined areas along the Iraqi border is only an estimate, as precise calculation is hampered by terror activities and the presence of suspected mined areas.

Areas suspected to contain mines

Location	Province	Number of mined areas	Size of mined areas (square meters)	Number of mines	Date of placement
Areas other than borders	Hakkâri	24	Undetermined	Undetermined	Undetermined
	Şırnak	38	Undetermined	Undetermined	Undetermined
	Van	5	Undetermined	Undetermined	Undetermined
Iraqi border*	Hakkâri	159	Undetermined	Undetermined	1991-1998
	Şırnak	120	Undetermined	Undetermined	1991-1993
Total		346			

Areas suspected if registration forms are found to be completed irregularly and some benchmark points stated at the documents not being found in the field. Additionally, cleared but uncertified fields are also considered suspected areas. (*) Number of mined areas along the Iraqi border is only an estimate, as precise calculation is hampered by terror activities and the presence of suspected mined areas.

Total Mined Territories (including areas suspected to contain mines)

Location	Number of mined areas	Type of mine (A/P-A/T)	Number of mines		Area of the mines territories (m ²)
			A/P mines	A/T mines	
Areas other than borders	704	A/P	97.446	-	2.615.648
Border regions					
Armenian border	43	A/P	20.434	-	1.291.520
Azerbaijani border	1	A/P	2.994	-	85.800
Iranian border	507	A/P	198.574	-	14.321.810
Iraqi border*	994	A/P	69.046	-	5.917.529
Syrian border	1.271	A/P-A/T	450.652	164.797	190,500,000
Total	3.520		839.146	164.797	214.732.307

(*) Number of mined areas along the Iraqi border is only an estimate, as precise calculation is hampered by terror activities and the presence of suspected mined areas.

3. Nature and extent of the original Article 5 challenge: Qualitative aspects

One of the greatest socioeconomic impact of mines laid by the Turkish military and separatist terrorist organizations has been the maiming and killing of people. The table below highlights the cost to military personnel that have been injured or killed by anti-personnel mine explosions between 2004-2012.

Years		2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	Total
Military Personnel	Killed	8	42	32	51	40	26	25	21	15	260
	Injured	16	116	118	135	67	42	65	63	-	622
Total		24	158	150	186	107	68	90	84	15	882

In addition to the military victims, anti-personnel mines have claimed a number of civilian victims. In a span of 10 years since Turkey has acceded to the Ottawa Convention, 56 (48 males, 8 females) civilians have been killed and 112 civilians (105 males, 7 females) have been injured due to mine-related incidents. The age-range distribution of the incidents is as follows:

0-18 : 16 killed, 34 injured
18-65 : 36 killed, 74 injured
65+ : 4 killed, 4 injured

Other than claiming the lives of people in Turkey, mined areas have prevented access for development in these areas including for infrastructure development as well as for agricultural use and other uses by the civilian population. These mines have also prevented access for academic use such as archaeological work on Turkey's border.

In this context, the areas which will be used for agricultural purposes add up to approximately 80% of the total mined area along the Syrian border.

4. Methods used to identify areas containing AP mines and reasons for suspecting the presence of AP mines in other areas:

Mined areas in Turkey have been identified through 2 key sources:

- **Army minefield registries:** Mined areas that have been sown by the Turkish armed forces are registered and have been marked and fenced. These registries include a wealth of details to facilitate the clearance of these mines. A sample of these registries is provided in **Annex A**.
- **Reports of inhabitants:** In many cases mined areas have been discovered through reports by the populations which reports unusual items and activity to the local mayor who then reports to armed forces personnel in the areas. The Ministry of Interior then deploys a unit to carry out technical survey in accordance with Law 4536 which designates the Ministry of Interior as the responsible authority for the destruction of explosive ordnance located outside of border areas.

5. National demining structure

Since the initiation of mine clearance activities, mine clearance has been the responsibility of different national authorities in Turkey. The Turkish Army is responsible for contaminated areas around military installations and the Ministry of Interior oversees work on the eastern borders (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iraq, and Iran). In addition to this, the Ministry of Defence, in accordance with Law No. 5903, is responsible for clearance along the Syrian border. Law No. 5903, “*Law on the Tender and Mine Clearing Activities along the Land Border between Turkey and Syria*”, which entered into force on 16 June 2009, provides the necessary legal basis for mine clearing activities along the border between Turkey and Syria.

In order to improve the effectiveness of Turkey’s response to mine clearance through the centralization of the coordination of clearance activities, the Ministry of Defence is working to establish a National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) and National Mine Action Centre (NMAC) which will supervise mine clearance activities, develop National Mine Action Standards and issue certificates for released areas in accordance with these standards. The law on the establishment of a NMAA and NMAC has already been drafted and is currently awaiting input from other ministries in order for it to be presented to the Prime Ministry from where it will be submitted to the Parliament. It is expected that this law will pass in 2014. The law includes details concerning the structure of the mine action centre, outlines its responsibilities and designates its location in addition to a number of different issues.

6. Nature and extent of progress made: Quantitative aspects

Since the initiation of clearance activities a total of 6 areas have been cleared on the Syrian border leading to the clearance of 1.150.297 square meters and culminating in the clearance of 974 anti-tank mines and 760 anti-personnel mines. This progress has been carried out by the Turkish Army and mine clearance companies.

In addition to this, additional 24.287 anti-personnel mines have been cleared from areas other than border areas and in border areas other than the Syrian border in order to facilitate the movement of military personnel. These areas are not considered “cleared”, given that in most cases, the scope of clearance in the area is limited to allow safe passage of personnel.

Location of Mined Area	Province	Number of cleared areas	Number of mines destroyed (AP/AT)		Amount of area cleared (m ²)
			AT	AP	
Interior regions (Areas other than borders)	Diyarbakır	-	-	2.879	-
	Batman	-	-	182	-
	Siirt	-	-	172	-
	Mardin	-	-	1.661	-
	Tunceli	-	-	5.170	-
	Bingöl	-	-	2.111	-
	Bitlis	-	-	393	-
	Ardahan	-	-	1.843	-
	Hakkâri	-	-	1.977	-
Şırnak	-	-	3.936	-	
Armenian border	Kars	-	-	128	-
Iranian border	Ağrı	-	-	3.800	-
	Hakkari	-	-	19	-
Iraqi border	Şırnak	-	-	16	-
Syrian border	Gaziantep	3	825	430	872.622
	Mardin	2	149	330	270.500
	Sanliurfa	1	-	-	7.175
TOTAL		6	974	25.047	1.150.297

Years	Number of cleared areas	Number of mines destroyed (A/P-A/T)		Amount of area cleared (m ²)
		A/T	A/P	
1998-2003	-	-	13.336	-
2004	-	-	1.038	-
2005	-	-	1.891	-
2006	-	-	1.712	-
2007	1	-	1.112	7.175
2008	1	31	1.735	200.000
2009	2	118	2.226	115.600
2010	-	-	665	-
2011	2	825	647	827.522
2012	-	-	685	-
TOTAL	6	974	25.047	1.150.297

7. Nature and extent of progress made: Qualitative aspects

In addition to preventing injury and death, clearance that has taken place on the Syrian border area has allowed for the opening of two customs stations, one train station, one frontier post, one access road for military patrols and has also facilitated archaeological work in the area.

Thus, opening of two customs stations contributed to the Turkish economy, bringing into use of one train station facilitated the capacity of transportation and commercial activities. Demining in archaeological areas made a great contribution to tourism. Construction of frontier post and patrol roads supported the border security.

8. Methods and standards used to release areas known or suspected to contain AP mines

In carrying out mine clearance, Turkey uses the following methods:

- a. Manual clearance using detectors and hand tools
- b. Canine detection
- c. Mechanical mine clearance systems such as Bozena-5.

All land release activities are based on the standards and principles outlined in the Syrian Border Mine Clearance Standards (SBMCS) which was prepared by the Ministry of National Defence and which are based on International Mine Action Standards. The relevant SBMCS have been attached as **Annex B**.

Although these Standards were developed exclusively for the Syrian Border, they are applicable for the clearance of other areas.

9. Methods and standards of controlling and assuring quality

Areas other than borders

In terms of interior areas; following the completion of mine clearance operations, the minefield is checked using mechanical mine clearance systems (Bozena-5, mine plough and mine roller) once more. Additionally, after two or three days, final checks are conducted with mine detectors and Mine Detection Dog teams.

Syrian Border

Methods and standards of controlling and assuring quality regarding the clearance of the borders will be established according to the "Quality Management" document numbered SBMCS-03.

10. Efforts undertaken to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians from mined areas

In most mined areas, wire fencing and warning signs are used to prevent civilians from entering mined areas. Also, Law enforcement officials are tasked to inform the public about the mined areas periodically; commanders in charge of military installations in proximity to minefields, post informative posters on public buildings (health centres, schools, terminals, places of worship, coffee houses), make the necessary announcements and organize public meetings in smaller residential areas. Similarly, warnings are issued by religious officials in places of worship and local TV and radio stations may be used to disseminate information with regard to mined areas.

All measures are put into place in accordance with SBMCS -17.

Sample of pictures which belong to the mined areas have been attached as **Annex C**.

11. Resources allocated to support progress made to date (1998 to 2012)

Mine clearance activities to date have been funded solely by the Turkish government as demonstrated below:

Year	Cost (Turkish Liras)	Supplementary Information
1998-2004	8.400.000	Salaries of military mine clearance teams.
2005	5.200.000	Salaries of Special Mine Search and Clearance (SMSC) Troops and cost of materials used (mine clearance and minefield marking equipment)
2006	5.100.000	
2007	6.700.000	Cost of the separation and extraction process of stockpiled mines(excluding mines retained for training purposes), salaries of military personnel and mine clearance teams, cost of materials used (mine clearance and minefield marking equipment)
2008	7.300.000	
2009	7.500.000	
2010	9.300.000	Cost of materials used (mechanical mine clearance tools and minefield marking equipment)
2011	7.400.000	Cost of the destruction of 155 mm ADAM-L/S munitions, salaries of military personnel and mine clearance teams, cost of materials used (mine clearance and minefield marking equipment)
2011	290.133	Resources spent to support mine clearance projects along the Syrian border.
2012	5.100.000	Salaries of military personnel and mine clearance teams, cost of materials used (mine clearance and minefield marking equipment)
2012	901.614	Resources spent to support mine clearance projects along the Syrian border.
Total	63.191.747	

12. Circumstances that impede compliance in a 10 year period

A number of circumstances have impeded Turkey from carrying out its mine clearance activities. The main reasons area as follows:

- a. Delays in the establishment of the National Mine Action Authority and the Mine Action Centre which will supervise the mine clearance activities and issue certificates in accordance with the IMAS.
- b. Inconvenient weather conditions allow for mine clearance operations to be conducted only for 5 or 6 months a year.
- c. Continuation of terrorist threat creating security problems for mine clearance operations and teams.
- d. Mined territories contaminated with metal residues (empty shells, ammunitions, shrapnel etc.) due to fight against terrorism.
- e. Uncertainties with regard to the mine-free status of certain areas due to some registration forms being completed irregularly and some benchmark points stated at the documents not being found in the field.
- f. Topographical challenges of mined areas.

13. Humanitarian, economic, social and environmental implications

A considerable part of mined areas along the Syrian border consist of arable land, which currently cannot be utilized. Risk to livestock is also widespread, especially in areas where fencing is damaged.

Similar risks exist for the local populace in cases where fencing or sign posts have been damaged or where wiring is deliberately severed to create shorter routes. Also manned patrolling cannot be conducted in mined border areas, corresponding approximately to two-thirds of the borderline.

14. Nature and extent of the remaining Article 5 challenge: Quantitative aspects

The locations and size and number of mines contained in each minefield have been presented below:

Location of mined areas	Province	Number of areas to be cleared	Number of mines to be cleared (AP/AT)		Area of territory to be cleared (m ²)
			AT	AP	
Areas other than borders	Diyarbakır	38	-	757	75.700
	Batman	15	-	102	11.000
	Siirt	36	-	1.244	125.000
	Mardin	16	-	912	90.000
	Tunceli	156	-	7.019	710.000
	Bingöl	59	-	276	275.000
	Bitlis	75	-	460	455.000
	Ardahan	4	-	437	438.000
	Hakkâri	95	-	45.677	23.985
	Şırnak	200	-	20.128	363.463
Van	10	-	110	48.500	

Location of mined areas	Province	Number of areas to be cleared	Number of mines to be cleared (AP/AT)		Area of territory to be cleared (m ²)
Armenian Border	Ardahan	15	-	9.724	597.225
	Kars	22	-	10.450	662.285
	Iğdır	6	-	132	32.010
Azerbaijani Border	Iğdır	1	-	2.994	85.800
Iranian Border	Iğdır	13	-	41.151	3.359.380
	Ağrı	122	-	109.494	6.797.790
	Van	133	-	32.504	2.984.640
	Hakkâri	239	-	11.606	1.180.000
Iraqi Border*	Hakkâri	475	-	15.223	1.526.130
	Şırnak	519	-	53.807	4.391.399
Syrian Border	Gaziantep	678	53.898	163.738	54.327.378
	Hatay	191	21.353	20.323	23.700.000
	Mardin	229	40.948	122.960	53.729.500
	Şanlıurfa	167	47.624	142.871	57.592.825
Total		3.514	163.823	814.099	213.582.010

(*) Number of mined areas along the Iraqi border is only an estimate, as precise calculation is hampered by terror activities and the presence of suspected mined areas.

15. Nature and extent of the remaining Article 5 challenge: Qualitative aspects

a. Delays in the establishment of the National Mine Action Authority and the Mine Action Centre which will supervise the mine clearance activities and issue certificates in accordance with the IMAS.

b. Inconvenient weather conditions allow for mine clearance operations to be conducted only for 5 or 6 months a year.

c. Continuation of terrorist threat creating security problems for mine clearance operations and teams.

d. Mined territories contaminated with metal residues (empty shells, ammunitions, shrapnel etc.) due to fight against terrorism.

e. Uncertainties with regard to the mine-free status of certain areas due to some registration forms being completed irregularly and some benchmark points stated at the documents not being found in the field.

f. Topographical challenges of mined areas.

16. Amount of time requested and rationale for this amount of time

Mine clearance will be carried out through a tender process as well as through a combination of military and tender procedures in the case of areas other than borders. The Eastern and South-eastern borders and some areas other than borders are the most complicated areas to address due to topographic difficulties. For this reason, the amount of time necessary for the project of clearing the Eastern and South-eastern borders and areas other than borders is a critical factor in rationalizing the amount of time necessary for Turkey to fulfil its Article 5 obligations of the Convention.

The following three activities will take place in order to meet Turkey's obligations.

- a. Eastern borders: Mine clearance will take place in three different phases; each phase is expected to take approximately 2 years to complete following the signing of the tender which is foreseen to be finalised in 2014.
- b. Areas other than borders: work will begin following the establishment of the National Mine Action Authority and Mine Action Centre upon which a tendering process shall begin. The establishment of the National Mine Action Authority (NMAA) and Mine Action Centre (NMAC) is expected to be completed in late 2014.

Delays in the establishment of NMAA and NMAC which will supervise mine clearance activities in Turkey and issue certificates in accordance with IMAS, unfavourable climatic conditions and geographic irregularities of the areas, as well as the continuation of terrorist threat are factors adversely affecting an early kick-off of the clearance work. It is predicted therefore, that mine clearance in internal areas can only be conducted between the years of 2015 and 2022, following the establishment of the NMAA and the NMAC, and in accordance with acquired experiences from the mine clearance projects for the Syrian and Eastern borders.

- c. Syrian border: The bids have been submitted on 30 July 2012 and the selection process for the contractors has begun. The contract will be signed as soon as the evaluation process is completed. Mine clearance is expected to be completed in 42 months after the signature process.

- It is initially estimated that an 8-year extension period (until March 2022) will be required for the clearance of all laid anti-personnel mines in Turkey. This timeframe is subject to revision pending progress with tenders and clearance activities on the ground.

Turkey commits itself to advise States Parties of any alteration to the timeframe.

17. Detailed work plan for the period of the requested extension

Syrian Border

Methodology

Syrian Border Mine Clearance (SBMC) Project has been planned to be tendered as two regions for contractual issues.

The first region stretches between Cizre and Çobanbey (527 km) and the second region stretches between Çobanbey and Denizgören (384 km).

The region between Cizre and Çobanbey will be tendered firstly and divided into 4 sectors. The first sector is Cizre-Nusaybin (140km), the second sector is Nusaybin-Ceylanpınar (125km), the third sector is Ceylanpınar-Akçakale (104.5km) and the fourth sector is Akçakale-Çobanbey (157.5 km). Each sector will be tendered separately. Between one to four companies may be awarded work for all sectors.

The tender process for the second region will be initiated after the first sector is awarded. The second region is divided into 2 sectors. The first sector is Çobanbey-Hassa (104 km) and the

second sector is Hassa-Denizgören (280km). Each sector will be tendered separately. Between one to four companies may be awarded work for all sectors.

As stated in Syrian Border Mine Clearance Standards (SBMCS), mechanical and manual mine clearance techniques will be used alongside canine detection.

Current situation

The project for the initiation of clearance started in February 2011, with the signing of a “Sales Agreement for Quality Management, Consultancy Support and Certification” between the Ministry of Defence and NAMSA, now the NATO Support Agency (NSPA). This was followed by the announcement of a tendering process in April 2011 and following submission of files by candidate firms, establishment of a short-list of firms in consultation with NSPA. Subsequently, a second and more detailed assessment of firms was conducted and short-listed firms were invited for tender. In May 2012, the firms were taken to the Syrian border for site survey. The survey covered an area of 527 km. The final selection process of companies is currently ongoing and the signing of contracts is expected to take place as soon as the evaluation process is completed.

The tender process for the first region is initiated and currently is in the evaluation period. In this respect, bidders have been requested to extend the validity of their price offers for 180 days starting from 25 Jan 2013. Evaluation is still ongoing for companies that have accepted to extend the period of validity for their price offers. The evaluation is expected to be completed by July 2013. Tender process for the second region is expected to commence by the end of 2013.

Timetable

The mine clearance timetable will have more clarity following the signing of contract with the demining companies. However, regarding the SBMC Project, it is estimated that work on the 1st region will be completed in 2017 and the second region in 2019. Due to the length and complex territorial features of the border, the Ministry of National Defence has decided to divide this area into 2 main regions to facilitate demining activities. This approach will also enable the transfer of useful information and experience from the first region to the second.

Budget

The SBMC Project will be financed from national resources. In this respect, the necessary budget planning has been done for each year. The estimated total cost is 550.000.000 USD.

Eastern and Southeastern borders

Methodology

The order of priority for the clearance of eastern borders is north to south, beginning with the Armenian border and continuing southwards to borders with Azerbaijan, Iran and finally Iraq.

The sum of the area that will be cleared of mines within the framework of the first phase of a three-phase project is 13.5 million square meters.

The second phase of this three-phase project to clear the area further south of the eastern borders has also been prepared and covers an area of 2.4 million square meters.

Two-thirds of the total cost of the first two phases of this project, amounting to 30 million Euros will be covered by the EU under the “Pre-accession Financial Assistance Scheme”.

The project will be overseen by the Ministry of Interior with active contribution by a project implementation group comprised of the Turkish General Staff, Ministry of National Defence, Ministry of Finance and the Turkish Land Forces Command.

Current situation

- **Situation with tender, specific dates:** The financing agreements of Eastern Border Mine Clearance Project Phase 1 and Phase 2 have been signed at the end of December 2012. Within the time frame between the signing of the financial agreement and the commencement of the actual clearance work, an approximately two-year period will be needed to prepare, tender and sign the contract with the undertaking companies.
- **When start is foreseen:** Demining activity of phase 1 and 2 will be started by the end of 2014.

2. Timeline and Milestones

Year	Location	Areas to be cleared		
		Number of mined areas	Mine Type	Amount of area to be cleared (m ²)
2015	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearance activity along the border of Turkey-Armenia 2. Clearance activity between Dilucu-Gürbulak (Phase-1) (Borders with Azerbaijan and Iran) 3. Clearance activity between the region of Gürbulak and Yassitepe (Phase-1) (Border with Iran) 4. Clearance activity between the region of Yassitepe and Sibraltepe (Phase-1) (Border with Iran) 5. Clearance activity between the region of Sibraltepe and Özalp region(Phase-1) (Border with Iran) 6. Clearance activity between Özalp region and Albayrak - Gelenler Village region (Phase-1) (Border with Iran) 7. Başkale region(Phase-2) (Border with Iran) 8. Esendere region(Phase-2) (Border with Iran) 9. Tekeli region (Phase-2) (Border with Iran) 	9		Phase 1: 13.347.862 m ² Phase 2: 2.351.268 m ²
2016	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clearance activity along the border of Turkey-Armenia 2. Clearance activity between Dilucu-Gürbulak (Phase-1) (Borders with Azerbaijan and Iran) 3. Clearance activity between the region of Gürbulak and Yassitepe (Phase-1) (Border with Iran) 4. Clearance activity between the region of Yassitepe and Sibraltepe (Phase-1) (Border with Iran) 	9		Phase 1: 13.347.862 m ² Phase 2: 2.351.268 m ²

	<p>5. Clearance activity between the region of Sibraltepe and Özalp region(Phase-1) (Border with Iran)</p> <p>6. Clearance activity between Özalp region and Albayrak - Gelenler Village region (Phase-1) (Border with Iran)</p> <p>7. Başkale region(Phase-2) (Border with Iran)</p> <p>8. Esendere region(Phase-2) (Border with Iran)</p> <p>9. Tekeli region (Phase-2) (Border with Iran)</p>			
2017	<p>1. Clearance activity along the border of Turkey-Armenia</p> <p>2. Clearance activity between Dilucu-Gürbulak (Phase-1) (Borders with Azerbaijan and Iran)</p> <p>3. Clearance activity between the region of Gürbulak and Yassitepe (Phase-1) (Border with Iran)</p> <p>4. Clearance activity between the region of Yassitepe and Sibraltepe (Phase-1) (Border with Iran)</p> <p>5. Clearance activity between the region of Sibraltepe and Özalp region(Phase-1) (Border with Iran)</p> <p>6. Clearance activity between Özalp region and Albayrak - Gelenler Village region (Phase-1) (Border with Iran)</p> <p>7. Başkale region(Phase-2) (Border with Iran)</p> <p>8. Esendere region(Phase-2) (Border with Iran)</p> <p>9. Tekeli region (Phase-2) (Border with Iran)</p>	9		<p>Phase 1: 13.347.862 m² Phase 2: 2.351.268 m²</p>
2018-	HAKKARİ-Şırnak Region (Phase-3) (Borders with Iran and Iraq)			5.917.529m2
Total				21.616.659m2

3. Results and measurable indicators:

- Disappearance of accidents through mine clearance
- Selected border regions become suitable for the establishment of humanitarian border surveillance systems.

4. Risks and assumptions

- Favourable weather conditions which will not limit demining operations.
- Approval of project related to Phase 3 clearance activities will be dependent on assessment of phases 1 and 2 by the EU Commission.

5. Budget

To be coordinated by the Ministry of Interior and two-thirds to be financed by the EU.

For phase 1: 26.400.000 Euros

For phase 2: 18.600.000 Euros

For phase 3: 23.672.000 Euros (estimated)

Mined areas other than borders

Methodology

Until the establishment of the National Mine Action Authority and the Mine Action Centre, the partial clearance of mined areas will be conducted by the Turkish Armed Forces manually, with the use of detectors, hand tools, sniffer dogs and mechanised mine clearance systems (BOZENA-5).

After the establishment of the National Mine Action Authority and the Mine Action Centre, clearance of mined areas will be tendered.

The order of priority for the clearance of areas other than borders:

- Areas that are used for military operations,
- Areas with little or no risk of terror attacks,
- Areas that will benefit the local population in terms of agriculture and animal breeding,

Current situation

Until the establishment of the National Mine Action Authority and the Mine Action Centre, the partial clearance of mined areas is conducted by the Turkish Armed Forces manually, with the use of detectors, hand tools, sniffer dogs and mechanized mine clearance systems (BOZENA-5).

Timeline and Milestones

Year	Location	Areas to be cleared			
		Number of mined areas	Mine Type		Amount of area to be cleared (m ²)
			A/P	A/T	
2015	Ardahan	4	437	-	438.000
2016	Tunceli	78	3.510	-	360.000
2017	Tunceli	78	3.509	-	350.000
2018	Bingöl	59	276	-	275.000
2019	Diyarbakır	38	757	-	75.700
2020	Van	10	110	-	48.500
	Hakkari	95	45.677	-	23.985
	Şırnak	200	20.128	-	363.463
2021	Bitlis	75	460	-	455.000
2022	Siirt	36	1.244	-	125.000
	Batman	15	102	-	11.000
	Mardin	16	912	-	90.000
Total		704	77.122	-	2.615.648

Risks and assumptions

a. Delays in the establishment of the National Mine Action Authority and the Mine Action Centre which will supervise the mine clearance activities and issue certificates in accordance with the IMAS.

b. Continuation of terrorist threat creating security problems for mine clearance operations and teams.

c. Inconvenient weather conditions allow for mine clearance operations to be conducted only for 5 or 6 months a year.

Budget

No dedicated budget has been allocated for the clearance of areas other than borders.

Annual costs will consist of the following:

- Until the establishment of the National Mine Action Authority and the Mine Action Centre, the monthly salaries of Turkish Armed Forces personnel and costs of equipment used in demining,
- After the establishment of the National Mine Action Authority and the Mine Action Centre, the cost of employing civilian mine clearance companies is estimated to be 2 Euros per square meter, adding up to approximately 5.3 million Euros.

ANNEXES

ANNEX-A (Sample Minefield Records)

ANNEX-B (Syrian Border Mine Clearance Standards)

ANNEX-C (Sample Pictures for Mined Areas)