

5 MSP Cluster Munitions Convention, 2 - 5 September San Jose, Costa Rica

Statement by the Netherlands

Stockpile destruction

Mr President,

Let me start by congratulating Canada on their earlier announcement of destroying their remaining stockpile of cluster munitions.

For the Netherlands, the Convention on Cluster Munitions entered into force on the 1st of August 2011.

Before the CCM entered into force, the Netherlands already destroyed its land bound cluster munitions stockpile in 2009 and 2010.

After the entry into force, the Netherlands started with the destruction of the remaining air bound cluster munitions. This munition was destroyed in Norway by a Norwegian company, which was chosen via the NATO Support Agency.

The whole process was completed within 2 months in February 2012.

The total costs of the destruction process were 157.000 euros, a real bargain I might add. These costs also include the transport of the munition from the Netherlands to Norway.

Mr President,

The legal obligations stemming from the CCM are implemented via the Dutch Act on Weapons and Munitions and the General Law on Customs.

In addition, since January 2013 the Netherlands by law prohibits investments in cluster munitions. As a result a growing number of Dutch financial institutions have taken measures no longer to invest in cluster munitions.

In today's side event organised on worldwide investments in cluster munitions, PAX underlined the impact and importance of such disinvestment measures. We call upon other member states, who have not done so yet, to take similar measures.

Thank you Mr President.