



Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM)

CCM Intersessional Meeting 15 -18 April 2013

Stockpile destruction and retention

Geneva, 17 April 2013

Madame / Mister Coordinator

At the outset, let me thank the Delegations of Spain and Croatia for the preparation of today's session. As indicated earlier this week, the Convention entered into force for Switzerland on 1 January 2013. That means that our current stockpiles of 155mm and 120mm M-85 type artillery and mortar cluster munitions will have to be destroyed by the end of 2020.

We have listened carefully to the experience of other States Parties and duly noted both the key-points of the Vientiane Action Plan as well as the conclusions of the Art. 3 Conference 2009 in Berlin, which emphasize the importance of starting destruction as early as possible. This is the reason, why we launched the destruction process right after ratification. At this stage, we can provide you with an update and already confirm

- That the declassification of the exact number of stocks is currently being decided upon by the Head of the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports; the exact numbers and information will, of course, be available at the latest by the end of June for the Initial Report being submitted by Switzerland.
- We can also indicate that the decommissioning process is about to be initiated and that the tender will be launched within a short time;
- In addition, the separation of the entire stockpile of cluster munitions has taken place – there is no possibility anymore for the troops of the Armed Forces to engage cluster munitions.
- Finally, I can inform you that the financial resources for the destruction process of 40 Mio. CHF have been reserved.

In addition, the Armed Forces are currently developing Directives of the Chief of the Armed Forces that specify the necessary amendments in military instruction and the changes to electronic systems and simulators.

Madame / Mister Coordinator

During this liquidation and decommissioning process, Switzerland will retain some cluster munition units for the purposes described in article 3, paragraph 6 of the convention. The current plan is the arms procurement agency, armasuisse, retains a few cluster munitions units for the development of cluster munition counter-measures. Likewise, some cluster munition units and additional single bomblets will be retained by the Swiss EOD centre for the training in cluster munition and explosive submunition detection, clearance and destruction techniques. Our initial report as well as the subsequent reporting will, of course, also provide an overview on the amount retained and subsequently on the use of the cluster munitions retained.

Thank you, Madame / Mister Coordinator