

CCM Art.3 Extension Request Update
By the Republic of Bulgaria

Submitted on the occasion of the 2nd Part of the 2nd Review Conference of the State Parties
To the Convention on Cluster Munitions
(20-21 September 2021, in Geneva)

Note nr 1: This update follows related intervention by the Bulgarian delegation to the Second Part of the Second Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions, which took place from 20 to 21 September 2021 in Geneva.

Note nr 2: A power point presentation (PPP), as attached to this CCM Art.3 Extension Request Update, provides for detailed information based on related specific figures.

We have the pleasure to present to the State Parties of the Convention on Cluster Munitions an update on the progress achieved by the Republic of Bulgaria in the process of destruction of the Bulgarian Army's cluster munitions stockpiles as of September 2021.

We would like to highlight that the transportation of Lot 1 and Lot 2 explosive submunitions to the contractor's facilities in Italy has been successfully completed by the end of 2020, as initially planned.

The graphic on the second slide of the attached PPP demonstrates the progress achieved in the destruction of **Lot 2** explosive sub-munitions, as of January 2021. As displayed, the process has been almost finalized with remaining less than seven thousand sub-munitions, marked in red, still to be destroyed.

The process of destruction of explosive sub-munitions allocated in **Lot 1** started in January 2021, with more than thousand (marked in deep purple on the graphic on the third slide of the PPP) successfully destroyed already.

Unfortunately, on December 21, 2020, one of the factories of the contractor company "Esploidenti Sabino" Srl (Italy) experienced an explosion affecting negatively related utilization processes.

In February 2021, the Republic of Bulgaria duly informed the ISU about these unfortunate developments.

In the aftermath of the explosion, Italian authorities started related investigation and revoked the license of the contractor company "Esploidenti Sabino" Srl

The incident did not affect any of the Bulgarian Army's explosive sub-munitions on stock at the time of the explosion.

However, the incident did put a hold to all transportation and destruction activities related to the explosive sub-munitions as of January 2021.

As of July 2021, Italian authorities completed their investigation and the contractor company “Esplosenti Sabino” Srl regained its license to defuse bombs, mines or other explosive projectiles.

The explosion site has been cleared and as of September 2021 the contractor’s facilities and production lines are set-up and in full readiness to restart the process of destruction of the Bulgarian Army’s explosive sub-munitions.

The Republic of Bulgaria has the assurance of the Italian contractor company “Esplosenti Sabino” Srl that, all transportation activities related to Lot 3 explosive sub-munitions as well as the further destruction of Lot 1 and Lot 2 sub-munitions can continue in October 2021, after 9 months of suspension.

Thus, the whole (Lots 1 to 3) destruction process shifts in time. Still, it must be finalized no later than **three (3) months** after the collection of all cluster munitions.

As shown on the fourth slide, Lot 3 transportation activities will commence in October 2021.

The execution of the Complete Contractual Program for Lot 3 is envisaged for a period of **10 (ten) months** and is to be concluded by July 2022. It encompasses both transportation and destruction activities.

Despite the delay caused by *force majeure* circumstances, we are confident that our country will accomplish the destruction of the Bulgarian Army’s cluster munitions stockpiles before the deadline – October 2022, thus respecting our commitments under Article 3 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Sofia, 24th of September 2021