

CCM - Stockpile destruction

Thank you Madame President,

For the Netherlands, the legal obligations stemming from the CCM are implemented via the Dutch Act on Weapons and Munitions and the General Law on Customs. One of these legal obligations concerns the destruction of stockpiles of cluster munitions. Before the CCM entered into force, we had already started with the destruction of our land bound cluster munitions stockpile. In 2009 and 2010 42.711 pieces of 155 mm cluster munitions were destroyed.

After the Convention entered into force for the Netherlands on August 1st 2011, the Netherlands started with the destruction of the remaining air bound cluster munitions. The total stock before destruction consisted of 2143 items, most of which were of the M261 Warhead type.

The munition was destroyed in Norway by a company chosen via the NATO Support Agency.

The method used for destruction was the closed detonation technology, which means that the cluster munitions were destroyed on a depth of about 900 meters below the ground.

With regard to possible consequences for the environment, the destruction process was consistent with relevant European Council and USAEHA Directives and guidelines.

The destruction was completed within 2 months in February 2012.

The total costs of the destruction process were 157.000 euros. These costs also included the transport of the munition from the Netherlands to Norway. For the Netherlands, this experience shows that the costs for the destruction of cluster munitions stockpiles are relatively low and should not be a barrier to complying with the obligations set out in the Convention.

The Netherlands urges states that still have obligations under the Convention regarding the destruction of their cluster munitions to do so as soon as possible.

Thank you Madame President