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## Poland Ratifies the APMBC

News Brief

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# News Brief

## Poland Ratifies the APMBC

On 4 December 2012 Poland became the 161st state to ratify the 1997 *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction* (Anti-personnel Mine Ban Convention or APMBC).<sup>1</sup> Poland originally signed the APMBC in 1997.<sup>1</sup> The Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Maciej Szpunar, made the announcement at the 12th Meeting of the States Parties to the APMBC, which took place in Geneva, Switzerland, on 3–7 December 2012.<sup>2</sup>

Explosive remnants of war and a small number of landmines from World War II and the Soviet occupation heavily contaminated Poland. However, the Polish Ministry of Defense states that mined areas or areas suspected of mine contamination no longer remain, eliminating the need for regular clearance or mine risk education programs.<sup>3</sup> Nonetheless, Polish armed forces conduct landmine and ERW clearance in response to emergency requests for explosive ordnance disposal and in routine checks on former Soviet and Polish military bases before they are handed over to local civilian communities.<sup>4</sup>

The APMBC will take effect in Poland on 1 June 2013. Remigiusz Henczel, Poland's ambassador to the U.N. in Geneva stressed Poland's commitment to a world without landmines, stating that Poland is "ready to actively participate in endeavors promoting the universal adherence to the Convention and its humanitarian impact."<sup>1</sup> 

Poland Ratifies the APMBC by Peachey [ from page 56 ]

1. "Poland Joins the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention: All European Union Members Now Fully Bound by the Treaty." *Demining Operations and Technologies*. <http://bit.ly/10hCS22>. Accessed 17 January 2013.
2. "Poland is going to ratify the Ottawa Convention." *Ministry of Foreign Affairs Republic of Poland*. (December 2012). <http://bit.ly/TH3ZfB>. Accessed 8 January 2013.
3. "Poland." *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor*. <http://bit.ly/13o0LUl>. Accessed 11 January 2013.
4. "Poland." *Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor*. <http://bit.ly/13mDZNt>. Accessed 11 January 2013.