

Landmines in Southeast Europe

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Mine Ban Treaty Status

States Parties

Albania	Greece	Serbia
Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYR Macedonia)	Slovenia
Croatia	Montenegro	Turkey

States not Party¹

Armenia	Azerbaijan	Georgia*
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*Georgia is party to the Convention on Conventional Weapons and its Amended Protocol II on landmines which regulates the use of mines.

Universalizing the Norm

All 12 countries in Southeast Europe voted in favor of UN General Assembly Resolution 63/42 on 2 December 2008, which promoted universalization and full implementation of the Mine Ban Treaty. This included three states not party to the Mine Ban Treaty: Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

Contamination

Most countries/areas in Southeast Europe are contaminated with mines and/or explosive remnants of war (ERW): Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, BiH, Croatia, Georgia, Greece, Montenegro, Serbia, and Turkey. The areas of Kosovo and Nagorno-Karabakh are also contaminated.

Clearance

Under Article 5 of the Mine Ban Treaty, States Parties must clear all known mined areas under their jurisdiction or control as soon as possible, but not later than 10 years after the treaty's entry into force.

FYR Macedonia reported having met its Article 5 clearance obligation in September 2006. Officials stated publicly in November 2007 that Montenegro was free of mines, but the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not made a formal declaration of compliance with Article 5 and a suspected area remained to be surveyed as of September 2009. Albania declared in May 2009 that it was close to meeting its Article 5 clearance obligations. BiH and Croatia, both of which had Article 5 deadlines of 1 March 2009, requested and were granted 10-year extensions by the Ninth Meeting of States Parties in November 2008.

¹ Kosovo is not a UN member state and thus is not eligible to adhere to international treaties such as the Mine Ban Treaty.



Article 5 Deadlines

Country	Article 5 Deadline
Albania	1 August 2010
Greece	1 March 2014
Serbia	1 March 2014
Turkey	1 March 2014
Montenegro	1 April 2017
BiH	1 March 2019
Croatia	1 March 2019

Casualties

In 2007, 5,426 casualties caused by mines, ERW, and victim-activated improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were recorded in 78 countries and areas, including at least 8 countries and areas in Southeast Europe.² In this region, a total of 194 casualties were recorded in 2007, which accounts for 3.6 % of all recorded casualties.

Recorded mine/ERW casualties in Southeast Europe: 2007

Country	Killed	Injured	Total
Albania	2	16	18
Armenia	0	1	1
Azerbaijan	4	16	20
BiH	8	22	30
Croatia	3	5	8
Kosovo	0	14	14
Montenegro	0	0	0
Serbia	0	2	2
Turkey	28	73	101
Total			194

Risk Education

In 2007, risk education (RE) was deemed adequate in 23 countries (including four Southeast Europe countries/areas) and inadequate in 38 countries (including five Southeast Europe countries).

² Casualties were not recorded in 2007 in Greece, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, and Slovenia. It is unknown if any casualties occurred in 2007 in Georgia due to a lack of comprehensive casualty data collection.

Adequacy of risk education in Southeast Europe: 2007

	Adequate RE Coverage	Inadequate RE Coverage
States Parties	Croatia, FYR Macedonia	Albania, BiH, Serbia, Turkey
States not Party	Azerbaijan	Armenia
Other Areas	Kosovo	

“Adequate” coverage means that a program was capable of providing appropriate risk education for at-risk groups and was able to respond to emerging situations. “Inadequate” means that appropriate risk education was not delivered on a scale to match the threat or geographical coverage necessary.

Victim Assistance

The availability of services available to mine/ERW survivors and progress towards meeting victim assistance aims was reportedly good in Albania. Some improvement in the provision of services to mine/ERW survivors was reported in Azerbaijan. The quality and availability of services available to mine/ERW survivors in the rest of the region were inadequate.

Use of Antipersonnel Mines

In 2008, no countries in Southeast Europe used antipersonnel mines. Non-state armed groups used antipersonnel mines or mine-like improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in one country in Southeast Europe: Turkey. During the 1999 crisis in Kosovo, Yugoslav forces laid significant numbers of antipersonnel mines, and the NATO bombing campaign left extensive contamination from cluster bomblets and other UXO that affected Albania, Serbia, and Kosovo.

Georgia has had an official moratorium on the use of antipersonnel mines in place since September 1996, but it appears that Georgian Armed Forces used antipersonnel mines every year from 2001 to 2004, and in 2006 in the upper Kodori Gorge. There were allegations of use of antipersonnel mines by both Georgia and Russia during the heavy fighting related to South Ossetia in August 2008; each side has denied the allegations. Cluster munitions were also used in the conflict by both Georgia and Russia.

Production

None of the countries/areas in Southeast Europe are among the 13 states that Landmine Monitor identifies as producers of antipersonnel mines. Five States Parties from the region once produced antipersonnel mines: Albania, BiH, Greece, Serbia, and Turkey.

Stockpile Destruction

Article 4 of the Mine Ban Treaty obliges all States Parties to destroy their stockpile of antipersonnel mines not later than four years after entry into force of the treaty for that state. Eighty-five Mine Ban Treaty States Parties have completed destruction of their antipersonnel mine stockpiles, including 7 Southeast Europe countries—Albania, BiH, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Slovenia.

Two States Parties in the region—Greece and Turkey—missed their stockpile destruction deadlines of 1 March 2008, putting them in serious violation of the treaty. As of May 2009, Greece was shipping most of its 1.6 mines to a destruction facility in Bulgaria and expected to complete the transfer by October 2009. It is unclear when destruction will be finished. As of March 2009, Turkey’s stockpile of 1.7 million mines remained to be destroyed.

Mines Retained for Training

Four States Parties in Southeast Europe are among the ten States Parties with the largest numbers of mines retained for training³: Turkey (15,125 mines retained), Greece (7,224), and Croatia (6,038).

Transparency Reporting

Under Article 7 of the Mine Ban Treaty, States Parties are required to submit annual transparency reports. As of 1 June 2009, all States Parties from the region had submitted their annual transparency reports due 30 April 2009, compared to 53% of all States Parties.

Three States Parties in the region—Croatia, Serbia, and Turkey—have used expanded Form D with their Article 7 reports to report on mines retained for training. Turkey has reported on steps to ensure command-detonation only of Claymore-type mines.

State not party Azerbaijan submitted a voluntary Article 7 transparency report in 2008 and Armenia has indicated its intention to submit a voluntary Article 7 transparency report.

National Implementation Legislation

Article 9 of the Mine Ban Treaty states that “Each State Party shall take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited” by the treaty.

Fifty-seven States Parties have passed new domestic laws to implement the treaty and fulfill the obligations of Article 9, including four countries in Southeast Europe—Albania, BiH, Croatia, and Serbia.

Several States Parties in the region consider their existing domestic law code or criminal laws sufficient for implementing the Mine Ban Treaty: Greece, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia, and Turkey.

It is important for States Parties to pass legislation that includes penal sanctions for any potential future violations of the treaty, and provides for full implementation of all aspects of the treaty.

³ Numbers of mines retained for training as of 20 May 2009.