



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR DEFENCE INDUSTRY AND SPACE

The Director-General

Brussels
DEFIS.B.1/EG/mnf (2026) 8772403

Subject: Landmines

Dear Petitioner,

I am writing in reply to your email dated 19 May 2026, in which you called for the European Union (EU) budget not to be used to finance landmines, and urged the EU to uphold international humanitarian law. You also expressed concern that European taxpayers' money might be used to fund weapons that leave deadly explosives remnants on the ground for decades.

Under international humanitarian law, the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of anti-personnel landmines are governed by the Ottawa Convention. The EU itself is not a party to that Convention, and its provisions have not yet been incorporated into customary international law. Accordingly, from a legal perspective the EU is not directly bound by the Convention.

Nevertheless, while only EU Member States that are parties to the Ottawa Convention are formally bound by its provisions, the EU seeks to ensure compliance with the international treaties to which most of the EU Member States are a part of, by avoiding the financing of products or technologies prohibited by those treaties.

Yours faithfully,

Timo PESONEN

