

**ARTICLE 6 Bis: PROHIBITION OF THE USE, DEVELOPMENT, MANUFACTURE,
STOCKPILE AND TRANSFER OF MINES**

ISSUE: Whether there should be a complete ban on the use, development, etc of mines.

BACKGROUND:

This article prohibits the use, manufacture, stockpile and transfer of certain mines and booby traps. The hidden principle, however, is that all mines are to be eventually be banned from use, manufacture, stockpile and transfer. The Article, as it now exists, would place a complete ban on anti-personnel mines, non-SD/SN APM, booby traps or non-detectable mines. The Article also includes an obligation to destroy all existing weapons covered by the Article.

This article was proposed by several countries for internal political reasons (France, Germany, Mexico, Estonia) and is not currently in play. However, it remains in the Rolling Text (as no State wants to be the one to take it out) and may be raised again during discussions at the Review Conference.

CANADIAN POSITION:

We believe that this issue is a non-starter and would prefer to see a transfer scheme along the lines of the Dutch proposal (Article 6ter).

POSITIONS OF OTHER MAJOR PLAYERS/GROUPS ON THE ISSUE:

Not surprisingly, there is widespread opposition to this article from those that support either the USA/UK plan or the Dutch proposal.

LIKELY AREAS OF COMPROMISE:

It is unknown whether the States that previously supported this proposal will attempt to garner support for it again.