

**AMBASSADOR
PERMANENT REPRESENTATION
OF TURKEY TO THE OPCW**

2011/LAHE/1896248

The Hague, 25 February 2011

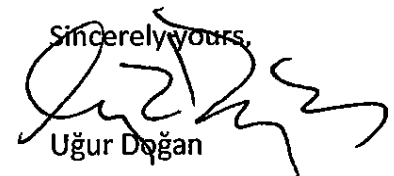
Dear Mr. Crowley,

With reference to your letter dated 10 February 2011, I would like to provide the following information, which I believe will shed light on issues contained in your letter concerning the 120mm mortar ammunitions containing tear gas (CS) manufactured by a Turkish company:

- Turkey, having ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in 1997, took legislative and administrative measures to implement the Convention at the national level, which is facilitated by means of a bill on CWC approved by the Turkish Parliament in 2006.
- Turkey is committed to its CWC obligations and in no way condones or facilitates the production, trade, transfer or use of mortar ammunition containing tear gas or any other prohibited substance for that matter.
- Prior to the ratification of CWC by Turkey in 1997, a Turkish company (MKEK) had conducted R&D activities on a 120mm mortar ammunition containing tear gas (CS).
- A very limited amount (1000) of the ammunition [CS MKE MOD 251] was produced in 1996, but with Turkey ratifying the CWC in 1997, production was discontinued.
- None of the above-mentioned ammunitions were exported, transferred or used in real time operations. Around 150 of the said ammunitions were used for testing purposes during the initial R&D phase in 1997. The remaining 850, whose dates of expiry have passed, are stored at the Turkish Armed Forces ammunition destruction facility awaiting disposal.

Mr. Michael Crowley
Project Coordinator
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- Also, since the R&D activities conducted by MKEK which resulted in the limited production of CS MKE MOD 251 in 1996, no company in Turkey has in any way been involved in the development, production or transfer of 120mm munitions containing CS or other chemical irritants.
- Due to lack of communication between the policy & production divisions and the marketing division of MKEK, information concerning this type of ammunition continued to be displayed in the catalogues and web-site of the company, while epoxy copies continued to be retained in the exhibition kits together with other mortar ammunition of the same type and generation.
- The items displayed at all the exhibitions, including those at 2005 IDEF in Ankara and the 2010 AAD in Cape Town, are special marketing kits made of epoxy designed to reflect the actual size, weight and appearance of real ammunitions. They contain no chemical agents.
- On the other hand, "Furkan Defense Industry", mentioned in your report, is a newly founded brokering company marketing military items produced primarily in Eastern Europe and CIS countries.
- While only an intermediary and not a producer, the company has been cautioned to keep its trading activities within the norms and commitments Turkey has entered into through its international legal obligations and has been made aware that trading 120mm CS mortar ammunition is not permissible under Turkey's CWC obligations. Consequently, they have been asked to remove this item from their catalogues and web-site and to cease forthwith any commercial transaction of these items.
- The Turkish Armed or Security Forces have never used 120mm munitions containing CS or any other chemical irritants.

Sincerely yours,

Uğur Doğan