

Belgium's contribution in response to resolution A/Res/77/64 of the UN General Assembly Resolution– 'Countering the Threat Posed by Improvised Explosive Devices'

A one-of-a-kind national Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)-capacity

The specialized unit "Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Destruction Service" (DOVO), which is part of the Belgian Ministry of Defence, is responsible for neutralizing, clearing, and destroying all types of explosive devices in Belgium and abroad. DOVO is the only service in Belgium specialized in neutralizing car bombs, parcel bombs, homemade explosives, and terrorist IEDs. To this end, DOVO has specially trained IED disposal experts, robots, technical vehicles, and protective equipment.

DOVO is a unique setup and distinguishes itself through a combination of characteristics:

- As National point of contact for all explosive threats, DOVO carries out all national missions related to conventional ammunition, improvised explosives, and chemical weapons. This includes operations on land, in our territorial waters, ports, and aboard ships/aircraft.
- As a JOINT unit DOVO consists of specialists from the Army, Air Force, Navy, and Medical Service. This mix makes this service multidisciplinary, flexible, and unique within the Belgian Defence. Not only military personnel, but also police, firefighters, and other services receive additional training at DOVO.
- As a fully operational EOD and IEDD team, DOVO is on standby 24/7, year-round, ready to deploy, supplemented by a diving team on call.

Countering the threat posed by IED through cooperation and assistance by supporting mine action and EOD-capacity development in third countries

Belgium supports IED disposal through its Mine Action assistance. In 2025 Belgium supported mine action activities in Ukraine, Iraq, Syria, Senegal, Lebanon, Cambodia, Angola and Jordan for a total amount of approximately €26 million. Through the NATO Defence and security related Capacity Building initiative, Belgium contributes to the UNMAS Threat Mitigation Advisory Team for Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Counter-IED trainings. The EOD operators provide ad-hoc support to UNMAS, with train-the-trainer and mentoring missions.

Stopping IED's at the source

Besides IED neutralisation as a preventative measure, Belgium wants to stress the importance of up-stream prevention and stopping IED from being made and used.

This requires thorough and comprehensive analysis of the sources of IED precursors, to investigate their origin and provenance, make the supply chains visible and to establish countermeasures taking into account the specific regional context.
