



TREATY SERIES 2009
Nº 26

**Additional Protocol to the Convention on Prohibitions or
Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons
which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have
Indiscriminate Effects (Protocol IV, entitled Protocol on
Blinding Laser Weapons) and Ireland's declaration made in
relation to Article 1 of the Protocol**

Adopted at Vienna on 13 October 1995

Ireland's notification of consent to be bound and Ireland's declaration
made in relation to Article 1 deposited with the Secretary-General of the
United Nations on 27 March 1997

Entered into force with respect to Ireland on 30 July 1998

Presented to Dáil Éireann by the Minister for Foreign Affairs

**ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL TO THE CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS
OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL
WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS
OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS (PROTOCOL IV, ENTITLED
PROTOCOL ON BLINDING LASER WEAPONS)**

ARTICLE 1: ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL

The following protocol shall be annexed to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (“the Convention”) as Protocol IV:

**“Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons
(Protocol IV)”**

Article 1

It is prohibited to employ laser weapons specifically designed, as their sole combat function or as one of their combat functions, to cause permanent blindness to unenhanced vision, that is to the naked eye or to the eye with corrective eyesight devices. The High Contracting Parties shall not transfer such weapons to any State or non-State entity.

Article 2

In the employment of laser systems, the High Contracting Parties shall take all feasible precautions to avoid the incidence of permanent blindness to unenhanced vision. Such precautions shall include training of their armed forces and other practical measures.

Article 3

Blinding as an incidental or collateral effect of the legitimate military employment of laser systems, including laser systems used against optical equipment, is not covered by the prohibition of this Protocol.

Article 4

For the purpose of this Protocol ‘permanent blindness’ means irreversible and uncorrectable loss of vision which is seriously disabling with no prospect of recovery. Serious disability is equivalent to visual acuity of less than 20/200 Snellen measured using both eyes.”

ARTICLE 2: ENTRY INTO FORCE

This Protocol shall enter into force as provided in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Article 5 of the Convention.

Ireland's declaration made in relation to Article 1 of the Additional Protocol to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects (Protocol IV, entitled Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons)

"It is the understanding of Ireland that the provisions of the Additional Protocol which by their contents or nature may also be applied in peacetime, shall be observed at all times."