

Berlin, March 2022

Dear All,

This time, I am addressing you as a person who is committed to detect dangerous facts and to render safety and security. Detecting threats is the purpose of non-destructive testing. Since they may be raised not only technically but also posed purposely the EFNDT Working Group 5 was committed to identify applications of detection methods beyond the technical world and demonstrate them to those who may benefit from them. Since all detection methods reveal facts, the results have to be documented and recorded whether they are favourable or not, period. On my desk, a souvenir from the 10th European Conference on Non-Destructive Testing reminds me the unforgettable time I had in Moscow in 2010, so I am sure that many colleagues in Russia and Belarus are committed likewise.

But today - a nightmare I am unable to talk about. However, it is rather evident from various sources that cluster munition has been employed in this war. Using this kind of ammunition is attacking civilian targets and therefore is condemned by numerous nations (Cluster Mine Coalition, Dublin, 2008), unfortunately not by Russia, Ukraine and, sorry to say, also the USA. As a matter of fact, we have to be ready to encountering threats emanating from this kind of ordnance and I have included them into the scope of the Working Group 5 some two decades ago. This makes me convinced that this Working Group is gaining importance more than before.

Please consider to reactivate this Working Group! Who can do it?

(<http://www.efndt.org/Organisation/Working-Groups/Working-Group-5-Public-Security>)

In difference to the official Russian statements, I call it "war", what else is this "special operation". You cannot say this frankly in Russia, it is now even prohibited by law – suppressing unfavourable information and even denying facts! This has to be ceased, immediately!

The ongoing war makes it absolutely necessary to close all official collaborations with Russia and Belarus on one hand, but please do not forget all our colleagues in Russia and Belarus who have to live and to work under really hard conditions right now on the other hand. They are still our colleagues. I just do not know how to manage this situation, but please help to find ways!

Best regards

Kurt Osterloh