



## NATO demilitarisation project

**When it comes to demilitarisation, environment-friendly processes play a major role. Decades of experience have made Switzerland a leader in the field. A NATO project is now set to benefit from this expertise when it is employed in an area of Serbia.**

As part of a NATO demilitarisation project in Serbia, a meeting was held with a Serbian delegation in Switzerland on 23/24 August. S+T was invited as the expert organisation in this field to set out proposals that would minimise the environmental impact in the target country and significantly improve the environment. S+T was able to show the visitors the approach that Switzerland has been using for years. This firstly involves ammunition destruction methods that prevent heavy metal residues in the affected areas from getting into rivers and polluting waterways. The aim here is to prevent ash from incinerators contaminating drinking water in Serbia both now and in the future. Secondly, it involves transferring knowledge about the artificial ageing of ammunition to permit better forecasting. This is done by heating explosives to a higher temperature in a furnace in order to accelerate the ageing process. This makes it possible to determine the remaining service life of the ammunition with greater accuracy. S+T has been asked by NATO to give on-site training; NATO will provide the laboratory and the infrastructure. NATO has not yet decided whether the project is to go ahead.

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