

**- PROTOCOL V -**

**REPORTING FORMS  
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 10, PARAGRAPH 2 (b) OF THE PROTOCOL AND THE  
DECISION OF THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING  
PARTIES TO PROTOCOL V**

(As adopted by the First Conference at its second plenary meeting on 5 November 2007)

HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
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NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT (Organization, telephones, fax, e-mail):

Office for Mine Action, Mesni ka 23, Zagreb, Croatia  
Phone +385 1 6303 990; Fax. +385 1 6303 996  
E-mail: info@mine.vlada.hr

Ministry of Defense  
Defense Policy Directorate  
Department of multilateral Affairs and International Security  
Arms Control Section  
Phone: +385 1 3784 181, Fax: +385 1 3784 383  
E-mail: mjozic@morh.hr

Croatian Mine Action Center, Ante Kova i a 10, Sisak;  
Phone: +385 44 554 151; Fax No. +385 44 554 142; hcr@hcr.hr; WEB: www.hcr.hr

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 30 March 2017  
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(dd/mm/yyyy)

This information can be available to other interested parties and relevant organizations

YES

NO

Partially, only the following forms:

A  B  C  D  E  F  G  H  I

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**FORM A:** Steps taken to implement Article 3 of the Protocol: Clearance, removal or destruction of explosive remnants of war

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High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

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Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016  
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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**Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 3:**

Through 121 preliminary demining projects, mine threat has been removed from an area that amounts to 38.263.980 m<sup>2</sup> while additional 3.204.465 m<sup>2</sup> was reduced through technical and non-technical survey activities. All these activities resulted in the total decrease of the suspected hazardous area (SHA) in Croatia in the amount of 41.468.453 m<sup>2</sup>. (+ 454.917 m<sup>2</sup> demined by the MoD). Thus, SHA in the Republic of Croatia on December 31, 2016 totalled 446,6 km<sup>2</sup>. In 2016 the largest share in demined area is area planned for different economic activities like forest area and especially agricultural land which the local and regional governments have stated as their priority crucial for start of agricultural production and the other activities. During the mine clearance activities a total of 3.821 mines and UXO was found and destroyed, out of which, 1.847 mines and 1.974 UXO.

Table 2: Number of mines and UXO destroyed in the period 01/01/2016 ó 31/12/2016

Year	Anti-personnel Mines	Anti-vehicle Mines	UXO
2016.	1.342 (+194 by MoD and MoI)	505 (+37 by MoD and MoI)	1.947 (+9.833 by MoD and MoI)

**Any other relevant information:**

During the implementation of quality control, CROMAC quality control supervisors and QC staff, in 28 cases concerning the 10 work sites, found that mine clearance operations did not meet the prescribed quality requirements and have ordered repetition of demining activities in an area of 45,005 m<sup>2</sup>. Moreover, during the implementation of the final quality control, in four different cases, the Commission for the final QC has established that demining activities have not been performed in accordance with the regulations and it was ordered to repeat the activities in these areas amounting to 15,783 m<sup>2</sup> in size.

Mine clearance capacities include a complete equipment of a number of demining companies that were authorized by the Ministry of Interior to perform demining activities in 2016. They also had accreditation from CROMAC to perform such activities. At the start of 2016, 46 commercial companies with the total capacities of 653 deminers, 55 demining machines and 42 mine detection dogs conducted demining operations, while at the end of 2016 mentioned number declined to 41 accredited commercial companies with the total capacity of 600 deminers, 51 demining machines and 60 mine detection dogs.

All employees that work in mine clearance are wearing protective equipment that consists of flack jacket with protection for groins and helmets with visors. For special cases of UXO demolition, companies use ballistic suits. Following equipment is in usage for humanitarian demining activities: metal detectors, demining machines of all types (medium, light and heavy), excavators, machines for vegetation clearing and mine detection dogs. In Croatia, mine clearance actions are mostly performed as a combination of mechanical demining, manual detection and mine-searching dogs. CROMAC's Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) also prescribe the entire methodology of humanitarian demining activities. Frequent use of demining machines puts Croatia among the leading states with mechanical mine clearance.

Certain amount of the Croatian military facilities including barracks, air bases, training areas, radar stations and storage sites are still partially contaminated by land mines, cluster munitions remnants and other UXO. The Demining battalion of the Engineering regiment is responsible for clearance of all military facilities.

During the year 2016, an area of 454.917 m<sup>2</sup> was searched and cleared, 38 pieces of AP and 2 pieces of AV landmines were found during the process, 5.084 pieces of UXO's were discovered and destroyed. MoI collected 156 pieces of AP and 35 pieces of AV landmines and 4.749 pieces of UXO which were subsequently destroyed.

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**FORM B:** Steps taken to implement Article 4 of the Protocol: Recording, retaining and transmission of information

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High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

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**Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 4 and the Technical Annex:**

At the beginning of 2016, 69 towns and municipalities in 9 out of 21 counties were affected by mine problem. Total mine suspected area of the Republic of Croatia at the beginning of the 2016 amounted to 467,4 km<sup>2</sup>, with approx. 46.000 mines and UXO that still have to be found and destroyed.

On December 31, 2016 the total suspected hazardous area was marked with 14.088 mine danger signs that are one of the basic elements of the Mine Information System (MIS) that is shown on the maps given to the local authorities, police administration and individuals that have requested maps on SHA situation.

Annual Mine Action Plan is based on priorities and requests of counties that are compliant to their development programs, programs of reconstruction and return of displaced people, needs and requests of public companies and other demining beneficiaries, defined mined and mine suspected area and financial means secured. The Plan is approved by Croatian Government and Annual Report is adopted by Croatian Parliament.

CROMAC created the Mine Action 2016 Plan with the consent of the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure, Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Crafts, Ministry of Construction and Environmental Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, National Protection and Rescue Directorate and all mine contaminated counties in the Republic of Croatia.

**Any other relevant information:**

The new National Mine Action Strategy in the Republic of Croatia was approved by the Croatian Parliament in mid-September 2009 and it consists of all relevant information on mine action since 1991, current status of mine suspected area (size, positioning, structure and impact on society and economy), description of available capacities for mine action execution and their performance and basic goals to be achieved in the period 2009 to 2019, with an established method and preconditions for its realization.

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**FORM C:** Steps taken to implement Article 5 of the Protocol: Other precautions for the protection of the civilian population, individual civilians and civilian objects from the risks and effects of explosive remnants of war

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**Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 5 and the Technical Annex:**

In 2016, CROMAC coordinated a large number of activities related to informing about mine danger. Through 77 lectures and presentations, more than 21.620 citizens were educated in 2016. Majority of them were kindergarten and elementary school kids. Special education was given to the members of hunting associations, Croatian Mountain Rescue Service, hikers and farmers. Education was provided in Croatian capital Zagreb and 13 other counties.

The largest number of activities related to the education about dangers of mines and UXO were done in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the relevant police departments thorough the "Less arms, less tragedy" campaign. The cooperation was also achieved with: Croatian Hunting Federation, Croatian Red Cross, Lions Club Beli Manastir, Disability Volleyball Club Zagreb, county, city and municipal authorities and other non-governmental organizations and associations.

A mobile application "Danger, mines!" has been launched as a part of the pilot project designed as an application for smartphones, intended to draw attention to the vicinity of mine suspected area, as well as the education about the dangers of landmines.

"Together for Croatia without Mines" campaign has been implemented for four years now by the Disability Volleyball Club "Zagreb" in co-operation with the Trust Fund "Croatia without Mines", Government Office for Mine Action and Mine Aid. Also, central marking of April 4<sup>th</sup> - the International day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, was held in April in Gospi (capital of Li ko-senjska County, the most mine-affected county in Croatia) during which intensified media activities have been organised with a goal to educate citizens about mine danger.

**Any other relevant information:**

The Republic of Croatia has well-developed legal framework relating to the persons with disabilities in realizing their legitimate rights and status. The status and various forms of rights are being realized through over 250 different laws and bylaws. There are 4 basic forms of mine victim assistance the ministries, different institutions, non-governmental sector, a number of organizations and individual initiatives take part in-medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological help and social reintegration and professional and economic rehabilitation.

In 2016, five mine incidents were registered involving seven people and resulting with three fatalities and four lightly injured people. In these five incidents, six casualties were deminers and one was auxiliary worker in mine clearance.

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**FORM D:** Steps taken to implement Article 6 of the Protocol: Provisions for the protection of humanitarian missions and organizations from the effects of explosive remnants of war

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[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

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Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 6:

Every humanitarian mission or organization that is coming to Croatia with a goal to help or to get involved in demining action in Croatia can get all relevant information in CROMAC. CROMAC will provide information about ERW, mine suspected area, priorities and all other topics that could be point of interest of those organizations. That is one of the CROMAC's main tasks.

CROMAC tasks are as follows:

- Collecting and processing data about the MSA and database management,
- Planning of demining operations and organizing public tenders for awarding demining operations,
- MSA marking,
- Drafting of demining and technical survey projects,
- Quality assurance and quality control over demining operations,
- Issuance of demining certificates,
- Co-ordination of MRE activities,
- International co-operation.

Any other relevant information:

N/A

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**FORM E:** Steps taken to implement Article 7 of the Protocol: Assistance with respect to existing explosive remnants of war

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**Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 7:**

The Republic of Croatia confirmed its resoluteness in solving the mine problem by passing the Act on Humanitarian Demining in 1996, establishing the Croatian Mine Action Centre in 1998, fulfilling the commitments undertaken by joining the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction as well as providing for permanent and stable sources of financing in the State budget, in the World Bank loans and from public companies in the Republic of Croatia. Croatia ratified the Convention on 28 May 1998 and submitted its initial transparency report, on 3 September 1999, providing information on areas that contain or are suspected to contain anti-personnel mines.

Croatia has, together with another 14 countries, successfully presented the Request for the extension of Article 5 deadline at the 9th Meeting of the State Parties held in Geneva from November 24-28, 2008. Deadline extension was granted to Croatia until year 2019.

Republic of Croatia was one of the first to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions in the first trimester of 2009. Accordingly, the CROMAC has developed Standard operating procedures that will regulate the marking of the areas in which there is the danger of cluster munitions, and made signs indicating the dangers of unexploded ordnance and cluster munitions.

The Republic of Croatia, CROMAC and all institutions and organizations that deal with mine problem are, in frame of our law competence, ready and open for cooperation and consulting with other parties to solve any problem that may arise in interpretation and applying method of this Protocol provisions.

In the year 2016, CROMAC continued all activities towards fulfilling the obligations from the signed conventions and protocols.

**Any other relevant information:**

N/A

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**FORM F:** Steps taken to implement Article 8 of the Protocol: Co-operation and assistance

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[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

**Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 8:**

The establishment of Cluster for humanitarian demining created the opportunity for the export of Croatian knowledge and technology to foreign markets or in countries that have a mine problem. Cluster, through its founders and its associated members, in one place ensures the capacity, resources and knowledge to carry out all activities related to mine action. As the knowledge, technologies and products greatly surpassed the needs of Croatia, the intention is to offer the same knowledge and resources to countries with mine problem for its faster removal. The main objective of this association is to improve efficiency through a variety of advanced economic processes: changing and improving methodology, components, machines, services and through adaptation and access to new regions, and all for the purpose of establishing a mine action as Croatian export product.

Cluster now comprises of 14 members, except for Croatian Mine Action Centre and CROMAC-CTDT, there are the manufacturers of demining machines DOK-ING Ltd., uro akovic Special Vehicles Inc. and demining company Istrafliva Ltd., manufacturers of protective equipment Borovo Gumitrade Ltd. and Tđestan Busch Ltd., a manufacturer of metal detectors Vallon GmbH from Germany and manufacturer of magnetic locators Schonstedt Instrument Company from USA, Regional Center for Underwater Demining (RCUD) from Montenegro, Blas-tip Ltd. from Slovenia, demining companies MKA\*Deming Ltd. and Mungos razminiranje Ltd. as well as Geofoto Ltd.

Government Office for Mine Action, CROMAC and CROMAC-CTDT jointly organized the 13th International Symposium and Equipment Exhibition "MINE ACTION 2016" which was held in Biograd in April 2016.

The Symposium became the global umbrella gathering in terms of mine action problematic and has been visited by more and more people every year. Some 150 participants from 34 countries attended the Symposium, during which different plenary sessions, a field demonstration of demining and detection equipment, a demonstration of technical survey activities, as well as workshops and working meetings of IARP (International Advanced Robotic Programme) and SEEMACC (South East Europe Mine Action Coordination Council) were held.

**Any other relevant information:**

Agreement on cooperation between CROMAC and the Armenian Center for Humanitarian Demining was signed in April 2016. This document created the foundation for future cooperation activities between the CROMAC and CHDE, defined specific actions that will continue with focus on the support of the Armenian Center for Humanitarian Demining in the areas of adoption of the Law on Humanitarian Demining, establishment of the National Mine Action Strategy, the potential Armenian membership in SEEMAC and cooperation supported by the OSCE Office in Yerevan in the field of education.

CROMAC can offer the following forms of assistance to the international mine action community:

- É Establishment of the National mine action centre,
- É Legal, sub legal and normative regulations,
- É Establishment of mine information system and geo- information system,
- É Planning system ó production of National strategies, annual and operative activity plans,
- É Education of executors of humanitarian demining operations (deminers, auxiliary workers and management) and mine risk education,
- É General survey, definition of suspected hazardous area and education of survey teams,
- É Protective equipment and demining machines produced in the Republic of Croatia,
- É Capacities and know-how of the Croatian demining companies,
- É Capacities for testing demining machines, equipment and devices as well as new technologies of mine and UXO detection.

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**FORM F(a):** Steps taken by States which have ERW victims to implement the relevant provisions of Article 8(2): Victim Assistance

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Steps taken to implement the relevant provisions of Article 8(2):

During 2016, the advisory assistance to persons affected by mines, and their families continued to be provided by NGO "Mine Aid". The largest number of activities related to the education about dangers of mines and UXO were done in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the relevant police departments thorough the "Less arms, less tragedy" campaign. The cooperation was also achieved with: Croatian Hunting Federation, Croatian Red Cross, òLions clubò Beli Manastir, Disability Volleyball Club Zagreb, county, city and municipal authorities and other non-governmental organizations and associations.

All actions and activities in mine action in Croatia and worldwide were presented on web pages of CROMAC and Government Office for Mine Action.

Central ceremony for the April 4, International day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was held in Gospi in co-organisation of Government Office for Mine Action and CROMAC.

Other relevant information, guided by the Plan of Action on Victim Assistance:

N/A



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**FORM G:** Steps taken to implement Article 9 of the Protocol: Generic preventive measures

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[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 9 and the Technical Annex:

a.) Munitions manufacturing management

Production of all types of arms and military equipment in the Republic of Croatia is regulated by the Act on the Production, Overhaul and Trade in Arms and Military Equipment, adopted on 25 March 2002 (Official Gazette 33/2002). The law regulates safety and protection of methods of producing and refitting arms and military equipments.

b.) Munitions management

In order to ensure the best possible long-term reliability of explosive ordnance, Republic Croatia applies best practices and operating procedures with respect to its storage, transport, field storage and handling in accordance with the following:

Explosive ordnance is stored in 26 secured facilities that are well-guarded and protected against fires and thunders.

Explosive ordnance is stored and sorted in accordance with its condition. Out of date and faulty explosive ordnance is sorted out and stored separately. For explosive ordnance warehousing, tracking and testing procedures have been put in place in order to maintain its reliability.

All facilities are made of concrete and with insulation in order to maintain temperatures under 50C and humidity under not more than 75 %. Personnel working and handling explosive ordnance must be well pyrotechnically educated and certified in order to perform their duties.

Storage and handling, transport, supply and maintenance, laboratory testing and observing Life Cycle Management of explosive ordnance in Armed Forces is regulated by Ministry of Defence and General Staff of Armed Forces of Republic of Croatia with;

Directive on storage protection and handling of explosive ordnance, MoD Zagreb dated 1998

Decree on transport of explosive ordnance, MoD dated 2006

Directive on chemical balance of gunpowder dated 2000

Directive on explosive ordnance quality control in MoD and AF dated 2005

Directive on maintaining of explosive ordnance in AF dated 2004

Directive on record keeping of out of date and faulty explosive ordnance dated 2005

Directive on managing with the existing quantities of explosive ordnance in AF dated 1997

Directive on extension of rocket ammo lifetime in AF dated 2007.

Currently in the Croatian Armed Forces, process of implementation of NATO norms and standards in the area of explosive ordnance safekeeping is going on. Explosive ordnance experts from the Croatian Armed Forces are currently involved in work of NATO Committee AC/326 öCNAD Ammunition Safety group responsible for development and improvement of norms and standards in the area of safe storage, transport and use of explosive ordnance.

Decision of the Defence Minister for the planning period to year 2015 defined:

Types and quantities of usable explosive ordnance, their storage and maintenance;

Types and quantities of usable and perspective classical rocket ammo that could be used for live-firing, quality control, life cycle oversight and its extension;

Types and quantities of explosive ordnance that are not longer usable and needs to be removed by delaboration and destruction

c.) Training

Training:

One of the main fields of expertise of CROMAC-CTDT is training. Training courses are conducted in accordance with IMAS and Testing and Evaluation Protocols. In 2016, the following training courses were conducted for international partners:

- EOD Level 1 examination and Level 2 training course were held in November for trainees from the Ministry of or and Ministry of Defence of Monte Negro. All the trainees successfully completed the training.

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Any other relevant information:

N/A

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**FORM H:** Steps taken to implement Article 11 of the Protocol: Compliance

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**Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 11:**

For the purpose of precise definition of SHA, CROMAC developed its own model of organization and operative handling of humanitarian demining process with guidelines and contents of IMAS built in.

CROMAC SOPs were passed in order to realize the tasks set in a rational manner and speed up the process of defining suspected hazardous area all the way to the handover of areas cleared from mines and UXO to the final beneficiaries. CROMAC SOPs define the survey of suspected hazardous area and/or facility (general survey, SHA marking, technical survey and area reduction), project designing, competence assessment of authorised legal entities for the conduct of humanitarian demining operations, quality assurance and quality control (quality assurance and quality control over mine search and/or demining, sampling-sampling for inspection and control of soil treatment depth while using demining machines, sampling-sampling for inspection and control of demined and searched area) and medical support. Procedures for conducting surveys, implementation of procedures, responsibilities as well as control and verification of survey operations carried out, all in order to define SHA were described in detail.

**Any other relevant information:**

The Croatian SOPs in mine action are as follows (all available on CROMAC web site [www.hcr.hr](http://www.hcr.hr)):

**SURVEY OF MINE SUSPECTED AREA AND/OR BUILDINGS**

É 01.01 - General Survey

É 01.01.01 - Appendix to the SOP 01.01 "General Survey"

É 01.02 - Marking of Mine Suspected Area

É 01.02.01 - Marking of Areas of Potential Unexploded Ordnance

É 01.03 - Technical Survey

É 01.04 - Reduction of Areas in the MSA

**DESIGNING - ELABORATION OF DESIGNING DOCUMENTATION**

É 02. Designing - Elaboration Of Designing Documentation

**STANDARDIZATION AND ACCREDITATION**

É 03.02 - Accreditation

**QUALITY ASSURANCE AND QUALITY CONTROL**

É 04.01 - Quality Assurance and Quality Control of Mine Search and/or Demining

É 04.02 ó Sampling - Sampling for Inspection and Control of the Soil Treatment depth during Demining Machine Usage

É 04.03 ó Sampling - Sampling for Inspection and Control of Demined and Searched Area

**MEDICAL SUPPORT**

É 05.01 ó Medical Support And Evacuation

**DESTRUCTION OF MINES AND UNEXPLODED ORDINANCES**

É 06.01 ó Destruction of Mines and Unexploded Ordinances -

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**FORM I: Other relevant matters**

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**Any other relevant information:**

During 2016, the Croatian Police Department continued its "Fewer arms, less tragedies" Program. Citizens are being invited and encouraged to turn in their illegally-owned weapons and ordinance left from the Homeland War without any legal consequences and/or fines. Among large arsenals of SALW and other weapons, during 2016 the Police Department collected 176 pieces of AP and 35 pieces of AV landmines. Police department is determined to continue these programs and activities in the future. The weapons collected by the Police department are transported and destroyed at Croatia's military facilities.