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 (CCW)

REPORTING FORMS

Pursuant to the Decision of the Third CCW Review Conference on the establishment of a Compliance mechanism applicable to the Convention, as contained in its Final Declaration, Annex II, Paragraph 5 (CCW/CONF. III/11, Part II)

NAME OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

PARTY TO:
- Protocol I (Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments)
- Protocol II (Protocol on Mines Booby-Traps and Other Devices)
- Amended Protocol II (amended Protocol on Mines Booby-Traps and Other Devices)
- Protocol III (Protocol on Incendiary Weapons)
- Protocol IV (Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons)
- Protocol V (Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War)

ACCEDED TO
- Amended Article I

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 15 October 2008

NATIONAL POINT (S) OF CONTACT:
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION
Department for International Security
Phone: +38514569-952,
Fax: +38514597-416,
E-mail: multilaterala@mvpei.hr

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
Croatian Verification Centre
Phone: +38513784-126,
Fax: +38513784-194,
E-mail: cvc@morh.hr

NOTE: Pursuant to paragraph 5 of the above Decision the High Contracting Parties have agreed “to provide information to the Secretary-General in advance of the Meeting, which will be circulated by the SG to all the High Contracting Parties, on any of the following matters:
(a) Dissemination of information on the Convention and its annexed Protocols to their armed forces and to the civilian population;
(b) Steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and its annexed Protocols and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;
(c) Legislation related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols;
(d) Measures taken on technical co-operation and assistance;
(e) Other relevant matters.
Each of the items listed above are provided as separate individual forms to be filled out by each High Contracting Party accordingly.
Form A  Dissemination of information

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information…..on:

(f) Dissemination of information on the Convention and its annexed Protocols to their armed forces and to the civilian population;”

High Contracting Party: The Republic of Croatia

Reporting for time period: from 30 September 2007 to 30 September 2008

Information to the armed forces

The Ministry of Defence and Croatian Armed Forces General Staff have been familiarised with the content of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Protocols especially with the Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Prohibition or Restriction of Certain Conventional Weapons Excessively Injurious or with Indiscriminate Effect, as well as with the implied commitments.

Representatives of the Ministry of Defence participate in the work of Government Team of Experts for the issues of unexploded remnants of war and mines different from anti-personnel mines. At the above-mentioned meetings, we gave our opinion on working results of both teams, and on our anti-vehicle mines, i.e. their fuses.

Every member of the armed forces, including conscripts and reserve component, as well as military and civilian participants of international activities (NATO/PfP, UN) and legal issues officers, acquires a basic grounding in International humanitarian law and Law of armed conflict including international agreements ratified by the Republic of Croatia during regular training activities. Methods of education are: education in educational institutions; seminars; practical training – exercises and written documentation (manuals, handouts etc.).

Information to the civilian population

The activities by Croatia to disseminate information about the Convention and the Protocols to the civilian population take place at several levels.

The texts of the Convention and all Protocols to the Convention ratified by the Republic of Croatia were published in Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia-International Agreements and are hence available to public as a bulletin in printed version and on web site www.nn.hr

Dissemination of information about the CCW Convention and its protocols to civilian population also includes mine risk education (MRE) activities.

Croatian Ministries, Offices of the Government and State Administrative Offices as well as professional groups working with and for adults and children in Croatia, including NGOs, and international organizations, pass specific training according to their role in the national implementation of the Convention and Protocols.

Croatian Red Cross with its local branches (in local communities) and the Croatian Mine Victims Association, Association of civil Victims of Homeland War, Mines Association, foundation Recobot, as well as International Red Cross Committee (ICRC) and UNICEF with which Croatia continues to work closely in the
international humanitarian field, are active in events and lectures where MRE messages are given. The lectures are always bearing in mind that mine risk education is effective in terms of reducing the number of mine casualties. Groups considered most at risk and therefore prioritised are those living in mine-suspected areas (farmers, hunters and children).

Every years programmes of getting acquainted with the dangers of mines and unexploded ordinances, as well as providing assistance to mine victims was conducted by above mentioned non-government associations and international organizations. Croatian Red Cross organized activities in the area of 14 counties by providing 491 lectures for children and adults. It organized school meetings, exhibitions and workshops for school children called “PAZI NE GAZI” (Don't touch mines).

Media-based campaign was also conducted very active with educational activities such as TV and radio spots (on Radio 101), in order to additionally educate population about danger of mines and unexploded ordinances and to strengthen general awareness of the danger. Information about above-mentioned activities was regularly given in Croatian Red Cross News and on their web site. Broader media-based campaigns aimed at the general population are also led before the specific events as Review Conferences of the States Parties to the Convention, seminars held in Croatia or activities of CROMAC.

In the framework of long-lasting cooperation between Croatian Red Cross and ICRC, two representatives from Indian Red Cross visited Croatia in order to get insight into the conduct of the Croatian program and transfer gained experience into their future work. Cooperation with Croatian Mine Action Centre and ICBL continued.

On the international level Government experts from Republic of Croatia for Ottawa and CCW Conventions participated as lecturers and instructors during courses and seminars for instructors and managers of the Croatian Red Cross in 2005 and 2006. Topic was CCW Convention and its protocols especially the Amended Protocol II to the Convention on Prohibition or Restriction of Certain Conventional Weapons Excessively Injurious or with Indiscriminate Effect and Protocol V Explosive Remnant of Ware. Participants were informed about the provisions and obligations of the Republic of Croatia. These participants were obligated to organize further seminars for civilian population.
Form B    Technical requirements and relevant information

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information…. on:

(b) Steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and
    its annexed Protocols and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;”

High Contracting Party: The Republic of Croatia

Reporting for time period: from 30 September 2007 to 30 September 2008

Croatian Government approves the Annual humanitarian demining plan and
Annual report on execution that also has to be adopted by the Croatian Parliament.
Mine clearance activities in the Republic of Croatia coordinated by Croatian
Mine Action Centre (HCR) that was established by the Croatian Government on 19th
February 1998 with the basic task of coordinating the execution of mine action in the
Republic of Croatia.
Technical requirements

1). Records
   Croatian Mine Action Centre received the minefields and mined areas plans
   from Croatian military, and from the opposite part through UNPROFOR, which
   constituted a database, which did not cover all minefields. The Centre obtains the
   rest from technical reconnaissance.
   Mines in the territory of the Republic of Croatia were not laid remotely.
   Copies of minefield records were handed over to Mine Action Centre, and the
   originals are kept in military archives.
   No mines have been laid since 1995.

2) Specifications related to detecting possibility-
   a) The Republic of Croatia did not produce anti-personnel mines before and after
      January 1, 1997.
   b) The mines used in Homeland War had been produced in installations of
      former Yugoslavia (mostly in today’s Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia). Anti-
      magnetic (anti-personnel) mines 1, 2 and 3 were not accorded with technical request
      of detecting possibility, and defragmented anti-personnel mines 2A and 3, while
      antipersonnel defragmented bouncing mine had steel body, thereby fully complying
      with the request stated in the para 2 (a) of the Technical Annex.

3. Specifications related to self-destruction and self-disabling
   The equipment and weapons of the Croatian Armed Forces contain no
   remotely laid anti-personnel mines, and they were not used at all in Croatia during
   the Homeland War.
4. International signs of minefields and mined areas
   Minefields are marked with generally adopted marks.
Any other relevant information

Croatia has destroyed all stockpiles of anti-personnel mines and retained 7,000 anti-personnel mines according to Article 3 of Ottawa Convention. Now, it has 6,082 pieces for outlined purposes.

Mines, Unexploded ordnance and abandoned explosive ordnance which are detected in the minefields, are destroyed immediately or after taking them out.
Form C Legislation

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information… on:

(c) Legislation related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols;”

High Contracting Party: The Republic of Croatia

Reporting for time period: from 30 September 2007 to 30 September 2008

All Croatian legislation complies with the obligations contained in the Convention and the Protocols to the Convention ratified by the Republic of Croatia as a result of regular and thorough review of the domestic constitutional and legal arrangements and their compliance with international legal obligations of Croatia.

Regarding the direct applicability of the Convention and the Protocols to the Convention in Croatia, according to the Article 140 of the Constitution of Croatia (Official Gazette No. 41/2001 and No. 55/2001) international agreements concluded, ratified and published in accordance with the Constitution and which are in force form a part of the internal legal order and have precedence over the laws in the hierarchy of legal acts. Hence, provisions of international agreements and treaties that are not in accordance with the internal legislation in force become directly applicable by virtue of the Constitution.


According to the obligation set in the Article 9 of the Mine Ban Treaty the Croatian Parliament passed the Act on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction as the implementing law of the Republic of Croatia (published in Official Gazette No 141/2004 on 13 October 2004). This Act established a state body to monitor and take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures to prevent activities prohibited to the State Party. The permanent members of the National Committee are representatives of the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Integrations, Ministry of Interior and CROMAC. They participate from the area of competence of their ministries, which are responsible for implementation of the Convention.

Even without the implementing legislation to the Mine Ban Treaty penal sanctions already exist in Croatian law (Penal Code of the Republic of Croatia) for the prohibited activities as violations of the international agreements to which Republic of Croatia is a State Party (Penal Code was published in Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia No 110/1997 on 21 October 1997). Article 163 of the Penal Code prohibits the use of inadmissible means of warfare including chemical and biological weapons and all other means and war practises prohibited by the international law.
Form D  Technical co-operation and assistance

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information…. on:

(d) Measures taken on technical co-operation and assistance;”

High Contracting Party: The Republic of Croatia

Reporting for time period: from 30 September 2007 to 30 September 2008

International technical co-operation

Based on the Agreement on the transfer of tasks, Article 2, signed between the Croatian Mine Action Centre and CROMAC- Center for Testing, Development and Training (HCR-CTRO) on 30th October 2003, HCR-CTRO took over the activities and projects focused on performing administrative and technical tasks related to testing of demining machines, mine detection dogs and metal detectors, as well as scientific and research activities.

Projects of detecting minefields by swarms of bees – conducted within the HCR-CTRO Scientific Council and presented to several world institutions. There are active and passive methods of mine detection. Development of the passive method is conducted at Škabrnja and Benkovac test sites, where the air in the beehives is analyzed for traces of TNT.

Cerovac test site – The part of the test site used for testing mine clearance machines and the part for testing mine detection dogs are operational. Within the part intended for mine clearance machines, testing is conducted in accordance with CWA 15044.

There is also an area intended for survivability tests with live mines, as well as an area for vegetation clearing tests.

In October 2007 CROMAC-CTDT conducted a trial of Japanese mine detection equipment at CROMAC-CTDT test site in Benkovac, in cooperation with the Japanese Science and Technology Agency (JST). The following equipment was tested: 2 ALIS devices – a combination of a classic metal detector and a GPR; and Gryphon+LAMDAR IV system in combination with Gryphon+Minelab F3.

From December 2007 to May 2008, in cooperation with JST, CROMAC-CTDT and CROMAC conducted a field testing of the Japanese ALIS device in quality control.

On 3rd December CROMAC-CTDT director and CROMAC director participated in a symposium in Tokyo entitled „Final Symposium on Research and Development for Supporting Humanitarian Demining of Antipersonnel Mines”. The symposium was organized by the Japanese Science and Technology Agency (JST).

In February 2008 CROMAC-CTDT representatives visited a South African company MECHEM, where they attended a demonstration of their mine detection method.

In February 2008 CROMAC-CTDT signed a contract with ITF on implementation of the project called “Deployment of the Decision Support System for Mine Suspected Area Reduction”. ITF finances the project with a USA grant, and
HCR-CTRO implements the project. The project goal is to conceive a decision making support system for operational deployment in mine action centers within SEEMACC (Southeast Europe Mine Action Coordination Council) through implementation of a very advanced data fusion methodology. This would enhance the level of land release and enable efficient allocation of resources.

- In September 2008 at CROMAC-CTDT Cerovac test site the blast of anti-tank TMRP-6 and TMA-3 mines was tested using VLIP (Vertically Launched Impulse Plate) method developed by South African Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in cooperation with CSIR.

- CROMAC-CTDT Director attended the UNMAS/GICHD Technology Workshop held in Geneva from 8th to 10th September 2008.

- CROMAC - CTDT Director actively participates in work of SEEMACC

In April, 2008, there was the 11th International Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nations Advisers held in Ljubljana and Šibenik, organized by UNMAS, UNMAT with the support of the ITF (International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance) and CROMAC. Over 210 directors, assistant directors and UN advisors, from almost 70 countries from all over the world attended the Meeting. During five meeting days, 11 plenary and numerous breakout sessions were held. Apart from plenary sessions, field demonstrations were organized in Cerovec and Skradin. In general, the 11th International Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nations Advisers was estimated as very successful. It identified the guidelines for the mine action activities to be undertaken in the forthcoming period and the idea of mine affected host country was very well accepted.

International technical assistance

CROMAC put the special emphasis on the presentation of the Croatian experiences in mine action to the international mine action community and diplomatic branch offices in the Republic of Croatia. According to that, the Croatian Mine Action Centre, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration and the Agency for Stimulation of Export and Investments launched an initiative for merging of all demining subjects in the Republic of Croatia (Croatian Mine Action Centre, CROMAC-CTDT Ltd., commercial demining companies and equipment manufacturers) for the purpose of exporting the Croatian know-how and technologies to the foreign markets i.e. countries facing the mine problem.

Also, CROMAC continued its work in the framework of standing committees of the countries Ottawa Convention state parties in Brussels. Furthermore, together with another 154 countries, the Croatian Mine Action Centre participated at the Eight Meeting of the Ottawa Convention State Parties held in Jordan from 18 to 22 November 2007.

Croatian Mine Action Centre has continued its successful activities within the Southeastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council (SEEMACC) via experience and knowledge exchange with other national mine action centers in the Southeastern Europe region. This cooperation has enabled the realization of some joint projects. In that framework and based on the Agreement of the cooperation between CROMAC and Regional Center for Underwater Demining (RCUD) from Monte Negro, general survey was performed on the border-belt area between Monte Negro and Albania.
Form E     Other relevant matters

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information…. on:

(e) Other relevant matters;”

High Contracting Party: The Republic of Croatia

Reporting for time period: from 30 September 2007 to 30 September 2008

The lead subjects in the preparatory meetings and Revision Conference of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its Protocols were representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, assisted by the Ministry of Defence.