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: 30 September 2009

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

(Organization, phone, fax, email)

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 2008 to 30 September 2009

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, mines different from anti-personnel mines and cluster munitions. At the mentioned meetings, we gave our opinion on working results of those 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 12 counties i.e. 49 municipal associations (local Red Cross branches) that are contaminated with mines. 42 instructors conducted regular program and organized different preventive activities with the aim to prevent injuries and to reduce the risk of death of the population.

Interesting presentations (lectures) on mine/UXO risk education were organised for children, adults, and especially for target groups (hunters, fisherman, returnees etc.). For children, presentations were held at primary and secondary schools or in the local Red Cross premises and some other places in the community for adults too. The purpose of mine/UXO risk education was to learn and spread knowledge on danger of mines. In total 688 lectures were held for 8775 attendants (1052 men, 747 women and 6976 children) in 2009.

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 2008 to 30. September 2009

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.
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 5,998 pieces for outlined purposes.

Mines, Unexploded ordnance and abandoned explosive ordnance that 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 2008 to 30 September 2009

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 those 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.

The Republic of Croatia, as well, signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions on 3 December 2008 and ratified it on 17 August 2009.
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 2008 to 30. September 2009

International technical co-operation

Based on the Agreement on the transfer of tasks, Article 2, signed between the Croatian Mine Action Center and CROMAC- Center for Testing, Development and Training (CROMAC-CTDT) on 30th October 2003, CROMAC-CTDT took over the activities and projects focused on testing of mine detection and mine clearance equipment, as well as research of new methods and technology.

In April 2009 CROMAC-CTDT completed a project entitled “Deployment of the Decision Support System for Mine Suspected Area Reduction”. The project started in February 2008 and was financed by ITF with a USA grant. The project goal was 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. As a result of the project, a proposal for area reduction was made for three municipalities in Croatia.

In April 2009 CROMAC-CTDT started the implementation of the project “Deployment of the Decision Support System for Mine Suspected Area Reduction” in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project will finish in November 2010.

CROMAC-CTDT has conducted a training course UXO Detection and Removal, Levels 1 and 2 for two groups of candidates for each level. The training course was financed by the USA State Department through ITF. The course was conducted in accordance with CWA 15464-3:2005: Humanitarian Mine Action - EOD Competency Standards - Part 3: Competency for EOD level 1 and Part 4: Competency for EOD level 2. The candidates and the lecturers came from the region of Southeast Europe - Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia, Slovenia and Monte Negro.

CROMAC and CROMAC-CTDT were co-organizers of the 6th International Humanitarian Demining Symposium, which was held in Sibenik, Croatia, in April. The main topics were General and Technical Survey and Science and Mine Action. Some 150 participants from all over the world attended the symposium.

CROMAC - CTDT Director actively participates in SEEMACC activities.

International co-operation on mine clearance
The international cooperation on mine clearance of the Republic of Croatia during the above mentioned period was performed thanks to the donors' contributions from different countries, organizations and individuals.

The European Union, the United States of America and the Kingdom of Norway had the biggest share in financing humanitarian demining activities. Demining projects from the donation of the Government of the USA are implemented through International Trust Fund for Humanitarian Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF) as well as the donation from NGO Adopt-A-Minefield. Norwegian donation is implemented through NGO-Norwegian Peoples Aid that performs humanitarian demining activities. The donation of the FR of Germany was implemented through Arbeiter Samariters Bund (ASB).

The Governments of Monaco, Japan and Czech Republic have financed mine clearance projects. Other donations are from different NGO’s and organizations like AMCHAM, Adopt A Minefield, Lions Club, UNDP, VIP net and Roots of Peace.

International technical assistance

The emphasis was put on presentation of Croatian experience in mine action within the international mine action community and diplomatic posts in the Republic of Croatia.

Establishment of the cluster that integrates experience and capacities of the Croatian Mine Action Centre, CROMAC-CTDT, commercial demining companies and equipment manufacturers resulted in realization of an initiative of the Croatian Mine Action Centre, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration and Trade and Investment Promotion Agency. Uniting all demining subjects in the Republic of Croatia opened the door to exporting the Croatian know-how and technologies to foreign market i.e. countries facing the mine problem. First results became evident through expressing interest by Turkey, Yemen, Georgia, Sri Lanka, Ukraine, Libya and Egypt in strengthening of co-operation.

At the Conference held in Oslo from 2 to 4 December 2008, the Republic of Croatia was among the first countries to sign the Convention on Cluster Munitions and was one of the first to ratify the Convention in the first trimester of 2009. Accordingly, the CROMAC has developed Standard operating procedure 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.

Croatian Mine Action Centre was the co-organizer of the fifth international symposium “Humanitarian Demining 2009” which was held in the Town of Šibenik from 27 to 30 April 2009. This Symposium’s main topics were general and technical survey, science and mine action.
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 2008 to 30 September 2009

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.