

**CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF CERTAIN
CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY
INJURIOUS OR HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS (CCW)
PROTOCOL ON EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR
(PROTOCOL V)**

**REPORTING FORMS
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 10 (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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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

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

High Contracting Party: Croatia

Reporting for period from: **01/01/2009 to 31/12/2009**

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 3

Starting point for development of 2009 Demining plan was a determined size of MSA of 954.5 km². Mine problem extended through 111 towns and municipalities and was marked with 14.986 mine warning signs.

Through 213 humanitarian demining projects, mine threat has been removed from an area that amounts to 37.869.420 m² while additional 24.708.774 m² was cancelled through general survey activities. All these activities resulted in the total decrease of the suspected hazardous area in Croatia in the amount of 62.578.194 km². By December 31, 2009, the Croatian Mine Action Center has also established areas contaminated only with unexploded ordnance in the size of 4.267.489 m² and they are marked with 283 UXO hazard signs.

According to that, suspected hazardous area in the Republic of Croatia on December 31, 2009 totalled 887.7 km². During the execution of these projects, 8.718 mines (3.395 AP and 5.323 AV) and 1.187 pieces of UXO's were found and destroyed.

Table 2: Number of mines and UXO destroyed in the period 01/01/2009 – 31/12/2009

Year	Anti-personnel Mines	Antitank Mines	UXO
2009.	3.395	5.323	1.187

Any other relevant information

The Quality Control was performed on 4.247 sampling lots covering the sampling area of 571.134 m², which, in average, totals 1.55% of demined area, and is significantly higher percentage of the area than it is proscribed by the Law (0.5 %).

The Law on Demining introduced the market model to demining in Croatia rendering the establishment of closed commercial companies for conducting demining operations possible as a precondition for the realization of the World Bank loan and opening of the market to foreign companies. Mine clearance capacities include a complete equipment of 28 demining companies (27 commercial and 1 NGO-Norwegian Peoples Aid) that are authorized by Croatian Ministry of Interior to perform demining activities. They also need to have accreditation from Croatian Mine Action Center to perform such actions. The companies have 893 employees in all operational units: 615 deminers, 71 auxiliary workers and 28 medical teams that consist of doctors, medical technicians and drivers with medical vehicles.

All the 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:

699 metal detectors, 58 demining machines including all types (medium, light and heavy), excavators, machines for vegetation clearing and 34 mine detection dogs.

In Croatia, mine clearance actions are mostly performed as a combination of mechanical demining, manual detection and mine-searching dogs. Croatian Mine Action Centre Standard operating procedures also prescribe the entire methodology of humanitarian demining activities. Frequent use of demining machines puts Croatia among the leading states with industrial mine clearance.

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

High Contracting Party: Croatia

Reporting for time period from: **01/01/2009 to 31/12/2009**

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

Today, 106 towns and municipalities in 12 out of 21 counties are affected by mine problem. Total mine suspected area of the Republic of Croatia at the beginning of the 2010 comes to 887 km², with approx. 95.000 mines and UXOs still have to be found and destroyed.

On December 31, 2009 the total mine suspected area was marked with 16.027 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 MSA situation.

CROMAC is directly liable to the Government of the Republic of Croatia. The Government appoints the representatives of ministries to CROMAC Council that acts as a mediator between the Government of the Republic of Croatia, ministries dealing with mine problem as part of their scope of activities and CROMAC.

Annual Demining 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.

The Croatian Mine Action Centre drafted the Humanitarian Demining Plan 2009 with the consent of the Ministry of Finance, The Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Sea, Transportation and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction, the Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Culture.

Any other relevant information

The new National Mine Action Strategy in the Republic of Croatia was approved by 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), a 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 their realization.

Also, the Humanitarian Demining Plan for the period 2009 to 2011 was made in 2008 and approved by Croatian Government in July 2009. It defined the basic tasks and their implementation for the next three-year period. Basic characteristics of planned realization in the next three-year period are: complete removal of mine danger from houses, house yards and infrastructure facilities in the Republic of Croatia as well as from over 2/3 of all agricultural areas.

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

High Contracting Party: Croatia

Reporting for time period from **01/01/2009 to 31/12/2009**

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

During the above-mentioned period, a program of mine/UXO risk education, as well as providing assistance to mine victims was conducted by non-government associations and international organizations such as: Croatian Red Cross, the Association of Civil Victims of Homeland War, Daska Theatre and Association Bembo.

In 2009, "Children in mine environment" lectures were held in elementary schools in the organization of Civilian Homeland War Victims Association, Croatian Red Cross, CROMAC and County Police Administration anti-explosive units. There were also MRE activities by NGO Bembo (educational short movies), Homeland War Veterans Association from Virovitica-Podravina county (lectures "Caution, weapons and mines!") and Daska theatre (theatre plays „No, no MINES“). 15.000 "Beware of mines!" picture books were distributed to elementary school students as a part of "Beware of mines" project of Centre for Neohumanist Studies from Karlovac. Croatian Red Cross made new educational flyer in co-operation with CROMAC and continued with project of building safe children playgrounds in mine affected communities. Thanks to Japan donation, an educational cartoon called "Expert" was made by Zagreb film Ltd.

Central ceremony of marking the April 4, International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, was held in Glina during which MRE lectures were held and theatre play „No, no mines!". In 2009 there was also traditional media campaign "April- month of mine protection" on TV and radio stations and numerous other media related activities with the aim of MRE.

In February 2009, the CROMAC [Mine Information System Portal](#) (CROMAC MISportal) was put into operation. MISportal is a web application that enables insight into suspected hazardous areas for every Internet user. Users are provided with suspected hazardous area information through detailed maps with locations of hazard signs. The Kingdom of Norway has recognized the importance of this project and donated funds for its realization. The Croatian company Geofoto Ltd. from Zagreb developed MISportal project.

Croatia has marked all mine suspected areas with 16.027 warning signs.

Any other relevant information

The Republic of Croatia has highly-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 200 different laws and by-laws. 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 2009 there were 6 mine incidents with 7 victims (3 deminers). Four persons were killed, one of which was deminer, and 2 persons received heavy physical injuries. In 2009, the lowest annual rate of mine victims was recorded and with the same mine victims number as in 2008.

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

High Contracting Party: Croatia

Reporting for time period from **01/01/2009 to 31/12/2009**

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 6

Every humanitarian mission or organization that is coming to Croatia with goal to help or to get involved in demining action in Croatia can get all relevant information in Croatian Mine Action Center. 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 and MVA activities,
- International co-operation.

Any other relevant information

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

High Contracting Party: Croatia

Reporting for time period from **01/01/2009 to 31/12/2009**

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 7

The Republic of Croatia confirmed its resoluteness in solving the mine problem by passing the Law 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 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.

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 2009, CROMAC continued all activities towards fulfilling the obligations from the signed conventions and protocols.

Any other relevant information

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

High Contracting Party: Croatia

Reporting for time period from **01/01/2009 to 31/12/2009**

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 8

The co-operation and development in the past have resulted in the fact that the Republic of Croatia is not just the object of support from foreign governments and institutions, but has developed an equal partner relationship.

The establishment of [Cluster for humanitarian demining](#) in 2008, 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.

International cooperation in the area of sharing Croatian mine action experiences is currently being developed with eight countries. Four countries (Azerbaijan, Yemen, Libya, Ukraine) signed an agreement for cooperation, and with two countries (Egypt, Georgia) an agreement was made and is expected to be signed. Cooperation with Sri Lanka and Turkey will be carried directly through the Cluster for Humanitarian Demining, since they are interested in the Croatian manufacturers of equipment for humanitarian demining.

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.

Any other relevant information

Basic forms of activities:

- Co-operation on the level of foreign governments and embassies in the Republic of Croatia,
- Co-operation with different organizations through the Embassies and Missions of the Republic of Croatia abroad,
- Co-operation with the World Bank,
- Co-operation with the European Union (EU) – CARDS Program, preparations for use of pre-accession funds in the framework of responsible authorities of the Republic of Croatia,
- Co-operation in the framework of obligations and meetings related to the Ottawa Convention,
- Co-operation in the framework of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe,
- Co-operation with countries in the region in the framework of SEEMACC (South Eastern European Mine Action Coordination Council),

Co-operation with the United States of America (USA) through the project of matching funds through the ITF,

Co-operation with the Kingdom of Norway in implementing Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) projects in the Republic of Croatia,

Co-operation with UN organizations (UNOPS, UNMAS, UNDP) and the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD),

Co-operation with non-governmental and other organizations,

Co-operation with institutions in the implementation of scientific and research projects and development of standards,

Co-operation with National Mine Action Centres,

Attendance on conferences, congresses, scientific meetings at the regional and international level; organization of meetings and conferences in the Republic of Croatia.

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

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

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

High Contracting Party: Croatia

Reporting for time period from **01/01/2009 to 31/12/2009**

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 law 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 5°C 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 "CNAD 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 and education of personnel involved in handling and maintenance of explosive ordnance as well as CROMAC personnel, personnel of demining organizations, and personnel needed in the region of South- Eastern Europe is regulated through the CROMAC-CTDT Ltd. (Centre for testing, development and training) education and training programs.

- 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 and one training course for *Level 3*. The training courses were financed by the USA State Department through ITF. The courses were conducted in accordance with CWA 15464-3:2005: Humanitarian Mine Action - EOD Competency Standards - Part 3: Competency for EOD level 1; Part 4: Competency for EOD level 2 and Part 5: Competency for EOD level 3. The candidates and the lecturers came from the region of Southeast Europe - Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Macedonia, Slovenia and Monte Negro
- HCR-CTRO representatives visited South African Republic in early November, where they participated in the project entitled: *Measurement of Impulse Generated by the Detonation of Anti-tank Mines by Using the VLIP Technique*, organized by the *Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)*.
- In December HCR-CTRO team conducted testing of an MV-4 machine in Colombia
- CROMAC and CROMAC-CTDT were co-organizers of the 6th *International Humanitarian Demining Symposium* which was held in Šibenik, Croatia, in April. The main topics were General and Technical Survey and Science and Mine Action. The symposium was attended by some 150 participants from all over the world.
- CROMAC - CTDT Director actively participates in SEEMACC activities.

d. Transfer

Import, Export and transit of military equipments are subject to legislation on control of strategic goods. For detailed information on Export control system of the Republic of Croatia please see Annuals reports to On implementation of the UN Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspect for all years so far. It is available at <http://disarmament.un.org/cab/salw-nationalreports.html>

Any other relevant information

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

High Contracting Party: Croatia

Reporting for time period from **01/01/2009 to 31/12/2009**

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 11

For the purpose of precise definition of the actual suspected hazardous area during 2003, the Croatian Mine Action Centre (hereinafter: CROMAC) developed its own model of organization and operative handling of humanitarian demining process with guidelines and contents of the international mine action standards (hereinafter: IMAS) built in.

Standard Operating Procedures (hereinafter: CROMAC SOPs) of the Croatian Mine Action Centre 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 suspected hazardous area (SHA) were described in detail.

Any other relevant information

FORM I Other relevant matters

High Contracting Party: Croatia

Reporting for time period from **01/01/2009 to 31/12/2009**

Any other relevant information