PROTOCOL ON PROHIBITION OR RESTRICTION OF
THE USE OF MINES, BOOBY-TRAPS AND OTHER DEVICES
AS AMENDED ON 3 MAY 1996
ANNEXED TO THE CONVENTION ON PROHIBITION OR RESTRICTION
OF THE USE OF CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE
DEEMED TO BE EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE
INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS

(PROTOCOL II AS AMENDED ON 3 MAY 1996)

Reporting Format for Article 13 paragraph 4 and Article 11 paragraph 2

NAME OF THE HIGH
CONTRACTING PARTY           THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

DATE OF SUBMISSION         30/09/2008

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT
MOD, Croatian Verification Centre
Phone: +38513784126, fax: +38513784194, e-mail: cvc@morh.hr

(Organization, phone, fax, e-mail)

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 ☐
Summary sheet
(Pursuant to the decision of the Fifth Annual Conference of the States Parties to CCW Amended Protocol II as stipulated in paragraph 20 of the Final Report, CCW/AP.II/CONF.5/2)

REPORTING PERIOD: 31/08/2007 to 31/08/2008

Form A: Dissemination of information: □ changed ☑ unchanged

Form B: Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes: ☑ changed □ unchanged

Form C: Technical requirements and relevant information: ☑ changed □ unchanged

Form D: Legislation: □ changed ☑ unchanged

Form E: International technical information exchange, co-operation on mine clearance, technical co-operation and assistance: ☑ changed □ unchanged

Form F: Other relevant matters: ☑ changed □ unchanged

Form G: Information to the UN-database on mine clearance: ☑ changed □ unchanged
Form B  Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes

Article 13, "The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to Depositary ..on: paragraph 4 (b)

(b) Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes;"

Remark:

High Contracting Party of Croatia reporting for time period from 31/08/2007 to 31/08/2008

Mine clearance program

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 Ottawa Convention as well as providing for permanent and stable sources of financing in the State budget, in the World Bank loans and from Croatian public companies.

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.

CROMAC defined and marked all the MSA by 2004 and on December 31, 2007 mine suspected area totaled 997 km². 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 adopted by Croatian Parliament.

According to the 2008 Annual demining plan, it is planned to remove mine danger from the area of 33.276.107 m² by conducting mine search and demining. From August 31, 2007, to August 31, 2008 humanitarian demining activities enabled the realization of 138 projects of mine clearance and mine searching on the area that amounts to 30 357 638 m². During the execution of these projects, 3 537 mines (1 505 AP and 2 032 AV) and 2834 pieces of UXO's were found and destroyed.

Rehabilitation programs

In line with the Law on Humanitarian Demining, mine risk education and mine victims assistance was conducted during this period with co-coordinative role of the Croatian Mine Action Centre and co-operation with non-governmental organizations, different institutions and international organizations.
Mine/UXO risk education

In the period from 31 August 2007 to 31 August 2008, 5 mine incidents occurred, with 7 victims of which 5 received heavy physical injuries and 3 were killed. Five injured persons were civilians and two were deminers (1 killed and 1 with heavy injuries). All these incidents occurred within the borders of mine suspected area.

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, International Red Cross Committee, Croatian Mine Victims Association, the Association of Civil Victims of Homeland War, Recobot foundation, NPA and Association Bembo.

The local Red Cross instructors organized lectures on mine risk education for children, adults and especially target groups (hunters, fisherman, returnees etc.). The lectures were held at primary and secondary schools for children and young people and in Red Cross premises or some other places for adults. The aim of informing people was to prevent injuries and reduce the risk of death of the population. Building of "Playgrounds for children without mines" has been continued in order to prevent casualties among children conducted by the Croatian Red Cross.

Cooperation with the Association of Croatian Civilian Victims of Homeland War continued by participation of CROMAC lecturers at six presentations called "Children in Mine Surroundings" held at primary schools in Gospić, Lički Osik, Popovac, Nebojan and Vukovar.

A variety of educational programs to prevent mine accidents were also organized for children, such as “Bembo and Friends” in cooperation with the NGO association Bembo and NPA. Also, the NGO “Daska” has since 2000 organized 171 performances which have been attended by some 40,000 children until now.

Providing assistance to mine victims

The Republic of Croatia has a developed structure of public health care and health care system that includes clinics, clinical centres, specialized polyclinics, hospitals and rehabilitation centres. All persons being involved in the incidents are entitled to health protection and acquisition of orthopaedic aids to the amount covered by the Croatian Health Insurance Institute. The rights are regulated by a number of laws, rules and regulations.

The National Strategy of the Unique Politics for Persons with Disabilities is currently being implemented. The implementation process is monitored and reported by the Committee of the Government of the Republic of Croatia for Persons with Disabilities. The National Strategy of Equalisation of Rights for the Persons with Disabilities passed by the Government of the Republic of Croatia for the period 2007 to 2015 is currently in force.

Individual assistance

Disabled persons in Croatia gain their rights based on 207 Acts and Sub-acts. Mine victims’ assistance in Croatia is conducted through governmental institutions or part of assistance to persons with disabilities and through non-governmental organizations that are mostly financed through donors’ funds.

Main forms of MVA in this period were:

- Continuation of employment of four mine victims in scanning, geo-coding and geo-referencing of data to CROMAC database,
- the project of psycho-social rehabilitation in hospital Dr. Martin Horvat in Rovinj as a future Regional center for psycho-social rehabilitation of children mine victims and
- a variety of one-time projects of financial assistance or for physical rehabilitation and education (scholarships, computers, prosthesis etc.)

As a result of a donation from the Kingdom of Norway through Scan center project, CROMAC has continued employment of 4 mine victims on scanning and geo-coding of military maps and transferring of those data into existing CROMAC database. After five years of part-time work, these four people have finally been granted permanent employment by CROMAC.

The Nongovernmental Association MineAid has continued to employ one professional social worker for working with mine victims. As result, activities of the Association have expanded and now include: legal assistance, psychological and social support, educational support and support in finding employment.

Additional payment for more qualitative orthopedic prosthesis is the most usual way of providing individual support to mine victims. About 10 people per year ask for financial aid in the procurement of orthopedic prosthesis (additional payment amounts to 7,000,00 – 50,000,00 kunas). Young people are trained to become prosthetics. There are several activities like the procurement of small agricultural machines to establish a farm, as well as the procurement of computers, schoolbooks and equipment, furniture, visiting the victims at their homes and rehabilitation centers, covering rehabilitation and attendants’ costs.

Collective programs of rehabilitation and re-integration

The most significant and comprehensive project, organized by the Croatian Mine victims Association, Croatian Mine Action Center and Ministry of the Interior, is the updating of database and collecting data about new victims. CMVA has a complete database of 2198 landmines and UXO victims in database, and 1,000 of them are CMVA members. Database of the children mine victims and children whose parents are mine victims is also being made.

As a part of psychosocial rehabilitation for young mine victims, workshops have been organized during the summer in Rovinj since 2001. Not only rehabilitation, but also educational program is provided – music, video, photo, art, and sports workshops. When they return to everyday life, children and young people use the acquired knowledge and even find a job.

Due to the fact that 15-20% of the victims are children and young people, the lack of systematic programs of psycho-social rehabilitation, the lack of the Center for psycho-social rehabilitation somewhere in the world, a project of Regional Center DUGA is being established by PhD Ms. Dijana Pleština, CMVA and Center for Crisis. This Regional Center will provide psychosocial rehabilitation to children and young people from Croatia, the region and outside the region all through the year. Thanks to several foreign and domestic donors, funds for the reconstruction and equipping of the building have been collected.
Form C  Technical requirements and relevant information

Article 13, “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to Depositary ..on: paragraph 4 (c)

(c) Steps taken to meet technical requirements of this Protocol and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;

Remark:

High Contracting Party The Republic of Croatia reporting for time period from 31/08/2007 to 31/08/2008

Technical requirements

1). Records
a) 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.
b) Mines in the territory of the Republic of Croatia were not laid remotely.
c) Copies of minefield records were handed over to Mine Action Centre, and the originals are kept in military archives.
d) 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 6082 pieces for outlined purposes.

Mines, which are detected in the minefields, are destroyed immediately or after taking them out.
Form E  International technical information exchange, cooperation on mine clearance, technical cooperation and assistance

Article 13, "The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to Depositary ..on: paragraph 4 (e)

(e) Measures taken on international technical information exchange, on international co-operation on mine clearance, and on technical co-operation and assistance;"

Remark:

High Contracting Party reporting for time period from 31/08/2007 to 31/08/2008

International technical information exchange

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.

International technical information exchange

• 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

**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) within the Stability Pact program.

Thanks to the donation of the Government of the Kingdom of Norway, in 2007 testing of Scan Centre has started, with the positive first results, and it is expected to be finished in the first semester of 2008. Finishing the test phase will enable faster and simpler access to MSA data to all end users through the Internet.

The Governments of Luxemburg, Royal Belgium and Monaco, Spain, Japan and Canada have financed mine clearance projects. Other donations are from different NGO's and organizations like UNDP, AMCHAM, AMWAY and ADRA.

**International co-operation on technical co-operation and 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.

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.
Form F Other relevant matters

Article 13, "The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to Depositary ..on: paragraph 4 (f)

(f) Other relevant matters;"

Remark:

High Contracting Party The Republic of Croatia reporting for time period from 31/08/2007 to 31/08/2008

Other relevant matters

Mine clearance activities in the Republic of Croatia are regulated by the Mine clearance Act (NN No.19/96) and the Law on Mine clearance Amendments (NN No. 86/98 and No. 64/00).

The authority for mine clearance activities in Croatian Armed Forces is given to Mine clearance Battalion of the Engineering Brigade. Its task is to clear of mines military facilities that were neglected by the Armed Forces units due to humanitarian mine clearance that had, up to 1996, been conducted by units of the Croatian Armed Forces. Another task of the mine clearance battalion is to prepare a mine clearance platoon for mine clearance in PfP program that will be completed by the end of 2003.

All pyrotechnics engaged in mine clearance have passed the training for performing humanitarian mine clearance activities. They also have life insurance.

The mine clearance battalion keeps database on mined military facilities for the entire Croatian Armed Forced.

From August 31, 2007 to August 31, 2008, the area of 225.860 square meters of military facilities was cleared of mines; 7 AP mines and 190 pieces of UXO's were found and destroyed.
Form G Information to the UN-database on mine clearance

Article 11 paragraph 2 Each High Contracting Parties undertakes to provide information to the database on mine clearance established within the United Nations System, especially information concerning various means and technologies of mine clearance, and list of experts, expert agencies or national points of contact on mine clearance;

High Contracting Party The Republic of Croatia reporting for time period from 31/08/2007 to 31/08/2008

Means and technologies of mine clearance

Mine clearance capacities include a complete equipment of 27 demining companies that are authorized by Croatian Ministry of Interior to perform mine clearance and mine search activities. They also need to have accreditation from Croatian Mine Action Center to perform such actions. The firms have 814 employees in all operational units: 551 deminers, 69 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: 668 metal detectors, 49 mine clearance machines including all types (medium, light and heavy), excavators, machines for vegetation clearing and 46 mine detection dogs.

In Croatia, mine clearance actions are mostly performed as a combination of mechanical demining using demining machines, 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.

List of experts and expert agencies

Mine clearance experts are employed in various institutions, which deal with mine action issues:

HCR (Croatian Mine Action Centre):
- Oto Jungwirth – Director,
- Mirko Ivanušić – Deputy Director
- Nikola Gambiroža – standardization, standard operating procedures, Demining Machines Evaluation Committee
- Tomislav Ban – quality assurance and quality control
- Davor Laura – general survey, making of projects, mine situation database
- Miljenko Vahtarić – planning, analysis and finances
- Neven Karas – legislative issues
- Heads of CROMAC Regional offices (Damir Stojković, Josip Ćerina, Dubravko Krušarovski) – operational performance

CROMAC-CTDT Scientific Council – includes 36 members: members of Croatian Science and Arts Academy and university professors. The Council President is Dr. Nikola Kezić, professor at the Faculty of Agriculture, Zagreb University. Other members - project managers:

- Dr. Vladimir Knapp, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, Zagreb University
- Dr. Milan Bajić, Faculty of Geodesy, Zagreb University
- Dr. Hrvoje Gold, Faculty of Traffic Engineering, Zagreb University
- Dr. Dinko Mikulić, Polytechnic College Velika Gorica
- Dr. Mario Bauer, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Zagreb University
- Dr. Antočić, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, Zagreb University

CROMAC-CTDT (Croatian Mine Action Centre - Centre for Testing, Development and Training) – conducts testing and certification of mine detection and mine clearance equipment; research and development of new mine detection and mine clearance methods and technology; and training in the field of mine action. CROMAC-CTDT. Expert staff:

- Nikola Pavković, director
- Ivan Šteker, testing of demining machines and metal detectors
- Želimir Šarić, testing of mine detection dogs, PPE and prodders

Slavko Majetić, owner of the firm DOK-ING, Ltd., is an expert for construction and production of mine clearance machines MV-4, MV-10, MV-20. Another Croatian company, Đuro Đaković, is also involved in construction and production of demining machines RM-KA 02.

There is one state owned demining company, one non-government organization (NPA -Norwegian Peoples Aid) and other demining companies are privately owned. There are 27 commercial companies that are authorized by the Ministry of the Interior and they regularly apply for public tenders for mine clearance and mine searching projects:

- MUNGOS, Ltd. (state owned)
- NPA (NGO Norwegian Peoples Aid)
- AVANGARD Ltd.
- CENTURION Ltd.
- DEMIN-KA Ltd.
- DETEKTOR Ltd.
- DIZ – EKO Ltd.
- DOK-ING Demining Ltd.
- ENIGMA Ltd.
- HEKSOGEN Ltd.
- ISTRAŽIVAČ Ltd.
- I.T.P. ATLANTA Ltd.
- L.M.B.S. Ltd.
- MKA DEMING Ltd.
- NITRO Ltd.
- PIPER Ltd.
- PIROS Ltd.
- REASEURO WORLDWIDE Ltd.
- RUMITAL Ltd.
- TERRAFIRMA Ltd.
- TEHNOELEKTRO Ltd.
- TEHNOELEKTRO Ltd branch office Oriovac
- TORNADO Ltd.
- TITAN Ltd.
- UXB BALKANS Ltd
- ZELENI KVADRAT Ltd.

National points of contact on mine clearance

- Prime Minister – Ivo Sanader
- Head of CROMAC Council and prime minister's advisor for demining, Đuro Brodarac
- Advisor for mine action at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration,
  – M.Sc. Dijana Pleština
- Director of CROMAC Oto Jungwirth

Other points of contact:

- Head of CROMAC Scientific Council, M.Sc. Nikola Kezić;
- Head of the Centre for Testing, Development and Training (HCR-CTRO) – Nikola Pavković;