

**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: **01/01/2008 to 31/12/2008**

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 3

Starting point for development of 2008 Demining plan was a determined size of MSA of 997 km². Mine problem was affecting the areas in 12 out of 21 counties.

Between January 01 and December 31, 2008 under the auspices of civilian authorities, almost 33,1 square kilometers were demined and over 9,4 square kilometers were released through technical survey and other land release methods, totaling 42,5 km². According to that, on the day December 31 2008, determined size of MSA was 954,5 km², the Croatian Army demined 152 956 m² in and around military facilities.

During the execution of demining operations, there were 4.422 mines detected and destroyed out of which 1.805 anti-personnel mines and 2.617 anti-tank mines and 3.402 miscellaneous unexploded ordinances (UXO). Demining works were carried out by 27 authorized demining companies with 257 deminers, 13 demining machines and 4 pairs of mine detection dogs.

During the same period, Croatian Army detected and destroyed 10 anti-tank mines and 3 anti-personnel mines and 215 unexploded ordinance

Table 2: Total number of mines and UXO destroyed in the period 01/01/2008 – 31/12/2008

Year	Anti-personnel Mines	Antitank Mines	UXO
2008.	1.808	2.627	3.617

Any other relevant information

Croatia has developed sophisticated methods and standards for demining, technical survey, quality assurance and quality control. These methods and standards are based on the International Mine Action Standards, modified in accordance with Croatian national circumstances, and have been established pursuant to a legislative framework for humanitarian demining which has been codified by the Republic of Croatia. In addition, Croatia has established a method used for cancelling, with confidence, mine suspected areas, which are ultimately considered not to be dangerous.

In line with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS), CROMAC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) represent a set of prescribed operating procedures according to which CROMAC conducts: survey of mine hazardous areas and/or buildings (general survey, marking of mine hazardous areas and technical survey), project planning – project documentation development, eligibility assessment of the authorized legal entities for conducting humanitarian demining operations, quality assurance and quality control of mine search and demining operations in the Republic of Croatia.

The Quality Control was performed in 338 demining projects covering the sampling area of 587.939 m², which, in average, totals 1,6% of demined area, and is significantly higher percentage of the area than it is proscribed by the Law (0,5 %). In total, 3.778 sampling lots were checked.

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. Today, 59 legal entities are accredited for conducting humanitarian demining out of which 58 are commercial companies and one non-governmental organization (Norwegian People's Aid - NPA). Of these 59 entities accredited for conducting demining operations, 25 commercial companies and one non-governmental organization (NPA) are currently conducting mine search and demining operations and they employ 611 deminers and 67 auxiliary workers who dispose of 37 mine detection dogs, 52 demining machines and 705 metal detectors.

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: **01/01/2008 to 31/12/2008**

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

Today, out of 21 counties, 12 counties are affected by mine problem i.e. 111 towns and municipalities inhabited by 1/5 of the total population of the Republic of Croatia. Total mine suspected area of the Republic of Croatia at the beginning of the 2009 comes to 954,5 km², with approx. 100.000 mines and UXOs still have to be found and destroyed.

The Croatian Mine Action Centre 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.

In the Republic of Croatia, planning is conducted according to «National Mine Action Strategy» adopted by Croatian Parliament in 2000. The Plan is made by the Croatian Mine Action Centre on the basis of priorities and harmonizes the strategy with financial means available. The proposal of the Plan is submitted to the authorized ministries for consideration (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Finance) and after that to the Government for adoption. After the adoption, the Demining Plan becomes the basic document in terms of planning for next year.

Any other relevant information

Last year realization came up to 99.5% of the 2008 Plan.

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 **01/01/2008 to 31/12/2008**

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

Croatia has marked all mine suspected areas with over 15.000 warning signs. Mine risk education activities continue to be conducted through lectures and presentations, exhibits, TV and radio spots, theatre plays, art workshops, as well as one-time special activities such as distribution of educational notebooks to all first grade pupils of elementary schools and other projects at the state and local level.

Taking into the consideration that demining is a time consuming process, it is important to focus on the constant risk that threatens the population living in the mine/UXO contaminated areas. Learning how to live and work as well as how to alleviate the suffering caused by mines is process that goes along with demining activities.

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.

In the period from 1 January to 31 December 2008, there were **6 mine incidents** recorded in which **7 persons** were injured out of which two were deminers. As compared to 2007, the fall of the number of victims is continued as well as the positive fall of the number of fatal incidents. In 2007, there were 3 fatalities out of 7 incidents while in 2008 there were only 2 fatalities out of 6 incidents.

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 **01/01/2008 to 31/12/2008**

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 **01/01/2008 to 31/12/2008**

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 7

On mine suspected area of the Republic of Croatia covering the area of 12 counties, i.e. 111 municipalities, over 800.000 inhabitants live being directly exposed to mine threat. That makes 39% of the total population living in counties with MSA problem i.e. 18% of the total population of the Republic of Croatia.

According to that, CROMAC made the table of demining priorities considering three main aspects: safety, socio-economic and ecology. According to CROMAC's estimation out of total mine suspected area in the Republic of Croatia, first and second group of priorities in all three priority groups cover ca. 250 km². Solving this problems by 2014 there will be no direct threat to the safety of the citizen of Republic of Croatia, all area important from the socio-economic aspect will be demined and also all area important for the protection of the preserved nature, fire protection and removal of wild depots.

Demining works conducted in the year of 2008 were aimed to achieving several main goals:

1. Demining of all registered minefields and the ones yet to be discovered in the future period.

Minefields in the vicinity of settlements, road communications and infrastructure facilities will have the priority in terms of removal. In co-operation with the authorised institutions for the sphere of fire protection, minefields will be removed from the areas representing the potential danger for setting up and spreading fires as well as from areas potentially dangerous due to the possibility for ecological incidents. Establishing priorities at the operative level will be precisely elaborated by annual demining plans.

2. To completely remove mine danger from areas for the reconstruction of houses and infrastructure, agricultural areas, meadows and pastures.

This goal will be realized through direct co-operation with the authorised state administration bodies (Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development and Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management), local administration and self-administration. By the end of 2010, mine danger should be completely removed from the areas for the reconstruction of houses and infrastructure and, by the end of 2013, from the areas allocated for agricultural production and cattle breeding.

3. To maintain marking of mine suspected area through all phases.

During the realization of this Program, the Croatian Mine Action Centre will maintain marking of mine suspected area and, if needed, at the request of local administration and self-administration bodies, police, forestry, hunting societies and other, execute additional marking and replace destroyed or for any other reason missing mine warning signs.

4. Mine risk education programs should cover the entire population living and/or working in mine suspected areas or gravitate towards them.

In co-operation with authorised state administration bodies (Ministry of Science, Education and Sports), local administration and self-administration, public companies and non-governmental organizations (Croatian Red Cross) intensify the process of conducting mine risk education programs and adjust the programs to most endangered groups of population.

5. To continue providing care and rehabilitation including psycho-social rehabilitation and economic reintegration to all mine victims.

This task will be primarily performed by state administration bodies responsible for health and social care (Ministry of Health and Social Welfare) and other state administration bodies, local administration and self-administration that can contribute to the complete reintegration of mine victims to the social courses.

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 **01/01/2008 to 31/12/2008**

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. Among numerous mutual projects it is necessary to emphasize a few in 2008:

- Foundation of the Croatian humanitarian demining cluster
- Organization and participation at the 11th International Meeting of Mine Action Programme Directors and United Nations Advisers
- The Convention on Cluster Munitions signed, Oslo Conference
- Several new bilateral cooperation's were established during the year 2008. Mine action agreement signing with Yemen, Egypt, Turkey, Libya and Georgia are arranged for the 2009
- Participation in developing standards and exchange of experience in mine action.

International collaboration is intensified in every element of mine action, and its significance derives not only from the responsibilities of the Republic of Croatia assumed by signing and ratifying the Ottawa Convention and the Croatian role within the Stability Pact in the South-eastern Europe but from the necessity of getting more significant support of the international community in resolving mine problem.

Collaboration on the international field insisted on transparency and intensified collaboration of CROMAC with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Croatian Missions in the world and Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia. Apart from fulfilling the responsibilities assumed by signing the Ottawa Convention, the activities of international collaboration were directed towards collecting the financial means for demining, procurement of necessary equipment, collecting financial means for mine victims assistance and education on mine danger.

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.

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

High Contracting Party: Croatia

Reporting for time period from **01/01/2008 to 31/12/2008**

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 ammunitions 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.

- 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
- 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

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 **01/01/2008 to 31/12/2008**

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 11

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.

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 2008, CROMAC continued all activities towards fulfilling the obligations from the signed conventions.

Any other relevant information

FORM I Other relevant matters

High Contracting Party: Croatia

Reporting for time period from **01/01/2008 to 31/12/2008**

Any other relevant information