



**Intersessional Meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention  
Geneva, 8 – 9 June 2017**

**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
ON MINE CLEARANCE IN 2016 AND 2017**

Thank you Mr./Ms. President/Coordinator.

With regards to the preliminary observations made by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation on Croatia, we can inform about the following.

***Mine Clearance in 2016***

- The total reduction of the mine suspected area (MSA) of 41.47 km<sup>2</sup> is 48% in comparison to the total planned in 2016. The MSA as such includes both suspected hazardous area (SHA) and confirmed hazardous area (CHA).
- 38.26 km<sup>2</sup> cleared by demining activities is 61% compared to the total planned for 2016.
- Implementation of the technical, non-technical and supplementary non-technical survey resulted with the decrease of the MSA by 3.2 km<sup>2</sup>, which is 13% of the value planned for 2016.
- During 2016, through the implementation of non-technical survey in order to update the MSA and for the preparation of preliminary plans for demining, the Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) included new MSA amounting to 1.87 km<sup>2</sup>.
- In 2016 the demining battalion of the Ministry of Defense has cleared an area totaling 0.45 km<sup>2</sup> in size. The total military MSA left for clearance amounts to 31.92 km<sup>2</sup> with a note that almost 30.4 km<sup>2</sup> of this MSA relates to the training sites. It is also important to note that the military MSA is not included in the total (civilian) MSA in Croatia.
- Demining capacities in 2016 in Croatia amounted to 42 accredited demining companies with the total capacity of 600 deminers, 51 demining machines and 60 mine detection dogs. (*as per end of the year*)
- In 2016 MSA was marked with 14.088 mine danger signs that were placed within the 65 cities and municipalities in 9 counties, statistically

presented as 33 boards per square kilometer of MSA. (*as per end of the year*)

### ***Mine Risk Education Activities in 2016***

- Through 77 lectures and presentations, more than 21.620 citizens were educated and informed. The lectures were held in 13 Counties and the City of Zagreb.
- In March and December, two working meetings of all entities and subjects that are involved in providing MRE were held under the coordinating role of the Government Office for Mine Action (GOMA).
- The International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was marked on April 4<sup>th</sup> in Gospić, capital of Lika-Senj County, the most mine-affected county in Croatia, with a range of different MRE activities.
- No civilian mine victims since 2013.
- No child mine victims since 2004.

### ***Mine Incidents in 2016***

- We recorded 5 mine incidents with 7 demining staff victims (6 deminers and 1 auxiliary worker, all male aged between 36 and 60; 3 fatalities and 4 with light injuries), which is an increase in casualties in comparison to 2015.
- Again, we have to emphasize that, out of last 7 mine incidents which occurred in 2015 and 2016, 5 of them involved bounding anti-personnel mine type PROM-1, which is one of the most dangerous APLMs due to its high sensitivity, instability and lethality. The PROM-1 is particularly difficult to render safe because its fuse becomes unstable after being exposed to weather conditions for several years.

### ***Mine Clearance in 2017***

In the first four months of 2017 (1 January – 1 May 2017) mine suspected area (MSA) in the Republic of Croatia has been reduced by 4.98 km<sup>2</sup> through implementation of demining, technical survey, non-technical survey and supplementary non-technical survey activities, which amounts to approx. 6.6% of realization of the Annual Mine Action Plan for 2017.

As of 1 January, 2017, the CROMAC has changed the method for calculation of the MSA, thus switching from the spherical method to the Cartesian method which is more compatible with other institutions' approach (eg. State Geodetic Directorate) that are using Geographical Information System (GIS) tools. In practice, this means that all demining and technical survey activities that have

started in 2016 will be completed in 2017 based on the spherical method, while the projects from 2017 will be conducted under the Cartesian method. At the end of 2017 the actual size of the MSA will be shown using the Cartesian calculation.

Namely, according to the (draft) Annual Plan of Mine Action for 2017, through implementation of demining, technical survey, non-technical survey and supplementary non-technical survey activities, the total MSA in Croatia in 2017 will be reduced by 75 km<sup>2</sup>. Through demining operations the MSA will be reduced by 54 km<sup>2</sup> and through technical survey, non-technical survey and supplementary non-technical survey activities it will further be reduced by 21 km<sup>2</sup>.

The Annual Mine Action Plan for 2017 again foresees, as a continuance of 2016 financial trends, a high share of financing from the European Union funds, up to 63% of total funding. In 2016 EU funds had the biggest financing share with 65% of total funds spent and contracted (State Budget 34%, donations 1%).

In March 2017 the amendments to the *By-law on the Method of Conducting Demining Operations, Quality Control, General and Technical Survey and Marking of Suspected Hazardous Area* were published in the „Official gazette“ after which they entered into force. Adoption of amendments to this most important by-law for humanitarian demining, which elaborates in more detail the provisions of the Law on Mine Action related to the manner of carrying out demining operations, shows that the implementation of the By-law in practice, through the cooperation of all stakeholders in the mine action system, is systematically monitored in order to eliminate or correct possible deficiencies or impropriety that slow down or hamper the demining process.

In closing, I would like to emphasize that Croatia plans to engage more actively with the Committee on Article 5 Implementation and the ISU APMBC in order to provide more detailed information on its current activities, remaining challenges and plans for the future. Through these efforts we intend to provide States Parties with the timely and realistic information on Croatia's state of compliance regarding the upcoming Article 5 mine clearance deadline.

Thank you.