



**Intersessional Meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention  
Geneva, 19-20 May 2016**

**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
ON CLEARANCE**

Mr./Ms. President/Coordinator,

During the year 2015, Suspected Hazardous Area (SHA) in Croatia was reduced by 67.7 km<sup>2</sup> through mine clearance activities and non-technical survey activities. Current SHA is 467.4 km<sup>2</sup>, which extends through nine counties and 69 towns and municipalities, while estimates indicate that the SHA is contaminated with around 43.700 mines. The entire SHA is clearly marked with 13.274 mine danger signs.

During the demining operations, 3.093 anti-personnel (AP) mines and anti-tank (AV) mines and 1.708 unexploded ordnances (UXO) were found and destroyed.

These results were achieved with 46 demining companies, 653 deminers, 86 auxiliary workers, 705 metal detectors, 55 demining machines and 42 mine detection dogs.

The Annual Demining Plan for 2015 which totaled around 53 million €, was realized using the following funding sources: the State Budget, legal entities and state administration institutions, EU funds and donations. I would like to emphasize that, for the first time ever, in 2015 funds acquired for the demining operations gathered from other sources surpassed the ones from the State Budget which until 2015 accounted for more than 60% of the total funds spent for mine clearance operations from 1998 – 2014. In 2015 EU funds had the biggest financing share with 56% of total funds spent and contracted; meanwhile, the State Budget 38%, legal entities and state administration institutions 4%, donations 2%.

The Croatian Police Department and Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) have continued "Less arms, less tragedies" program in partnership with the UNDP. During 2015, the Police Department collected 137 pieces of AP landmines, 101 pieces of AV landmines, 319 kg of different explosives, 2.969 hand grenades, 2.084 pieces of different artillery and mortar ammunition, large amounts of various explosive materials (detonator capsules, fuses, tracer ordinance), large quantities of SALW and over 574.640 pieces of munitions up to the 14.5 mm caliber.

In 2015 we recorded two mine incidents involving three deminers. In the first accident, a deminer was severely injured while in the second, one deminer sustained injuries and the other was unfortunately killed. (Thankfully, since 2013 we haven't had civilian mine victims and since 2004 we haven't had children mine victims).

Finally, it is important to stress that the Croatian Government expressed additional sensitivity and determination to finally solve the mine problem and systematize mine action activities so that the main goal and objective - "Croatia without mines" - is reachable until 2019.

Thank you.



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**ANNEX TO THE STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
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In the first four months of 2016 (31 December 2015 – 1 May 2016) Suspected Hazardous Area (SHA) in Croatia was reduced by 13.3 km<sup>2</sup> through mine clearance and non-technical survey activities. Mine clearance and non-technical survey activities are currently being conducted on an area of 11.4 km<sup>2</sup>.

The Annual Demining Plan for 2016 foresees even higher share of financing from European funds, up to 62% of total funding sources.

So far in 2016, we recorded two mine incidents – in the first incident (January), the auxiliary worker sustained light injuries, while in the second (April) two deminers were injured and one was unfortunately killed.

Finally, in the "Official Gazette" of 13 May 2016, the Bylaw on the Method of Conducting Demining Operations, Quality Control, General and Technical Survey and Marking of Suspected Hazardous Area was published. This Bylaw prescribes the manner of performing activities of general survey - analysis of suspected hazardous areas, additional general survey, technical survey, mine clearance, marking of mine suspected area, determining of safety distance, protective equipment and the conditions for its use, first aid and medical care, the manner of controlling quality and final quality control and conditions for additional mine clearance. This main Bylaw for humanitarian demining in Croatia will enter into force on 21 May 2016.