

**AP Mine Ban Convention meeting of the Standing  
Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and  
Mine Action Technologies, 20-24 June**



**Statement - Mine situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

**Mister President**

Fifteen years after the war, Bosnia and Herzegovina is still one of the most mine contaminated countries in the world and the most contaminated country in the region. Size of mine suspected area on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2011 is 1400 km<sup>2</sup> which is about 2.8% of the total territory of the country. Mine Action Strategy anticipates Bosnia and Herzegovina free of mines by the end of 2019. From December, 2010 to June, 2011 it was released 60 km<sup>2</sup> of the land in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Reduction of the remaining mine suspected area planned for the period 2011 - 2019 will largely depend on allocated local and donor funds.

Number of retained mines fits the number of polygons for training and testing capacities of companies and Mine Action Centre in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the first two years of implementation of Mine Action Strategy, results in this field of humanitarian demining are not satisfactory, they are about 50% of the plan and they primarily depend on allocations funds.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has sufficient capacity to carry out mine actions planned by Strategy 2009 - 2019. Involvement of human resources at the companies is not more than 50% and it is very unequal during the year which has particularly bad effect on commercial and non-governmental companies who do not have their own sources of funding. The ratio of donor funds is still 55% compared to 45% from national sources.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has also launched a pilot project of municipal planning in order to improve connection among local communities, to perform better and more transparent prioritization, to implement Mine Risk Education (MRE) programs in a better way, and to associate socio-economic impact with mine action implementation. It has been processed a total of 45 municipalities with the biggest mine problem. We also started a helicopter survey project - Deployment of the Decision Support System for Mine Suspected Area Reduction in Bosnia and Herzegovina in cooperation with Center for testing,

development and training from the neighboring Republic of Croatia, which aims to better identify the risk areas in inaccessible and impassable terrains.

Through EU-IPA program 2011-2013, Bosnia and Herzegovina plans to implement reduction of suspected area of the third category by introducing a new methodology using BHMAC's resources. Elaboration of the new methodology will be completed by the end of this year and it is planned to reduce at least 70 km<sup>2</sup> of suspected area.

Statistics on mine victims in 2011 has a decreasing trend compared to the previous years and Bosnia and Herzegovina is making additional efforts to further reduce the number of victims through all aspects of mine action. This year in Bosnia and Herzegovina was till now 3 mine victims of which 1 was killed.