



**STATEMENT BY  
THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

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*Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, 28 May 2013*

Dear Co-Chairs, esteemed colleagues,

Current mine suspected area in Croatia is at 669 km<sup>2</sup>. Since January 2013, mine clearance activities in the Republic of Croatia have reduced Suspected Hazardous Area (SHA) by 9,2 km<sup>2</sup>, with non-technical survey further reducing an additional 10,2 km<sup>2</sup>. During the demining operations 292 anti-personnel mines, 299 anti-tank mines and 11.213 unexploded ordnances were found and destroyed.

Croatia's capacities for demining include 36 demining companies, 638 deminers, 60 demining machines, 18 mine detection dogs and 670 metal detectors, with the mine suspected areas marked with 13.516 warning signs.

By May 17<sup>th</sup> of this year, approximately 12,6 million Euros were spent for mine clearance activities in Croatia. The major funding source for mine action in Croatia continues to be the State Budget (some 10 million Euros), followed by public and state owned companies and other investors, primarily state company Croatian Forests with some 2 million Euros, and foreign governments, EU funds, organizations and individual domestic donors some 0,6 million Euros. As a soon-to-be Member of the EU, Croatia has been applying to the pre-accession funds. Total funds from the EU thus far has been 24 million Euros. This year CROMAC signed a contract for 1,5 million Euros for work along the Hungarian-Croatian border, which began two weeks ago on the Croatian side and last week on Hungarian side. By the end of August of this year, the entire border between Hungary and Croatia will be cleared of mines. We are now in the process of preparing projects for EU structural funds that will be available after Croatia becomes a full member of the EU, on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013.

Since 1998 when the Government of Croatia established the Croatian Mine Action Centre, a total of 546 million Euros have been spent on mine clearance activities. As we have already informed the States Parties on many occasions, the State Budget has provided the largest share with some 60% of total funds spent on demining. If we include the Croatian public companies, private investors and donors, and World Bank loans which Croatia has repaid, some 86% of all funds for demining and mine search activities in Croatia have come from Croatian sources.

In the reporting period there was 1 mine incident which included 1 person who suffered light injuries on lower extremities.

During this period mine risk education and mine victims assistance has been provided by NGOs, government institutions and international organizations, working in cooperation with the Government Office for Mine Action. One example is the UNDP and Croatian Ministry of Interior campaign “Less weapons, less trouble” through public presentation and lectures, which were supported by CROMAC.

The Government Office for Mine Action, created in 2012 by the new social democratic government as a focal point in the Republic of Croatia, is working on a new Law on Mine Action that will be more in tune to the stipulations of the Mine Ban Convention. Importantly, this new law will enable more efficient and more responsible use of national resources by redefining Croatia’s land release methodology and consolidating small dispersed projects into large ones, thus increasing both cost effectiveness and safety for deminers. Along with the Government Office for Mine Action which is coordinating, the working group includes the new Director of CROMAC, the Heads of the Inspection Department of the Ministries of Interior and Defense as the core, though the working group also includes representatives of NGOs and employers and unions in demining.

Finally, I would like to conclude this intervention by reiterating that though it will not be easy, Croatia is fully committed to fulfilling its obligations in mine clearance by meeting its Ottawa Convention deadline of March 1<sup>st</sup> 2019.