

Felszólalás-tervezet
(Ottawai Egyezmény 12MSP Genf, 2012. dec. 3-7.)

Mr. Chairman,

at the 11th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in Phnom Penh Hungary reported that a suspected mined area is located on its territory. During the Standing Committees' Meetings in May this year we gave detailed information on the situation and our measures to carry out full demining of the area. Today, may I share an update of the situation with you.

As a general overview, let me give a short description of the area which is suspected to contain mines. It is located in the very Southern part of Hungary and consists of a stripe of land, straddling the Hungarian-Croatian state border line between Dráva and Duna rivers. The length of this border section is 80 kilometres.

As you may know, in the course of military operations during the war in the former Yugoslavia, mostly in the period from 1991 to 1992 and from 1994 to 1995, extensive emplacements of anti-personnel and anti-tank landmines were carried out on Croatian territory, in the immediate vicinity of the above mentioned borderline. Due to possible inaccurate emplacements as well as natural processes it cannot be completely excluded that mined areas may, to some extent, extend over to Hungarian territory. Mines may be found sporadically in a range from a few centimetres to a few meters from the state border line on the Hungarian side of the border. Since no exact data and maps of the emplacements are available, the quantity of mines on Hungarian territory is extremely difficult to estimate. It is, however, unlikely to exceed a total of 100 pieces.

In order to convert the area entirely safe and freely accessible for all, suitable for civilian purposes and totally clear of mines, a joint Croatian-Hungarian project was launched last year with a considerable financial support of the European Union. The project is called „Rehabilitation of land mine contaminated sites in the Drava-Danube area” and it is part of the Hungary-Croatia European Union's *Instrument for the Pre-Accession Assistance Cross-Border Co-operation Programme* of 2007-2013.

The project started in September 2011 and shall be implemented in a 24-month timeframe according to the following plan:

Phase I (1/9/2011 – 31/8/2012) – completed

1. Surveying and marking of mine suspected areas

- Size and distribution of mine contaminated and mine suspected areas defined, categorization of areas for demining and for technical survey (with digital ortophotos)
- All further relevant information to produce well developed documentation collected
- 350 mine warning signs placed in the area, extensive communication carried out with inhabitants of local municipalities

2. Establishing a Mine Information Database (MID)

- The Hungarian Mine Information Database (MID) containing the data on mine suspected areas and their priority sequence for demining created, based on data derived from surveying
- The size of the area covered is 1.007.747 m²
- The MID is determined by a set of 26 polygons

Phase II (1/9/2012 – 31/8/2013)

3. Demining of mine contaminated and mine suspected areas – *in progress*

- Public procurement process for demining works started in October 2012
- Applications submitted by companies with the most considerable expertise of demining
- After the evaluation of the tender and choosing appropriate contractors, practical demining may start early 2013
- All activities in line with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).

4. Environmental rehabilitation of the target area – *under preparation*

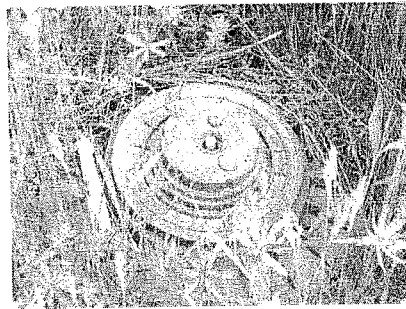
- Demining activities to be performed in EU's ecologically protected NATURA 2000 areas
- Target territory under increased natural protection.
- Environmental assessment, including authority provisions assigning the natural values (flora and fauna) to be protected.

Works under the project are on the right track according to the planned schedule. We are considering the possibility of inviting experts of interested international NGOs for a field trip next year to see demining works on the spot.

As a result of the efforts presented, no suspected mined area should remain in Hungary by the end of the project, that is the end of August 2013. We shall provide States Parties of the Ottawa Convention with regular updates on this issue.

5/12
PM

Information update on a mine suspicious area in Hungary



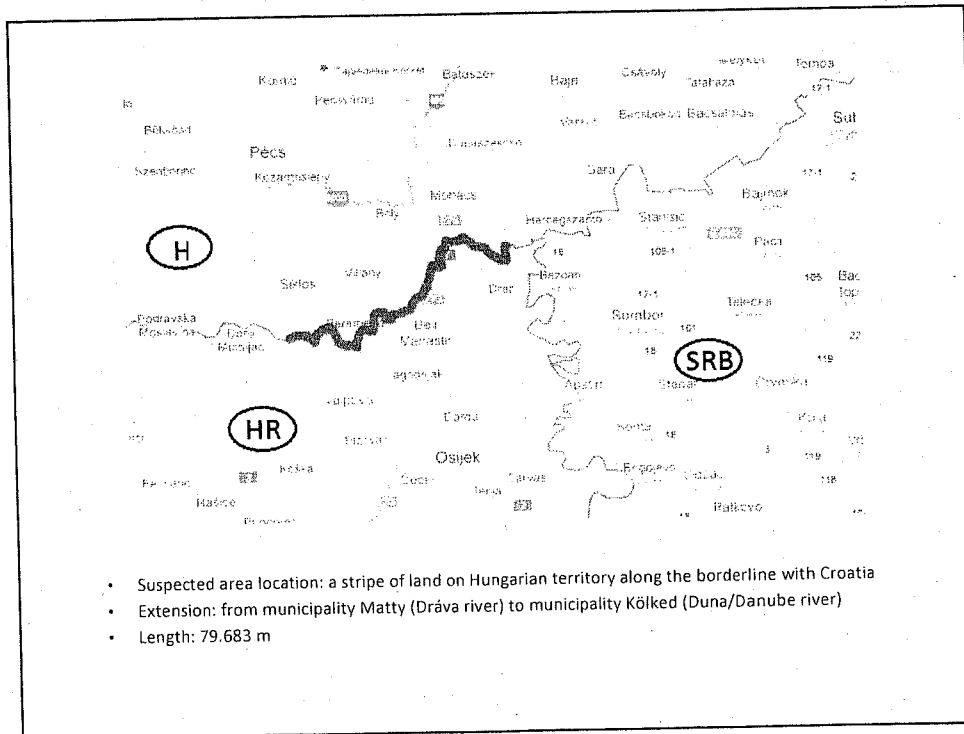
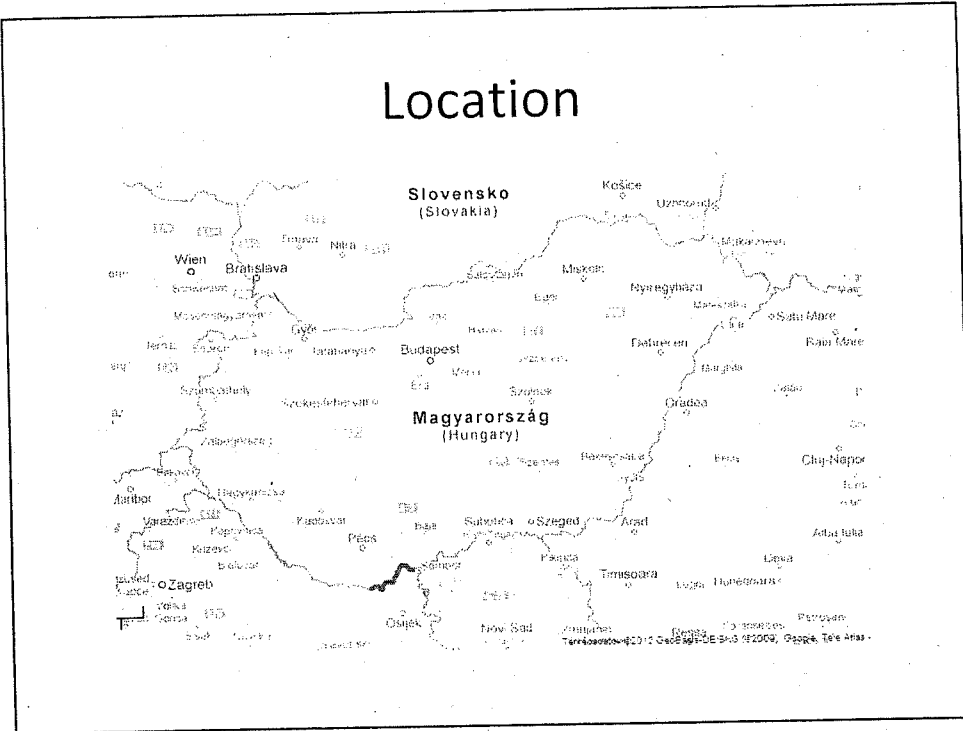
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary
Department for Security Policy and Non-proliferation

December 2012

Location



Location



Emplacement information

- Time of emplacement: 1991-92, 1994-95
- Reason: military operations during the Yugoslav wars, extensive emplacement of anti-personnel mines
- Special element: area of emplaced mines on Croatian territory may extend over Hungarian territory
- No emplacement maps available
- Estimated extension of suspicious area: a stripe of land of a maximum of a few meters
- Types of mines: PMR-2, PMR-2A, OMSZ-2 etc.
- Quantity of mines: < 100



Measures being taken

- „Rehabilitation of land mine contaminated sites in the Drava-Danube area”
- A joint Croatian-Hungarian project
- Aim: to convert the border area entirely safe, totally clear of mines and accessible for all
- Financial support by European Union’s IPA (*Instrument for the Pre-Accession Assistance*) Cross-Border Co-operation Programme

Status of project implementation

Phase I (1/9/2011 – 31/8/2012) - completed

- 1. Surveying and marking of mine suspected areas – completed**
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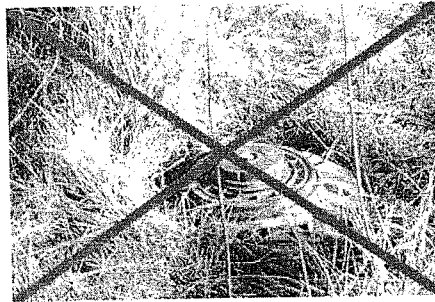
Project implementation

Phase II (1/9/2012 – 31/8/2013) – in progress

- 3. Demining of mine contaminated and mine suspected areas – in progress**
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Conclusion

By the end of the project implementation, 31/8/2013 no mine suspicious area should remain in Hungary.



Thank you for your attention!