



**REPUBLIC OF SERBIA  
MINE ACTION CENTRE**

**Meetings of the Standing Committees  
AP Mine Ban Convention  
Geneva, 21-25 June 2010**

**Standing Committee on Mine Clearance, Mine Risk Education and Mine  
Action Technologies**

**I**

Problems connected with demining in Serbia are numerous and are mostly conditioned by specificity of the mine situation and lack of funds for conducting demining.

Specificity of the mine problem in Serbia is reflected in the fact that in our country, apart from the groups of mines in the south of Serbia along the administrative line with Kosovo and Metohija, large area is significantly contaminated with unexploded cluster munitions, air bombs – rockets and other types of unexploded ordnance.

For coordination of works related to humanitarian demining and management of projects in the field of such demining in Serbia, the Serbian Mine Action Centre was founded in 2002 as a government body financed from the state budget. The Centre has qualified personnel and is technically equipped for implementation of activities from its domain.

**II**

After the foundation of the Centre as a national coordinating body for demining, a survey was conducted in the Municipality of Šid, in the border area with the Republic of Croatia, in the area of 10.000.000 sqm which was suspected to be mined. It was established that antipersonnel and antitank mines were emplaced in the area of 6.197.791 sqm.

Given that it was not possible to remove only antipersonnel mines without removing antitank mines, the Centre made 44 demining projects, namely projects for clearance of all kinds and types of mines and other unexploded ordnance in the mined area totaling 6.197.791 sqm.

Demining of minefields in the border area with Croatia totaling 6.197.791 sqm, where 5.139 various types of mines and UXO were found and

destroyed (3.997 AP, 842 AT and 300 UXO) was conducted owing to donations, which were, through the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF) provided by the Governments of the USA, Norway, Germany, Spain, Canada, and Czech Republic, also by the Delegation of European Commission, as well as by the State Enterprise "Building Directorate of Serbia".

There are no more minefields in the border area with Croatia. The last mines in that area were removed on 10 November 2009.

Antipersonnel mines are no longer produced in Serbia.  
Stockpiles of antipersonnel mines were destroyed in May 2007.

Despite the fact that the Republic of Serbia destroyed all stockpiles of antipersonnel mines and cleared all minefields which were known to us by December 2009, on the Second Review Conference of the State Parties of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on their Destruction, which was held in Cartagena, in the period 30 November – 4 December 2009, the Republic of Serbia could not report that it had completed implementation of Article 5 of the Convention, since towards the end of 2009 we obtained knowledge of groups of various types of mines emplaced along the administrative line with Kosovo and Metohija.

With the help of the Norwegian People's Aid and ITF, the Centre has started a survey of this area. So far, it has been established that there are various types of mines in the Municipality of Bujanovac in the area of around 1.000.000 sqm. Surveys in the municipalities of Preševo, Medveđa and Kuršumljija are planned to be completed by the end of June 2010. We estimate that risk area to be demined will not exceed the area of 1.500.000 sqm.

Having in mind the new circumstances, the Republic of Serbia will continue successively to report on fulfillment of its obligations of Article 5 of the Convention.

### III

It was established that during the 1999 bombing of our country, 16 municipalities in the Republic of Serbia, excluding Kosovo and Metohija, were targeted with cluster bombs (Niš City-Municipality of Medijana and Crveni Krst, Kraljevo, Brus, Preševo, Bujanovac, Kuršumljija, Raška, Gadžin Han, Laposavić, Sjenica, Čačak, Vladimirci, Knić, Stara Pazova and Sopot).

So far, it has been established that in the territory of the above municipalities there are 260 risk micro locations, total area of 14,320,000 sqm, as well as 144 suspected micro locations, total area of 8,380,720 sqm. These locations are subjected to additional survey which will be conducted throughout this and next year.

It is estimated that after additional survey the risk area to be demined will total around 17,000,000 sqm.

#### IV

It is assumed that from the 1999 bombing, 64 air bombs-rockets weighed 930 kg can be found in 44 locations in the ground at depth of up to 20 meters, as well as in the river beds of the rivers Danube and Sava.

#### V

It is suspected that after fire and explosion at the military depot in Paraćin, on 19 October 2006, various types of unexploded ordnance are located outside of military objects in the area of about 7,000,000 sqm.

In the Đerdap Gorge, on the Danube River, in the vicinity of Prahovo, in 1944, German war vessels containing large quantity of unexploded ordnance, including anti-ship mines, were sunken, and now pose a threat to people, navigation and environment. In 2006, a survey was conducted and the positions of 22 sunken vessels were determined, as well as the existence of various types of UXO and anti-ship mines on 4 of these vessels.

#### VI

The Serbian Mine Action Centre achieves international cooperation with numerous subjects in the field of mine action.

Cooperation with the International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance (ITF), as well as regional cooperation through various forms of the work of the Southeastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council, known as SEEMACC, give excellent results.

Good bilateral cooperation has been achieved with Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre, particularly with the Croatian Mine Action Centre, through exchange of experience about demining, quality control of demining, making and implementation of projects, training of personnel, etc.

#### VII

Problems related to demining in Serbia are numerous and without financial help of international community and donors Serbia alone can not solve these problems in reasonable time.