



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Meetings of the Standing Committees
21-25 June 2010

Article 3: Updates on plans for and use of mines retained for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance, or mine destruction techniques

Mr. Co – chair,
Distinguished colleagues,

In order to contribute to the fulfilment of the Cartagena Action Plan (Action points #56 - #58), regarding mines retained for purposes permitted under Article 3. of the Convention (updates on plans for and use of mines retained for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques), I would like to inform you of the following:

1. The Republic of Croatia had initially decided to retain 7000 AP mines for training and development of mine destruction techniques. Every year, a certain amount of AP mines is used and destroyed in the process of training and testing of demining machines. During the year 2009, a total of 84 AP mines were used and destroyed. (PMA-1A 30 pcs, PMA-2 20 pcs, PMA-3 20 pcs, PMR-2A 6 pcs, PROM-1 8 pcs.) Currently, the Republic of Croatia has 5954 AP mines remaining.

2. The Republic of Croatia has in the past and will in the future use the remaining AP mines exclusively for the purposes of training and testing of demining machines. Last year, 84 pcs. were used and destroyed for testing purposes of the following demining equipment: Digger D-3, Dalmatino, VF-001, Minolovac (Mine-hunter). Small number of AP mines were used and destroyed in a training exercise for detection and removal of UXO. Only after comprehensive testing, aforementioned machines will receive appropriate certificate, which will enable them to operate in Croatia and beyond. In 2003 CROMAC established the Centre for Testing, Development and Training (CTDT), whose prime task is to conduct testing of demining machines, mine detection dogs and metal detectors, as well as research and development of other demining techniques and technologies. CTDT is the only organization in the Republic of Croatia authorized to use live landmines in controlled areas and under the supervision of highly qualified personnel. In 2004, for that purpose CTDT established a test site "Cerovec" near the city of Karlovac.

3. On the basis of current estimates regarding requirements for testing of demining machines in 2010, we believe that the following number and type of antipersonnel mines will be used (and consequently destroyed):

PMA-1A	45
PMA-2	45
PMA-3	45
PMR-2A	20
PROM-1	20
TOTAL:	175

4. All this information, as well as previous data regarding the mines retained for training and testing of demining equipment is available in the annual Croatian report already submitted in accordance with Article 7 of the Ottawa Convention.