



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
TO THE OSCE, UN AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
VIENNA**

A-1030 VIENNA, RENNWEG 3

TEL: (+43 1) 535 0137; FAX: (+43 1) 535 0134; EMAIL: cromiss.vienna@mvep.hr

No: 38/2024

NOTE VERBALE

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe presents its compliments to all Permanent Missions and Delegations to the OSCE, and to the Conflict Prevention Centre, and has the honor to submit the annual reply of the Republic of Croatia to the Questionnaire on Anti-Personnel Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Croatia to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe avails itself of this opportunity to renew to all Permanent Missions and Delegations to the OSCE and to the Conflict Prevention Centre the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, 24 May, 2024



To

All Permanent Missions and Delegations to the OSCE,
The Conflict Prevention Centre.

Vienna

OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

**To be submitted no later than 31 May of each year
(starting in May 2005)**

Part I

1. Is your country a State Party to the 1996 Amended Protocol II on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices annexed to the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW)?

Yes.

2. Please attach the most recent annual report submitted by your country in accordance with Article 13 of the Amended Protocol or give the appropriate electronic address for the report.

Attached.

3. Is your country considering ratification/accession to the Amended Protocol II?

N/A

4. What measures have been taken to prevent the indiscriminate use of mines, booby-traps and other devices?

The Republic of Croatia is a strong supporter of the Conventions that prevent the indiscriminate use of mines, booby-traps and other devices and has, over the decades, taken corresponding legal, operational and all other related activities, while also promoting the Convention objectives in all communication and cooperation actions.

5. Would your country be interested in receiving assistance related to the implementation of this Protocol? If so, please describe.

The Republic of Croatia has set a clear deadline and goal to be free from all known landmine contamination until March 2026 and focuses currently on providing substantial support in this regard towards other contaminated countries, especially Ukraine.

6. Does your country have the capacity to assist others related to this Protocol? If so, please describe.

In line with the unfortunate and overwhelming experience concerning ERW contamination problem, the Republic of Croatia has, throughout the years, acquired comprehensive know how in the field of Mine Action. Furthermore, it has continuously offered and provided, and will continue to provide the assistance in relation with all of the ratified Conventions while also promoting their objectives. For more recent examples please see Mine ban Article 7 transparency report in the attachment.

Part II

7. Has your country ratified or acceded to the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction?

YES.

8.(a) If yes, please attach the most recent report submitted by your country in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention or give the appropriate electronic address for the report.

Attached.

(b) If no, is your country considering ratification/accession to the Convention?

N/A

- (c) Has your country adopted legislation to address the humanitarian objectives of the convention, or taken any specific measures regarding the use, production, storage, transfer and destruction of anti-personnel landmines? In case a moratorium has been introduced, what is its scope and duration and when was it introduced?

Apart from legislatures that prescribe the implementation of the Mine Action related Conventions, the Republic of Croatia had over the years established and developed specific Mine Action laws such as Act on Humanitarian Mine Action back in 1998, or the recent version of the Act on Mine Action and Act on Amendments to the Act on Mine Action (OG No. 118/2018), Act on amendment to the Act on the Government (OG No. 116/2018) which entered into force on January 1, 2019, and the most recent one - On May 26, 2023, the Croatian National Parliament had passed an amendment of the Act on Mine Action (OG 59/2003) which changes some of the regulations of the original law with a goal of increased effectiveness in certain land release operations.

9. Does your country have any specific measures in place to provide assistance to victims?

The Republic of Croatia has a comprehensively developed legal framework relating to the persons with disabilities in comprehending their legitimate rights and status. There are 4 basic forms of mine victim assistance in which ministries, institutions, non-governmental sector, a number of organizations and individual initiatives take part in, such as medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological help and social reintegration with professional and economic rehabilitation. All of this is systematically defined as a part of several legislatures so we can conclude that the integration of the Ottawa Convention implementation activities into national development plans, poverty reduction strategies, humanitarian response plans and national strategies for the inclusion of persons with disabilities is and was in line with the Action 1 of the corresponding Oslo Action Plan.

**In addition, in this regard, there is an ongoing important project implementation financed from the Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme - named "Demining and Socio-Economic Integration" which has been carried out in the 2017-2023 period. After significant demining results, one of the activities that were finalized in 2021, after a full-scale field survey, was the establishment of a comprehensive EO database, gathering, among other elements, the information about different needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men from diverse populations and all ages. We can conclude that this field survey was completed with a very good response rate of 82.6% of the available households (data was gathered from 423 EO victims and 473 EO closest family members.) The collected data concerned the social status, psycho-physical health, education, etc., and became an integral part of the comprehensive EO victim database, together with the analysis base value that will serve in future project activities / VA activities. Further project activities continued in 2022 with the development and implementation of specific VA programs for psychosocial empowerment including counseling and educational activities, and an initiative to improve the social status of EO victims and their families featuring specific workshops and trainings that continued in 2023. In addition, a thematic brochure has been published:
(<https://civilna35>)**

zastita.gov.hr/UserDocsImages/CIVILNA%20ZA%C5%A0TITA/PDF_ZA%20WEB/20220105_MUP_brosura_small.pdf), which contains all the rights and opportunities available to EO victims in the Republic of Croatia and the manner to exercise them. During 2022 as a part of Psychosocial workshops, 9 assistance workshops were held gathering 39 EO victim participants, while within Training, Counseling and Employability increase workshops, 4 workshops and 12 specific trainings were held with a total of 36 EO victim participants. During 2023 an activity of small-scale investment opportunities to EO victims aimed in increasing their economic welfare and employment capacities has been carried. Financial resources were allocated (Public Call) towards the Mine Victims in the amount of CHF 200,000.00, which financed the start of new and expansion of existing entrepreneurship for the 15 mine victims and members of their immediate families (indirect victims).

10. Does your country require assistance in mine clearance, stockpile destruction, mine awareness and/or victim assistance? If so, please describe.

Mine Action in the Republic of Croatia has been defined by well-established priorities and sustainable development throughout the three major components: Economic growth, Environmental stewardship and Social inclusion. After the Homeland War, Republic of Croatia had prioritized strong national ownership and the clearance of the areas that are crucial for the safety and economic growth / development of the war affected Counties, establishing preconditions for any economic activity whatsoever. After this had been finalized, priorities have turned towards the agricultural production and environmental protection. If we look at the Hazardous area land structure at the end of 2023, it can be seen that more than 98% of CHA/SHA are structured as forest areas which means prioritization has changed towards the remaining challenges, so mine action activities and clearance projects have been incorporated in the last decade into various larger and sustainable society efforts. Example of these actions are especially highlighted within the clearance projects that are financed from the EU Cohesion fund, targeting nature protected parks or Nature 2000 areas. Such projects, such as “Naturavita”, “Fearless Velebit” and “Karlovac Karst” projects have been performed within the highest possible EU and National nature protection regulations, e.g., defining the strict time frames when the clearance activities and certain methods are allowed to be performed, so the various species and habitats are not to be aggravated in any means whatsoever. Sustainable development and environmental stewardship are one of the core purposes of these projects and the remaining two-year challenge focuses on the protection of forests, incorporating preservation, rehabilitation and development in the ecological and economic sense as well with established financial means for the completion of all clearance or other Mine Pillar activities.

11. Does your country have the capacity to assist others in mine action? If so, please describe.

In line with the unfortunate and overwhelming experience concerning ERW contamination problem, the Republic of Croatia has, throughout the years, acquired comprehensive know how in the field of Mine Action. Furthermore, it has continuously offered and provided, and will continue to provide the assistance in relation with all of the ratified Conventions while also promoting their objectives. For more recent examples please see Mine ban Article 7 transparency report in the attachment.

FSC.DEC/7/04
24 November 2004
Annex 2

OSCE QUESTIONNAIRE ON EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

To be submitted on a voluntary basis along with the OSCE Questionnaire on Anti-personnel Mines no later than 31 May each year.

1. Has your country notified the Depositary of its consent to be bound by the 2003 CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) once it enters into force? Is your country considering doing so?

The Republic of Croatia has ratified the CCW Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) back in 2004 and has provided continuous transparency reports which are all available at: <https://www.un.org/disarmament/ccw-protocol-v-on-explosive-remnants-of-war/national-reporting-and-database/ccw-protocol-v-database/>

2. If yes, at what stage is the process?

Among the obligations that are defined within the Convention Protocol V, the main challenge that remains is connected with the Article 3 – clearance, destruction and removal of the ERW, but this process is expected to be finalized until the 2026.

3. Would your country be interested in receiving assistance in clearing or otherwise minimizing the risks and effects of ERW? If so, please describe.

The Republic of Croatia has a highly developed mine action system which incorporates all of the mine action pillars. This has led towards the ending phase of the Ottawa Convention obligations with a deadline in 2026, while the cluster munition remnants clearance was successfully completed in line with the Cluster Munition Convention schedule in 2020. In addition, stockpile destruction was finalized several years ago, while mine victim assistance has continuously proven its success in the scope of reduction and elimination of new mine accidents and victims. All of this suggests that the Republic of Croatia is now more focused on supporting other contaminated countries in this regard, especially focusing its assistance towards Ukraine. For more recent examples please see Mine ban Article 7 transparency report in the attachment.

4. Does your country have the capacity to assist others in clearing and minimizing the risks and effects of ERW? If so, please describe.

In line with the unfortunate and overwhelming experience concerning ERW contamination problem, the Republic of Croatia has, throughout the years, acquired comprehensive know how in the field of Mine Action. Furthermore, it has continuously offered and provided, and will continue to provide the assistance in relation with all of the ratified Conventions while also promoting their objectives.

COVER PAGE OF THE ANNUAL ARTICLE 7 REPORT

NAME OF STATE [PARTY]: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

REPORTING PERIOD: 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023
 (dd/mm/yyyy) (dd/mm/yyyy)

<p>Form A: National implementation measures:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>changed (last reporting: 2022)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>unchanged</td></tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	changed (last reporting: 2022)	<input type="checkbox"/>	unchanged	<p>Form F: Program of APM destruction:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>changed</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>unchanged (last reporting: 2009)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>non applicable</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	changed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unchanged (last reporting: 2009)	<input type="checkbox"/>	non applicable		
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<p>Form B: Stockpiled anti-personnel mines:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>changed</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>unchanged (last reporting: 2003)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>non applicable</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	changed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unchanged (last reporting: 2003)	<input type="checkbox"/>	non applicable	<p>Form G: APM destroyed:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>changed (last reporting: 2022)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>unchanged</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>non applicable</td></tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	changed (last reporting: 2022)	<input type="checkbox"/>	unchanged	<input type="checkbox"/>	non applicable
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<p>Form C: Location of mined areas:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>changed (last reporting: 2022)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>unchanged</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>non applicable</td></tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	changed (last reporting: 2022)	<input type="checkbox"/>	unchanged	<input type="checkbox"/>	non applicable	<p>Form H: Technical characteristics:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>changed</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>unchanged (last reporting: 2009)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>non applicable</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	changed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unchanged (last reporting: 2009)	<input type="checkbox"/>	non applicable
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<p>Form E: Status of conversion programs:</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>changed</td></tr> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>unchanged (last reporting: 2009)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>non applicable</td></tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/>	changed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	unchanged (last reporting: 2009)	<input type="checkbox"/>	non applicable	<p>Form J: Other Relevant Matters</p> <table border="1"> <tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>changed (last reporting: 2022)</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>unchanged</td></tr> <tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>non applicable</td></tr> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	changed (last reporting: 2022)	<input type="checkbox"/>	unchanged	<input type="checkbox"/>	non applicable
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**CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE USE, STOCKPILING, PRODUCTION AND TRANSFER OF
ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

Reporting Formats for Article 7 ¹

STATE PARTY:	THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
DATE OF SUBMISSION	8 April 2024
POINT OF CONTACT	MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR CIVIL PROTECTION DIRECTORATE Mr. Damir Trut, Ph.D., Director of the Civil Protection Directorate Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) sector Mr. Nikša Bogdanić, head of Sector, E-mail: hcr@civilna-zastita.hr MINISTRY OF DEFENCE Defence Policy Directorate Department of Multilateral Affairs and International Security Arms Control Department E-mail: mario.crnkoci@morh.hr
	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">(Organization, telephones, fax, email) (ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES OF CLARIFICATION)</p>

¹ These reporting formats informally provided by Austria on disk are based on document APLC/MSP.1/1999/L.4 of 31 March 1999, as amended and decided upon by the First Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, held in Maputo from 3 to 7 May 1999. Tables of formats may be expanded as desired.

Form A National implementation measures

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:
a) The national implementation measures referred to in Article 9"

Remark: In accordance with Article 9, "Each State Party shall take all appropriate legal, administrative and other measures, including the imposition of penal sanctions, to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Convention undertaken by persons or on the territory under its jurisdiction or control".

State [Party]	The Republic of Croatia	Reporting for time period from	January 1, 2023	to	December 31, 2023
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Measures	Supplementary information
<p>On October 1, 2004 Croatian Parliament passed a Law on Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.</p> <p>On October 6, 2004 Croatian President signed a DECISION on the proclamation of the Law on Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.</p> <p>Having recognized that mine/CM/UXO contamination is a problem of domestic security, economic development and environmental pollution, the current Croatian Government decided to strengthen the existing system of mine action by creating its own Office for Mine Action as a focal point in 2012. Office for Mine Action was established as a governmental body in charge of expert, analytical, counseling, and coordinative and other activities regarding the mine action in the Republic of Croatia. As such, the Office also monitors the work, activities and operations of the Croatian Mine Action Center.</p>	<p><i>Law on Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction ("OG", 141/04)</i></p> <p><i>Decree on the Office for Mine Action ("OG", 21/12)</i></p>

<p>Together with the participation in intergovernmental cooperation in the field of mine action, the Office also cooperates with different authorities in implementation of obligations under international treaties and conventions on prohibitions or restrictions on the use of certain types of conventional weapons that have unacceptable humanitarian impact, such as landmines, cluster munitions and other.</p>	
<p>The Act on Mine Action has been declared on 21 October 2015 and incorporates: Governing the wider scope of activities (ERW victims assistance, information and education about the dangers of mines, UXO and their parts, socio-economic integration of the demined areas), introduction of a new procedure – Supplementary general survey, enabled exclusion of SHAs which have undergone technical survey, SOPs have been removed, CROMAC no longer performs the assessment activities of authorized legal entities for conducting demining operations and other changes in QA/QC procedures, accreditation of legal entities and misdemeanor law regulations.</p>	<p><i>The Act on Mine Action has been enacted on 21 October 2015</i></p>
<p>In 2016, pursuant to the new Law on Mine Action, which entered into force Oct. 21, 2015, on 21 May 2016, “Regulations on how demining, quality control, non-technical and technical surveys and marking of suspected hazardous areas” have entered into force, and on 29 June 2016, “Regulations on personal supervisory booklet and ID card of mine action employees and record forms” have entered into force.</p>	

<p>As of August 2018, the Government of the Republic of Croatia had issued a Conclusion to integrate some 54 government agencies, including CROMAC and GOMA, within existing State administration bodies. This meant CROMAC and GOMA ceased to exist as a legal entity/Government Office from 1 January 2019 and were integrated into the Ministry of the Interior.</p> <p>The intentions of this formal Conclusion were formalized through the Act on Amendments to the Act on Mine Action (OG No. 118/2018) and Act on amendment to the Act on the Government (OG No. 116/2018), enacted in December 2018, entered into force on 1 January 2019 where CROMAC became an operational sector within the Civil Protection Directorate – under the Ministry of the Interior.</p>	<p><i>Act on Amendments to the Act on Mine Action (OG No. 118/2018), Act on amendment to the Act on the Government (OG No. 116/2018) entered into force on 1 January 2019</i></p>
<p>In July 2021 a new Law on Civilian Victims of the Homeland War was officially adopted by the Croatian Parliament. The new Law enables the application for the status of a war-disabled civilian, based on a disability caused by a disease correlating with the Homeland War, due among other things to disabilities caused by explosions of EO left over after the end of war operations.</p>	<p><i>Act on Civilian Victims of the Homeland War (OG No. 84/21)</i> https://www.zakon.hr/z/2851/Zakon-o-civilnim-stradalnicima-iz-Domovinskog-rata</p>
<p>In February 2023, the Croatian Parliament had officially adopted the National Mine Action Programme until 2026 as the main strategic document that clearly presents the goals and guidelines of the Mine Action in the period until 2026.</p>	<p>National Mine Action Programme until 2026 (OG 21/2023) https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2023_02_21_352.html</p>
<p>On May 26, 2023, the Croatian National Parliament had passed an amendment of the Act on Mine Action (OG 59/2003) which changes some of the regulations of the original law with a goal of increased effectiveness in land release operations.</p>	<p><i>Act on Amendments to the Act on Mine Action (OG 59/2003)</i> https://narodne-novine.nn.hr/clanci/sluzbeni/2023_06_59_999.html</p>

Form B Stockpiled anti-personnel mines

Article 7. 1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

b) The total of all stockpiled anti-personnel mines owned or possessed by it, or under its jurisdiction or control, to include a breakdown of the type, quantity and, if possible, lot numbers of each type of anti-personnel mine stockpiled."

State [Party]	The Republic of Croatia	Reporting for time period from	January 1, 2023	to	December 31, 2023
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Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-
TOTAL	-		

The Republic of Croatia destroyed its entire stockpile of anti-personnel landmines according to Article 4 of the Convention (with the exception of a small quantity retained under Article 3 of the Convention). The last amount of stockpiled anti-personnel landmines was destroyed at the Military Exercise Area "Crvena zemlja" near Knin on October 23, 2002 and was observed by a number of international observers. More detailed explanation is contained in Form "F".

Form C Location of mined areas

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:
c) To the extent possible, the location of all mined areas that contain, or are suspected to contain, anti-personnel mines under its jurisdiction or control, to include as much details as possible regarding the type and quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine in each mined area and when they were emplaced."

State [Party]	The Republic of Croatia	Reporting for time Period from	January 1, 2023	to	December 31, 2023
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1. Achievements of the Mine action in 2023

- Land released: **58.00 km²**
 - By clearance: **41.5 km²** (84 demining projects)
 - By survey: **16,5 km²**
 - ERW found and destroyed by Mine Action authorities during clearance activities (Civil Protection Directorate; CROMAC sector):
790 AP mines, 19 AT mines, 3.328 UXOs

In addition, certain amount of Croatian military facilities including barracks, training areas and radar stations are still partially contaminated by ERW and under the direct responsibility of the Ministry of Defense, where the MoD Pioneer Company of the Engineering regiment is responsible for clearance of all military facilities. During 2023, an area of 561.677 m² under the authority of the MoD (military areas) was cleared which resulted with 7 AP mines and found and destroyed along with 888 UXOs eliminated as well.

As of 1 August 2020 the Republic of Croatia is declared free of all known CMR contaminated areas.

Areas returned to the community for civilian use:

The size of areas returned to the community for civilian use during 2021		57.977.949 m²
Mine clearance was conducted by:		
- Commercial demining companies		41.506.960 m²
- Survey reduction conducted by CROMAC (NTS, TS, sNTS)		16.470.989 m²
TOTAL:		57.977.949 m²

As of December 31, 2023, the areas that were included into HA by the Civil Protection Directorate, sector of CROMAC non-technical survey activities reached 426.619 m² (0.4 km²).

During clearance operations, within the reporting time period, the following devices were found and destroyed:

Anti-personnel mines		Anti-vehicle mines		Unexploded lethal ordnance		TOTAL
Civil Protection Directorate / CROMAC	Ministry of Defense (MoD)	Civil Protection Directorate / CROMAC	MoD	Civil Protection Directorate / CROMAC	MoD	MoI/CPD/CROMAC and MoD
790	7	19	0	3.328	888	816 mines / 4.216 UXOs

The Annual Mine Action Plan (MoI) was realized using the following funding sources - State Budget funds, EU funds and Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme contribution. It is important to mention that, like in the previous reporting year, in 2023, funds acquired for the demining operations from the EU contribution were significant. In 2023 the state budget had the biggest financing share with 70,3 % of the realized funds while EU funds contributed with 27.6% along with Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme which amounted to further 2.1% of annual mine action designated funds. Parallel with the implementation of the non-technical and technical survey activities and clearance operations, the control of marking system and, if necessary, additional marking of hazardous areas was conducted in order to create a clear boundary between safe and hazardous areas. The locations of mine danger signs are one of the basic elements of the Mine Information System (MIS) that is available to public via online platform and shown on the maps given to the local authorities, police administration units and individuals that have requested maps on the HA situation. On December 31, 2023 the total hazardous area was marked with **4.082 mine warning signs**.

In addition, the Police departments have, during the course of 2023, as a part of their regular activities, Counter explosive unit (EOD) activities and annual public campaign "Less arms, less tragedies" (where the citizens are being educated as a part of EORE

activities and in the same time encouraged to turn in their ERW and SALW leftovers from the Homeland War without legal penalty) collected and destroyed 172 AP and 40 AV landmines with different 3.360 pieces of UXO's. This includes Air bombs, Naval bombs, hand grenades, cluster bombs, artillery shells (20 mm and larger), mortar shells in addition to other ERW such as different types of explosives (222.73 kg) and SALW ammunition (up to 14.5 mm – 425.507 pieces). The Police department will continue to implement these programs and activities in the future. The weapons and ordinances collected by the Police department were transported and destroyed at Croatia's military facilities.

2. Areas suspected to contain mines

Location	Type	Quantity	Date of emplacement	Supplementary information
THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA Total hazardous area at the end of 2023 was 92,1* km² out of which: 78,6 km² of confirmed hazardous areas (CHAs) 13,5 km² of suspected hazardous areas (SHAs)	Anti-personnel mines	9.301		Estimate according to number of minefield records in CROMAC database and annual demining report
	Anti-vehicle mines	751		Estimate according to number of minefield records in CROMAC database and annual demining report

**Excluding the MoD areas with the additional 18.9 km² of HA recorded*

Hazardous areas in the Republic of Croatia on December 31, 2023 remained on 21 Municipalities/ 4 Counties and amounted to **92.1 km²** (78.6 km² CHA, 13.5 km² SHA), excluding the MoD areas of an additional 18.9 km² of HA. Approximate number of AP/AT mines emplaced (Estimate according to 252 fully documented minefield records in CPD/CROMAC sector database and Annual demining report) on Dec 31, 2023 reaches **10.052** mines (**9.301** AP mines and **751** AT mines), excluding the areas under the MoD jurisdiction. It is important to highlight that during 2023 Republic of Croatia released completely **two more contaminated Counties**, when Šibensko-kninska and Osječko-baranjska Counties were declared free of contamination.

3. Remaining challenges

Remaining challenges displayed by County and Municipality level for the SHA/CHA

COUNTY	Municipalities/Towns known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines	Amount of area known to contain anti-personnel mines (sq. meters)	Amount of area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines (sq. meters)	Total amount of area known or suspected to contain anti-personnel mines (sq. meters)
Karlovačka				
	Josipdol	3.400.402	0	3.400.402
	Plaški	10.264.105	76,762	10.340.867
	Rakovica	119,573	126,612	246,185
	Saborsko	482,417	0	482,417
Ličko-senjska				
	Brinje	399,877	5,995	405,872
	Donji Lapac	8.953.687	4.797.138	13.750.825
	GOSPIĆ	17.351.201	4.107.845	21.459.046
	OTOČAC	9.183.223	1.407.713	10.590.936
	Perušić	37,469	0	37,469
	Plitvička Jezera	1.594.125	0	1.594.125
	Udbina	338,509	678,716	1.017.225
	Vrhovine	10.411.396	0	10.411.396
Splitsko-dalmatinska				
	Hrvace	3.706.606	0	3.706.606
	VRLIKA	4.247.805	0	4.247.805
Sisačko-moslavačka				
	Dvor	3.616.635	1.692.688	5.309.323
	GLINA	593,48	15,639	609,119
	Gvozd	35,762	0	35,762
	PETRINJA	1.490.077	2,559	1.492.636
	SISAK	425,76	493,011	918,771
	Sunja	1.883.944	154,343	2.038.287
	Topusko	38,506	0	38,506
TOTAL	21	78.574.559	13.559.021	92.133.580

Mine Action in the Republic of Croatia has been defined by well-established priorities and sustainable development throughout the three major components: Economic growth, Environmental stewardship and Social inclusion. After the Homeland War, Republic of Croatia had prioritized the clearance of the areas that are crucial for the safety and economic growth / development of the war affected Counties, establishing preconditions for any economic activity whatsoever. After this had been finalized, priorities have turned towards the agricultural production and environmental protection. If we look at the Hazardous area land structure at the end of 2023, it can be seen that **1.3%** of the HA were categorized as agricultural areas, while remaining **98.7%** as forest areas. This means prioritization has changed towards the remaining challenges, so mine action activities and clearance projects have been incorporated in the last decade into various larger and sustainable society efforts. Example of these actions are especially highlighted within the clearance projects that are financed from the EU Cross border cooperation or Cohesion fund, targeting nature protected parks or Nature 2000 areas. Such projects, such as “Naturavita”, “Fearless Velebit” and “Karlovac Karst” have been and are performed within the highest possible EU and National nature protection regulations, e.g. defining the strict time frames when the clearance activities and certain methods are allowed to be performed, so the various species and habitats are not to be aggravated in any means whatsoever. Sustainable development and environmental stewardship are one of the core purposes of these projects and the remaining four year challenge focuses on the protection of forests, incorporating preservation, rehabilitation and development in the ecological and economic sense as well.

4. Military facilities containing mines

Location	Type	Quantity	Date of emplacement	Supplementary information
Barracks (Total: 1 barrack)	APM	0	1991-1995	Barracks are potentially contaminated (partially). Technical survey is in the process.
	AVM	0	1991-1995	
Training Sites (Total: 2 training sites)	APM	781	1991-1995	Training sites are contaminated partially. (approx. 16.8 km ² of SHA)
	AVM	105	1991-1995	

Storage Sites (Total: 0 storage sites)	APM	0	1991-1995	There are no contaminated storage sites.
	AVM	0	1991-1995	
Radar station (Total: 1 radar station)	APM	-	WW II,1991-1995	Remaining 1 site with 280.000 m ² of CHA presumably contaminated with WWII AP mines and other UXO
	AVM	-		
Shooting range (Total: 1 shooting range)	APM	-	1991-1995	
	AVM	-		
Other object (Total: 1 other object)	APM	-	1991-1995	
	AVM	-		
TOTAL (Information is related to the mined area and MSA in the size of 18.9 km ²)	APMs (anti-personnel mines)	781	1991-1995	
	AVMs (anti-vehicle mines)	105	1991-1995	
In 2023 Croatian Army units cleared an area of military facilities			TOTAL	561.677 m ²

Thanks to the Civil Protection Directorate - CROMAC Mine-Information System portal <https://misportal.hcr.hr/HCRweb/faces/intro/introduction.jspx> every Internet user can through this web application have an insight into suspected hazardous areas and positions of mine danger signs. This kind of SHA display through web application is unique in the world. Users are also informed through detailed maps provided with locations of mine danger signs and mobile application MINEfields.info. CROMAC MIS portal is available to all Internet users within a public access and suspected hazardous areas can be browsed by counties, municipalities, towns or settlements.

Form D APMs retained or transferred

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

d) The types, quantities and, if possible, lot numbers of all anti-personnel mines retained or transferred for the development of and training in mine detection, mine clearance or mine destruction techniques, or transferred for the purpose of destruction, as well as the institutions authorized by a State Party to retain or transfer anti-personnel mines, in accordance with Article 3"

State [Party]	The Republic of Croatia	Reporting for time period from	January 1, 2023	to	December 31, 2023
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1. Retained for development of and training in (Article 3, para.1)

Institution authorized by State Party	Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
Mines are stored at the Croatian Armed Forces storage site "Borik" Velika Buna, and are used or going to be used by the Croatian Mine Action Centre	PMA-1	461	-	No serial mark on the mine or on the package
	PMA-2	502	SRB 6741, 6743, 6745, 6746, 6748,6749, 6750	
	PMA-3	90	SRB 8702	
	PMR-2A	775	-	No serial mark on the mine or on the package
	PMR3	70	PIG-8900	

Institution authorized by State Party	Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
	PROM-1	1.738	KV 00/64, 01/64, 05/65, 06/65, 07/65, 08/65, 11/65, 12/65, 03/65, 04/65, 02/66, 01/68, 02/68, 03/70, 03/70 03/76	
TOTAL	-----	3.636		

Based on the Agreement on the transfer of tasks, Article 2, signed between Croatian Mine Action Center and Center for Testing, Development and Training (HCR-CTRO Ltd.) on October 30, 2003 HCR-CTRO Ltd. took over the activities and projects focused on performing administrative and technical tasks related to testing of machines, dogs and detectors, as well as scientific and research activities.

Total number of anti-personnel mines used in 2023 in accordance with Article 3 is the following:

Institution authorized by State Party	Type	Quantity	Used in Military training for deminers	2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCR-CTRO Ltd. used AP mines for testing in 2023 	PMA-1	24	0	
	PMA-2	18	0	
	PMA-3	13	0	
	PMR-2A	50	0	
	PROM-1	6	0	
TOTAL:		111		

2. Estimate of the use of mines in year 2024

In year 2024, the amount of anti-personnel landmines that will be used (and consequently destroyed) will be based on the needs for testing of demining machines. CAF will use only “inert” APMs for training purposes.

Form E Status of programs for conversion or de-commissioning of APM production facilities

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

e) The status of programs for the conversion or de-commissioning of anti-personnel mine production facilities."

State [Party]	The Republic of Croatia	reporting for time period from	January 1, 2023	to	December 31, 2023
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Indicates if to "convert" or "decommission"	Status (indicates if "in process" or "completed")	Supplementary information
-	-	-
-	-	-

The Republic of Croatia did not produce any anti-personnel landmines.

Form F Status of programs for the destruction of APMs

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:
 f) The status of programs for the destruction of anti-personnel mines in accordance with Articles 4 and 5, including details of the methods which will be used in destruction, the location of all destruction sites and the applicable safety and environmental standards to be observed."

State [Party]	The Republic of Croatia	Reporting for time period from	January 1, 2023	to	December 31, 2023
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1. Status of programs for destruction of stockpiled APMs (Article 4)

The Republic of Croatia met its commitments by destruction of all its stockpiled anti-personnel landmines, except those retained under Article 3.	
Description of the status of programs including:	Details of:
Location of destruction sites: Military training area "Oštarski dolovi" near Slunj and "Crvena zemlja" near Knin.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mines destroyed by: - Explosion (PMA-3, PMA-2, PROM-1) - Disassembling (PMA-1, PMR-2A) 	Methods
National safety standards are applied according to Ministry of Defense regulations, taking into account international standards for humanitarian demining.	Applicable safety standards
Mines were destroyed at military training areas away from inhabited areas (minimal distance 5 - 8 kilometers).	Applicable environmental standards

The destruction of stockpiled anti-personnel landmines was conducted in three phases and the following quantities of anti-personnel landmines were destroyed:

No	Type	Phase I (Sep 4 – Oct 26, 2001, and earlier)	Phase II (April 8 – July 5, 2002)	Phase III (Sep 9 – Oct 24, 2002)	TOTAL
1.	AP landmine PMA-1	7.875	3.831	2.574	14.280
2.	AP landmine PMA-2	9.979	21.032	13.865	44.876
3.	AP landmine PMA-3	19.372	23.667	16.662	59.701
4.	AP landmine PMR-2A, 2AS	21.364	32.027	20.649	74.040
7.	AP landmine PMR-3	-	4	-	4
8.	AP landmine PROM-1	2.144	3.382	576	6.102
TOTAL		60.734	83.943	54.326*	199.003

* During the Phase III, 53.908 anti-personnel landmines were initially destroyed. Additional 418 anti-personnel landmines were delivered by the Ministry of Interior after the successful completion of their "Farewell to Arms" campaign whose aim was to collect weapons and other explosive remnants of war. The total number of destroyed stockpiled anti-personnel landmines in Phase III was 54.326.

Apart from anti-personnel mines, during Phase III, the following additional quantities of fuses for anti-personnel landmines were destroyed:

No	Type	Phase I (Sep 4 – Oct 26, 2001)	Phase II (April 8 – July 5, 2002)	Phase III (Sep 9 – Oct 24, 2002)	TOTAL
1.	AP landmine fuse UPMR-2A, 2AS	2.390	13.063	23	15.476
2.	AP landmine fuse UPMR-3	1.840	11.136	280	13.256
3.	AP landmine fuse UPROM-1	1.474	10.250	146	11.870
4.	AP landmine fuse UPMAH-1	1.086	1.328	100	2.514
5.	AP landmine fuse UPMAH-2	936	830	194	1.960
6.	AP landmine fuse UPMAH-3	237	133	133	503
TOTAL		7.963	36.740	743	45.579

The process of destroying stockpiled anti-personnel landmines was observed by international monitors/observers on September 12 and 25, 2001 and on October 22/23, 2002. During the observation, the Republic of Croatia was praised for meeting its commitments pursuant to the Ottawa Convention. After an extensive overview, the increased number of stockpiled anti-personnel landmines was evidenced chronologically as follows:

First notified amount of stockpiled APMs	189.251
Collected after first MI action "Farewell to Arms"	3.531
TOTAL	192.782
Collected after second MI action "Farewell to Arms"	3.098
TOTAL	195.871
Military stocks inventory check evidenced a larger number of stockpiled APMs	9.460
TOTAL	205.331
Collected after third MI action "Farewell to Arms"	418
TOTAL	205.749
Total amount of APMs possessed by the Republic of Croatia	205.749
Total amount of destroyed APMs	199.003
Amount retained under Article 3 of the Convention²	7.000

² 268 anti-personnel landmines were destroyed during 2003 for the purposes according to Article 3 of the Convention.

The cost of destroying stockpiled APMs is provided (in Euros) as follows:

No	Purpose	Phase I (Sep 4 – Oct 26, 2001)	Phase II (April 8 – July 5, 2002)	Phase III (Sep 9 – Oct 24, 2002)	TOTAL
1.	Daily payment to technicians	3.821	5.879	3.135	12.835 €
2.	Daily payment to supervisors	1.274	980	523	2.777 €
3.	Additional payment to technicians	3.821	5.879	3.135	12.835 €
4.	Accommodation costs for technicians	4.039	6.213	4.843	15.095 €
5.	Accommodation costs for supervisors	1.346	1.036	807	3.189 €
6.	Daily payment for drivers	1.274	1.952	1.045	4.271 €
7.	Costs of machines and vehicles	15.984	24.575	13.115	53.674 €
8.	Costs for explosive ordinance for ignition	2.175	3.346	446	5.967 €
TOTAL*		33.734 €	49.860 €	27.049 €	110.643 €*

*Salaries for all personnel involved in the process are not included in the abovementioned.

The cost of destruction per anti-personnel landmine was 0.56 €.

2. Status of programs for destruction of APMs in mined areas (Article 5)

Description of the status of programs including:	Details of:
Location of destruction sites	
	Methods
	Applicable safety standards
	Applicable environmental standards

Form G APMs destroyed after entry into force

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:
 g) The types and quantities of all anti-personnel mines destroyed after the entry into force of this Convention for that State Party, to include a breakdown of the quantity of each type of anti-personnel mine destroyed, in accordance with Articles 4 and 5, respectively, along with, if possible, the lot numbers of each type anti-personnel mine in the case of destruction in accordance with Article 4"

State [Party]	The Republic of Croatia	Reporting for time period from	January 1, 2023	to	December 31, 2023
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1. Destruction of stockpiled APMs (Article 4)

Type	Quantity	Lot # (if possible)	Supplementary information
/	/	/	/
TOTAL			

Information is provided in Form "F".

2. Destruction of APMs in mined areas (Article 5)

Type	Quantity	Supplementary information
PMA-1	1	
PMA-2	23	
PMA-3	145	
PMR-2A	372	

PMR-2AS	50	
PROM-1	76	
MRUD	1	
Other	122	
TOTAL	790	

***Apart from the destroyed AP mines during clearance activities, throughout 2023, additional 7 AP mines and 888 pieces of UXOs have been found and destroyed as well, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Defense.**

Form H Technical characteristics of each type produced/owned or possessed

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:

h) The technical characteristics of each type of anti-personnel mine produced, to the extent known, and those currently owned or possessed by a State Party, giving, where reasonably possible, such categories of information as may facilitate identification and clearance of anti-personnel mines; at a minimum, this information shall include the dimensions, fusing, explosive content, metallic content, color photographs and other information which may facilitate mine clearance"

State [Party]	The Republic of Croatia	Reporting for time period from	January 1, 2023	to	December 31, 2023
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Technical characteristics of each APM-type currently owned or possessed

Type	Dimensions	Fusing	Explosive content		Metallic content	Colour photo attached	Supplementary information to facilitate mine clearance.
			Type	Grams			

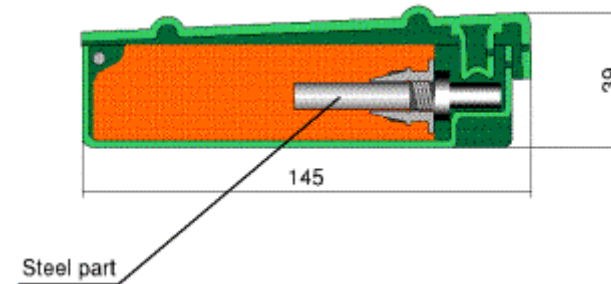
At the end of 2023, the Republic of Croatia was in possession of **3.636** anti-personnel landmines retained under Article 3 of the Convention, as described in form "D".

Name : PMA-1A

Type : Anti-personnel antimagnetic pressure mine

Description : Antimagnetic anti-personnel landmine, colored olive drab, no markings. Activated by the pressure of approx. 3 kp. Can be buried to the depth of 3-5 cms. Often an additional TNT charge (TM-200) is placed under it to increase the lethality. Causes heavy injuries to the person activating it.

Technical data



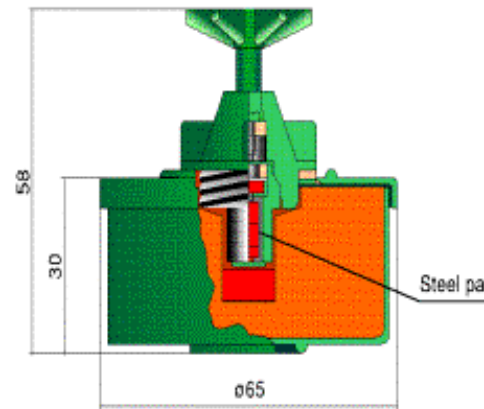
Length : 145 mm
Width : 68 mm
Height : 39 mm
Mass : 400 g
Explosive charge : 200 g TNT
Body : Plastic
Colour : Olive-drab
Fuse type : Chemical
Mode of activation: Pressure
Sensitivity : 3 – 18 kps
Detectability : Very hard to detect by the magnetic mine detector (minimal metal contents)
Mode of operation : The pressure of 3-18 kps on the lid of the mine will break the fuse containing the chemical compound sensitive to friction, which will incinerate and activate the detonator cap by spark. The detonator cap, in turn, will detonate the explosive charge of the mine. The effect of the mine is the direct blasting effect to a person stepping on it.

Name : PMA-2

Type : Anti-personnel antimagnetic pressure mine

Description : Non-metallic anti-personnel mine the size and shape of the liver paste tin, hence the popular name "liver paste." Recognizable by the characteristic star-shaped fuse. Mostly colored olive-drab, but there are white ones. Activated by approx. 5 kps pressure. Can be placed upside down to hide the fuse. Causes grave injuries to the person activating it.

Technical data



Diameter : 65 mm

Height : 58 mm (with fuse)

Mass : 135 g

Explosive charge 70 g paraffin-protected TNT

Casing : Plastic

Colour : Olive-drab

Fuse type : Chemical

Mode of activation: Pressure

Sensitivity : 5 – 15 kps

Detectability : Very difficult to detect by magnetic mine detector (minimal metal contents)

Mode of operation : Pressure of 5 and more kps to the pressure star will cause the needle to penetrate the membrane, penetrate through the incendiary compound causing the incineration by friction. Pulse of flame will be carried to the detonator cap, which in turn carries the detonation to the explosive charge. The effect of the mine is the blast of the explosive to the person stepping on the mine.

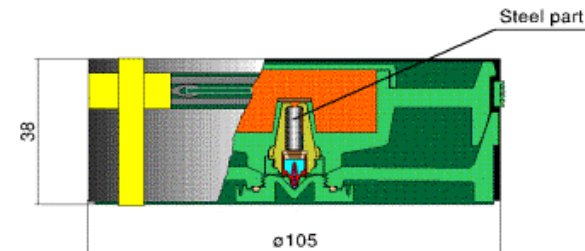
Name : PMA-3

Type: Anti-personnel antimagnetic pressure mine

Description: Antimagnetic anti-personnel mine, activated by pressure to the upper round pad in any direction. The body of the mine is cylindrical and made of plastic. It consists of the upper and lower part connected in the centre, and forming a swivel along the rim. Both parts are connected along the edge by rubber. The lower part contains the fuse well. The mine is waterproof and is therefore often placed on the riverbanks and in shallow waters, and can remain live for many years after it is placed. The explosive charge is in the upper part of the body and effects are considerably stronger than with e.g. blast of PMA-2.



Technical data



Diameter : 105 mm
Height : 38 mm
Mass : 183 g
Explosive charge 35 g TNT
Casing : Plastic / rubber
Colour : Olive / black
Fuse type : Chemical

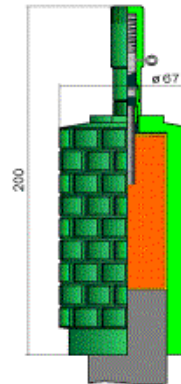
Mode of activation: Pressure
Sensitivity : 3 - 15 kps
Detectability : Very difficult to detect by the magnetic mine detector (minimal metal contents)
Mode of operation : Pressure of 3 and more kps to the upper part of the mine one of the sides of the upper part will bring closer to the bottom part, breaking the circular carrier of the initial (incendiary) compound, causing it to incinerate. The impulse of flame is transferred to the detonator cap, which transfers the detonation to the main explosive charge of the mine. The blast effect is aimed at the person activating the mine.

Name : PMR-2A

Type : Anti-personnel fragmentation mine – tripwire activated

Description : The body of the mine is cylindrical, made of cast steel, prefragmented on the outer surface for more regular fragmentation, and smooth from the inner side, containing the explosive charge. It is placed on top of the wooden or metallic post stuck into the ground. One or more tripwires are connected to the fuse on top of the mine. The pulling force of 3 kps or more on the tripwire activates the mine. When the mine is activated, fragments are lethal within 25 m radius in any direction, and cause injuries in the radius of up to 100 m. depending on the desired effects of the mine, two types of fuses can be used. If, together with the main blast effect of the mine illumination of the field around it is desired, instead of the UPM-2a fuse, UPM-2AS fuse with illumination flare can be used.

Technical data



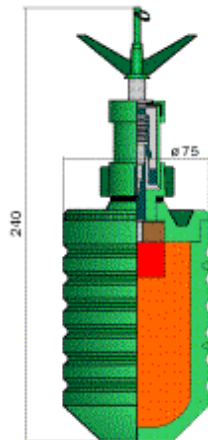
Diameter : 66 mm
Height : 140 mm (body only), 200 mm with fuse
Mass : 1.7 kps
Explosive charge : 100 g TNT
Made of : Cast steel
Colour : Olive-drab
Fuse type : Mechanical – pulling (standardized for this type of mine)
Activation mode : Pulling of tripwire (no delay)
Sensitivity : 3 kps (depending on the condition of the safety feature of the firing pin and firing pin in the fuse)

Detectability : Visual, as it is placed on the post
Lethal radius : 25 m
Danger radius : 100 m
Mode of operation : By pulling the tripwire with the force of 3 or more kps, safety feature is pulled out of the fuse body, releasing the firing pin which, driven by the spring, hits the initiating part and activates it. The detonation pulse is transferred to the detonator cap, which detonates, into the main explosive charge of the mine. The blast breaks the body of the mine into small pieces (fragments) directed radially from the place of activation of the mine and which achieve lethal or maiming effect.

Name : PMR-3

Type : Anti-personnel fragmentation mine

Description : The body of the mine is cylindrical, made of wrought iron and prefragmented – cut for easier disintegration into small pieces, while the inner side is smooth. On the side of the body there are two carriers for attachment of the mine to the appropriate stake (provided with the mine). To keep the tripwire as close to the ground as possible this mine is often placed upside down. The central part of the fuse can be rotated and five tripwires can be attached to it. This mine is colored olive-drab and often the name is stenciled in black on the body. It is activated by the pressure of 9 kps on the top of the mine or pull of 3 kps to the tripwire. Fragments are lethal in the radius of 50 m, and dangerous in the radius of 100 m.



Technical data

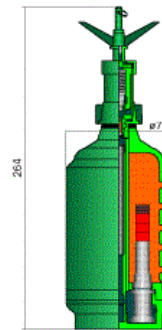
Diameter : 75 mm
Height : 240 mm
Mass : 1.7 kgs
Explosive charge : 410 g TNT
Material : Wrought steel
Colour : Olive-drab
Fuse type : Radial pull – pressure type

Sensitivity : Pressure 9 - 15 kps, pull 3 - 8 kps
Detectability : Visual, the mine is placed on the stake
Lethal radius : 25 m
Danger radius : 50 m
Mode of operation : By pulling at the tripwire with the force of 3 kps and more the carrier of the firing pin releases the firing pin which, influenced by the spring, strikes the initializing part of the detonator and activates it. The spark is carried to the detonator cap, which activates the main explosive charge. The blast breaks the body into small fragments directed radially from the spot of detonation, and achieving lethal or maiming effect.

Name : PROM-1

Type : Anti-personnel bounding fragmentation mine

Description : Olive-drab mine with smooth body placed underneath the surface to the neck of the fuse. The body is prefragmented from the inner side. It is recognizable by the safety device with four ends protruding from the ground. The ring on the top of the central part facilitates the attachment of five tripwires simultaneously. When activated, the mine bounces from its layer in the ground to the height of 0.7 – 0.8 meters and detonates. Explosive charge is most commonly 425 grams of cast TNT that is sufficient for the lethal radius of 50 meters, and danger radius of 100 meters. It is often found placed as a booby-trap on paths, forest roads, entrances in industrial plants and elsewhere.



Technical data

Diameter : 75 mm
Height : 264 mm (body and fuse)
Mass : 3 kps
Explosive charge : 425 g cast TNT
Material : Wrought steel
Colour : Olive-drab
Fuse type : Pressure - pull (radial)

Sensitivity : Pressure 9 kps, tripwire 3 kps
Detectability : Visual identification of the tripwire or protruding assembly, considerable metallic mass
Lethal radius : 25 m (360 degrees)
Danger radius : 50 m (360 degrees)
Mode of operation: Pulling of the tripwire or pressure to the crown of the fuse releases the firing pin, which strikes the initiating cap. The initiating cap lights the delay, which carries the pulse to the powder charge, which ejects the mine from the ground. After the mine had been ejected from the ground, due to the pull of the wire on the internal fuse, the fuse activates and the detonation is carried to the main explosive charge which blasts the body and scatters the fragments radially from the mine. The effect is expressed through the explosive blast and strike of the fragments.

Form I Measures to provide warning to the population

Article 7.1 "Each State Party shall report to the Secretary-General ... on:
i) The measures taken to provide an immediate and effective warning to the population in relation to all areas identified under paragraph 2 of Article 5."

Remark: In accordance with Article 5, para.2: "Each State Party shall make every effort to identify all areas under its jurisdiction or control in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced and shall ensure as soon as possible that all anti-personnel mines in mined areas under its jurisdiction or control are perimeter-marked, monitored and protected by fencing or other means, to ensure the effective exclusion of civilians, until all anti-personnel mines contained therein have been destroyed. The marking shall at least be to the standards set out in the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby-Traps and Other Devices, as amended on 3 May 1996, annexed to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects".

State [Party]	The Republic of Croatia	Reporting for time period from	January 1, 2023	to	December 31, 2023
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The activities by Croatia to disseminate information about the Convention and the Protocols to the civilian population take place at several levels. The texts of the Convention and all Protocols to the Convention ratified by the Republic of Croatia were published in Official Gazette of the Republic of Croatia (International Agreements Section) and are hence available to public as a bulletin in printed version and on website: www.nn.hr.

Dissemination of information about the Ottawa Convention to civilian population also includes Explosive Ordnances Risk Education (EORE) activities. Croatian ministries, government and state administrative offices as well as professional groups working with and for adults and children in Croatia, including NGOs and international organizations, pass specific training according to their role in the national implementation of the Convention and Protocols. Croatian Red Cross with its branches (in local communities), Civil Protection Directorate of the MoI and the Association of Civil Victims of Homeland War are active in events and lectures where EORE messages are given. The lectures always bear in mind that EORE is effective in terms of reducing the number of mine casualties. Interesting presentations (lectures) on mine/UXO risk education were organized for children, adults, and especially for target groups (hunters, fishermen, farmers, public companies employees etc.). The purpose of these educations was to learn and spread knowledge on danger of mines and other Explosive Remnants of War (ERW).

Promotion to the public and the media is an especially important way to directly spread safety messages on the dangers of ERW, which seeks to inform as many citizens at local and national level. Creating and distributing posters, flyers, brochures, etc. and publishing news stories in print and electronic media (radio and TV spots) includes a significantly larger number of citizens, and further points to the still present danger of landmines in Croatia.

Different EORE activities, systematic marking of the Hazardous Areas (HA), possibility of getting an insight into mine situation throughout submission of HA maps as well as using Civil Protection Directorate / CROMAC web portal had a highly positive effect on the prevention of mine incidents or accidents, but also required additional activities of informing the public and media of different mine action aspects. In addition to traditional EORE methods CROMAC, with its partners, had developed the Minefields.info application for Android and iOS smart phones, to further tackle and increase the availability of mine warning information towards the general public. The main purpose of mentioned app is to warn the user of a life-threatening danger caused by entering or approaching the vicinity of HA. It works on a basis of distance and GPS tracking so if user gets closer to a hazardous area the application will alert him immediately. The application also has "Call for Help" option and to report and take a photo of unknown potential ERW, along with a database of known ERW in the corresponding country, which further provides EORE available through smartphones.

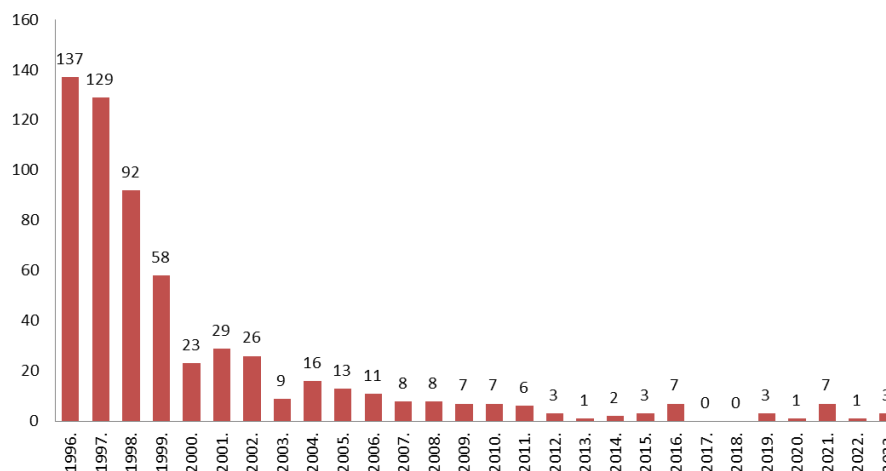
1. Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) in 2023

In 2023, all EORE activities were coordinated within the Civil Protection Directorate (CPD) of the Ministry of Interior, and directly provided or with the support of the National educational centre of Civil protection - which is an organizational sector within the CPD. In 2023, a total of 184 EORE were held in 8 Counties. The EORE activities covered a total of about 10,614 people, mostly elementary school age, as well as the target population of the local inhabitants of municipalities and cities within the hazardous areas. The trainings were conducted by the officers of the Civil Protection Directorate in cooperation with officials of the authorized police precincts. The number of activities related to the education about dangers of mines and UXO were done in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior relevant police departments through the "Less arms, less tragedy" campaign. The cooperation was also achieved with the city and municipal governments and other non-governmental organizations and associations. Aside from mentioned educational ex cathedra activities, special EORE children theatre plays was organized as a part of EU funded project "Demining, restoration and protection of forest and forestland in protected and Natura 2000 sites in Danube-Drava regions – NATURAVITA" as one of the largest nature conservation projects in Croatia, financed by the European Structural and Investment Funds, which included 6 children theatre plays gathering 657 elementary school pupils from Osijek-Baranja County, one of the remaining 6 Counties with confirmed hazardous areas that was released in 2023. In addition, a specific EORE educational picture book for children of Ukraine about mine and ERW dangers highlighting cluster munitions' danger has been created on Ukrainian language and donated to Ukrainian representatives during the international Donor Conference held in Zagreb in October, 2023.

Central ceremony for the April 4th, International day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was held in the usual capacity gathering major public media with organized press conference by the Director of Civil Protection Directorate in one of the contaminated Counties (Osijek – Baranja), along with the established promotion and awareness campaigns to various offline and online media channels highlighting the importance of mine risk and awareness. All important actions and activities of Mine Action in the Republic of Croatia in 2023 were presented on web pages/social media channels of the Civil Protection Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia.

2. Mine accidents / incidents in 2023

Unfortunately, even with widely organized EORE activities in the Republic of Croatia, during 2023 there were **2 accounted mine accidents** recording **three deaths**. One mine accident happened during clearance activities when 2 deminers, male and female, died from activation of PROM-1 High-Explosive Fragmentation (HE-Frag), pressure or Trip-Wire (TPW) actuated, bounding, Anti-Personnel (AP), landmine. The second accident happened when a hunter died from activation of same AP mine in the marked hazardous area.



Overview of Mine victims in the 1996-2023 periods

From 1996 (end of the Homeland war) till the end of 2022, the Republic of Croatia had accounted mine accidents or incidents where **610** people were harmed, out of which **207** with a fatal outcome. These unfortunate numbers also include **134** injured deminers, out of which **40** were fatalities.

Form J: Other relevant matters

Remark: State Parties may use this form to report voluntarily on other relevant matters, including matters pertaining to compliance and implementation not covered by the formal reporting requirements contained in Article 7. States Parties are encouraged to use this form to report on activities undertaken with respect to Article 6, and in particular to report on assistance provided for the care and rehabilitation, and social and economic reintegration, of mine victim.

State [Party]	The Republic of Croatia	Reporting for time period from	January 1, 2023	to	December 31, 2023
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Highlights of Mine Victims' Assistance in 2023

The Republic of Croatia has developed public health care structure that includes clinics, clinical centers, specialized polyclinics, hospitals and rehabilitation centers. All persons being involved in the incidents are entitled to health protection and acquisition of orthopedic aids to the amount covered by the Croatian Health Insurance Institute. These rights are regulated by a number of laws, rules and regulations. Relevant state administration authorities are involved in solving the problems of mine victims relating to medical rehabilitation, socio-economic empowerment and other needs.

Republic of Croatia would like to highlight the Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme contribution and a specific project named **“Demining and Socio-Economic Integration”** which has been carried out in the 2017-2023 period. After significant demining results, one of the activities that were finalized in 2021, after a full-scale field survey, was the establishment of a comprehensive EO database, gathering, among other elements, the information about different needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men from diverse populations and all ages. We can conclude that this field survey was completed with a very good response rate of 82.6% of the available households (data was gathered from 423 EO victims and 473 EO closest family members.) The collected data concerned the social status, psycho-physical health, education, etc., and became an integral part of the comprehensive EO victim database, together with the analysis base value that will serve in future project activities / VA activities. Further project activities continued in 2022 with the development and implementation of specific VA programs for psychosocial empowerment including counseling and educational activities, and an initiative to improve the social status of EO victims and their families featuring specific workshops and trainings that continued in 2023. In addition, a thematic brochure has been published (<https://civilna->

zastita.gov.hr/UserDocImages/CIVILNA%20ZA%C5%A0TITA/PDF_ZA%20WEB/20220105_MUP_brosura_small.pdf), which contains all the rights and opportunities available to EO victims in the Republic of Croatia and the manner to exercise them.

During 2022 as a part of Psychosocial workshops, 9 assistance workshops were held gathering 39 EO victim participants, while within Training, Counseling and Employability increase workshops, 4 workshops and 12 specific trainings were held with a total of 36 EO victim participants. **During 2023 an activity of small scale investment opportunities to EO victims aimed in increasing their economic welfare and employment capacities has been carried. Financial resources were allocated (Public Call) towards the Mine Victims in the amount of CHF 200,000.00, which financed the start of new and expansion of existing entrepreneurship for the 15 mine victims and members of their immediate families (indirect victims).**

The Republic of Croatia has highly developed legal framework relating to the persons with disabilities in realizing their legitimate rights and status. The status and various forms of rights are being realized through over 200 different laws and by-laws. There are 4 basic forms of mine victim assistance in which ministries, institutions, non-governmental sector, a number of organizations and individual initiatives take part in, such as medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological help and social reintegration and professional and economic rehabilitation. Additionally, we have to emphasize the strong determination of the Croatian Government and efforts to improve the inclusiveness and support for the EO victims continuously, even 20 years after the Homeland War ended. This is reflected through the enhancement of the legal framework when in July 2021 a new Law on Civilian Victims of the Homeland War was officially adopted by the Croatian Parliament. The new Law enables the application for the status of a war-disabled civilian, based on a disability caused by a disease correlating with the Homeland War, due among other things to disabilities caused by explosions of EO left over after the end of war operations. This means the Law will provide the same legal security to civilian victims as is already provided to the Croatian War Veterans, and among others, to EO survivors and families of individuals killed by EO, all with a goal to greatly improve socioeconomic status of the victims.

Finally, the victim assistance is currently and will be considered as a combined, cross-ministry and institutional effort which is to be coordinated by the Coordination body. Coordination body would be composed of representatives of ministries competent for home affairs, health and war veterans, Croatian Pension Insurance Institute, Croatian Institute of Public Health and other bodies and non-government organizations whose scope of competence includes the issue of victims of explosive remnants of war and CMR as well and who already perform assistance to ERW victims' altogether. Coordination body is still in the process of constituting and until the finalization of this process the ***National Educational Centre Sector at the Civil Protection Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior*** is current national contact point regarding the victims.

Highlights of International Cooperation, Technical Assistance and Advocacy in 2023

In addition, Civil Protection Directorate officials have continuously during 2023 provided thorough support and transparent information towards the international partners and organizations regarding the APMBC, CCM and CCW Conventions as well as Landmine Monitor, OSCE, Mine Action review (NPA), EU institutions Mine Action focal points and all other interested foreign Embassies and officials.

- During March 2023, CROMAC-CTRO had organized and implemented a training course on EOD Level 1 for the employees of Millennium Team from Belgrade, Serbia. The training course was implemented in line with IMAS 09.30 AND Test & Evaluation Protocol 09.30/01/2022.
- In May, 2023, the representatives of the Ministry of Defense and the Mine Action Center of the Republic of Tajikistan accompanied by the representatives of the OSCE Office Dushambe visited the Civil Protection Directorate/CROMAC headquarters in Zagreb. Several meetings were held with a goal to get acquainted with the structure and organization of the mine action system of the two countries, and the provision of various types of assistance possibilities through programs of psycho-social empowerment and improvement of socio- economic status of mine victims and their family members.
- More than 200 participants from 35 countries gathered from 3 to 5 May in Vodice to attend the 19th International Symposium “Mine Action 2023.” The symposium was held in cooperation with the Directorate of Civil Protection, under the patronage of the Croatian Parliament. Special emphasis at this year’s Symposium was placed on the war events in Ukraine and providing an emergency response by all countries in order to maximize support for Ukraine, with the aim of clearing agricultural and infrastructural areas from mines as quickly as possible, given that this is a precondition for the process of economic development of these areas and before of all, the return of the population, which aroused the interest of those present. The main topics of this year’s symposium, along with presentations dedicated to Ukraine, were mine victims, activities aimed at increasing the safety of infrastructure from explosive remnants of war, mine action in Azerbaijan and research and development of new technologies on which more than 30 presentations of domestic and international experts were held. On the second day of this unique international gathering of leading experts in the field of mine action, a demonstration of mine action equipment producers was held at the Benkovac Test Site.
- From May 24 to 26 in the cities of Baku and Aghdam, Azerbaijan CROMAC-CTRO representatives participated at the 2nd International Conference “Mine Action – The Path to Reaching Sustainable Development Goals”. The main goal of the conference was to inform the international community about the scale of the mine problem and its consequences.

- From 29-31 May, Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia has participated at the GLOBSEC's 2023 Bratislava Forum as a part of the side event regarding the Mine Action in Ukraine.
- In June 2023 - Appointment of Croatian expert (CPD/CROMAC) to the International Advisory Board of the Center for Humanitarian Demining of Ukraine.
- In August 2023 - operational visit of the representatives of the CPD/CROMAC to Ukraine, Kyiv on the subject on providing assistance in humanitarian mine action.

11-12 October 2023, the first INTERNATIONAL DONOR CONFERENCE for humanitarian demining of Ukraine was held in Zagreb, Croatia. 1st working day has gathered 34 participating countries, with almost half of billion euros pledged for the humanitarian demining of Ukraine, with the Republic of Croatia donating additional 5 million euros. 2nd working day organized expert panel discussions on the topic of humanitarian demining, gathering 150 experts from about 30 countries. In addition, an educational (EORE) picture book for the children of Ukraine about mines and other ERW dangers has been donated on behalf of the Ministry of the Interior of the Croatia. Prior to the Conference a Bilateral Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Mine Action between the Republic of Croatia and the Ukraine was signed defining further cooperation in the field of humanitarian demining.

- During October 2023, CROMAC-CTRO participated at the 7th NATO EOD Demonstrations and Trials 2023 which was held in Bratislava, Slovakia. The event gathered 46 exhibitors from 17 countries and visitors from 24 countries. The two days event was organized to broaden knowledge about current and future aspects of EOD related technology, capability horizons and identifying the area of shortfalls.
- In October, 2023, a Memorandum of understanding, with a view to enhance and develop the cooperation in the field of Mine Action Education between CROMAC-CTRO and MAT Kosovo was signed. As expert organizations, by signing this MoU, both CROMAC-CTRO and MAT Kosovo are focused on the knowledge exchange, enhancing training methods and exchanging best practices in the field of educating professionals in the Mine Action.
- In October, 2023, participation of the CROMAC representative at the meeting of the NATO Ad Hoc Working Group on SALW and Mine Action with providing briefing regarding the outcomes of the Zagreb Donors Conference on humanitarian demining in Ukraine.
- During November 2023, representatives from Civil Protection Directorate of the Croatian Mol and CROMAC-CTRO participated at the Innovation Conference 2023, organized by GICHD in Geneva.

- In November 2023, CROMAC-CTRO has completed technical assistance education for the SESU Ukraine representatives regarding the legal framework, testing of the demining machines, and validation of the test results, certification issuing process and other relevant topics.

Furthermore, Civil Protection Directorate (CROMAC sector) and CROMAC- CTRO LLC* have actively, throughout 2023 offered and provided some of the following forms of assistance to the international Mine action community, stakeholders and MACs:

- Establishment of the National mine action centre,
- Legal, sub legal and normative regulations,
- Establishment of mine information system and geo-information system,
- Planning system – production of National strategies, annual and operative activity plans,
- Education of executors of humanitarian demining operations (deminers, auxiliary workers and management) and mine risk education,
- General survey, definition of suspected hazardous area and education of survey teams,
- Protective equipment and demining machines produced in the Republic of Croatia,
- Capacities and know-how of the Croatian demining companies,
- Capacities for testing demining machines, equipment and devices as well as new technologies of mine and UXO detection

**Based on the Agreement on the transfer of tasks, Article 2, signed between the Croatian Mine Action Centre and CROMAC - Centre for Testing, Development and Training LLC (CROMAC-CTRO) on 30 October 2003, CROMAC-CTRO LLC took over the activities and projects focused on certification and testing of mine detection and mine clearance equipment, as well as research of new methods and technologies in Mine Action.*

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**PROTOCOL ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF MINES,
BOOBY-TRAPS AND OTHER DEVICES, AS AMENDED ON 3 MAY 1996, ANNEXED
TO THE CONVENTION ON PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF
CERTAIN CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS WHICH MAY BE DEEMED TO BE
EXCESSIVELY INJURIOUS OR TO HAVE INDISCRIMINATE EFFECTS
(Protocol II as amended on 3 May 1996)**

REPORTING FORMATS

for Article 13 paragraph 4 and Article 11 paragraph 2

NAME OF THE HIGH
CONTRACTING PARTY: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 31/03/2024

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF
CONTACT: **MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR**
Civil Protection Directorate
Sector CROMAC
E-mail: hcr@civilna-zastita.hr

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
Defence Policy Directorate
Department of Multilateral Affairs and International Security
Arms Control Department
E-mail: mario.crnkoci@morh.hr

This information can be available to other interested parties and relevant organizations:

YES

NO

Partially, only the following forms:

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

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Summary sheet

(Pursuant to the decision of the Fifth Annual Conference of the State Parties to the CCW Amended Protocol II as stipulated in paragraph 20 of the Final Report, CCW/AP.II CONF.5/2)

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2023
dd/mm/yyyy

to: 31/12/2023
dd/mm/yyyy

Form A: Dissemination of information:

changed
 unchanged
(last reporting year: (2011))

Form B: Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes:

changed
 unchanged
(last reporting year: (2022))

Form C: Technical requirements and relevant information:

changed
 unchanged
(last reporting year: (2009))

Form D: Legislation:

changed
 unchanged
(last reporting year:(2019))

Form E: International technical information exchange, co-operation on mine clearance, technical co-operation and assistance:

changed
 unchanged
(last reporting year: (2022))

Form F: Other relevant matters:

changed
 unchanged
(last reporting year: (2009))

Form G: Information to the UN-database on mine clearance:

changed
 unchanged
(last reporting year: (2020))

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Form A Dissemination of information

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (a)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
Depositary [...] on [...]:

(a) dissemination of information on this Protocol to their armed forces and
to the civilian population;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party:

THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period

from: **01/01/2023**

dd/mm/yyyy

to: **31/12/2023**

dd/mm/yyyy

INFORMATION TO THE ARMED FORCES:

Since the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its Protocols, the Ministry of Defence has taken necessary steps in order to provide adequate and current information regarding the content and implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. Steps are also being taken to insure components responsible for the implementation acquire the specific level of expert matter knowledge according to their roles in the implementation process. Having in mind the need to insure awareness and good understanding in the Armed forces of the obligations and implications stemming from the CCW (and other international agreements and conventions in the arms control domain), importance has been placed on inclusion of these contents into the military education and training curricula. In that regard, special attention has also been given to education and training for international operations and missions (NATO, EU, UN) as well as other international deployments. The Engineering Regiment, the unit responsible for demining activities within CAF, conducts regular training and education for demining tasks and other activities in the field of mines and other explosive ordnance, which are under the provisions of CCW.

In addition, each member of the Armed Forces acquires a basic knowledge of IHL/LOAC during regular education and training activities provided at the various stages of Croatian military service.

INFORMATION TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION:

Dissemination of information about the CCW and its protocols to civilian population is performed through Mine Risk Education (MRE) activities coordinated on a national level by the Civil Protection Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior. Supportive MRE activities are also provided by the various NGOs and international organizations, pass specific training according to their role in the national implementation of the Convention and Protocols.

Croatian Red Cross with its local branches (in local communities), Civil Protection Directorate (Croatian Mine Action Centre-CROMAC and National educational centre for civil protection) of the Ministry of the Interior and the Association of Civil Victims of Homeland War are active in events and lectures where MRE messages are given. These lectures always bear in mind that mine risk education is effective in terms of reducing the number of mine casualties. Interesting and tailor-made presentations (lectures) on mine/UXO risk education were organised for children, adults, and for specific target groups (hunters,

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farmers, firemen, mountaineers, fishermen, public companies employees etc.).

Promotion to the public and the media is an especially important way to directly spread safety messages about the dangers of ERW, which seeks to inform as many citizens at the local and national level. Creating and distributing posters, flyers, brochures, etc. and publishing news stories in print and electronic media (radio and TV spots) reaches a significantly larger number of citizens, and further points to the still present danger of landmines in Croatia, which is concentrated during every April and especially marking The International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (April 4th)

The Croatian Police Department has continued its "Less arms, less tragedies" program (originally established in the partnership with the UNDP) where the citizens are being educated and encouraged to turn in their weapons and ordinance left from the Homeland War. In addition, the Croatian Police Departments also reacts on the basis of citizen's telephone calls and is responsible for disposing large quantities of SALW within their investigations of various criminal activities. Realizing the scope of the problem in Croatia, the Police Department plans to continue this program in the future.

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Form B Mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (b) “The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the
Depositary [...] on [...]:

(b) mine clearance and rehabilitation programmes;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2023

dd/mm/yyyy

to:

31/12/2023

dd/mm/yyyy

MINE CLEARANCE PROGRAMMES:

The Republic of Croatia confirmed its determination to solve the mine problem by passing the Law on Humanitarian Demining in 1996, establishing the Croatian Mine Action Centre in 1998, fulfilling the commitments undertaken by joining the Ottawa Convention as well as providing for permanent and stable sources of financing from the State Budget, the World Bank loans, EU funds and Croatian public companies.

In 2012, the Office for Mine Action was established by the Government of the Republic of Croatia ("Official Gazette", 21/12) as a governmental body for technical, analytical, advisory, co-ordinating and other activities related to mine action in Croatia. As such, it will also closely follow the activities and work with CROMAC. One of the main goals of the Office is to raise the awareness of population about the danger of mines, as well as to create conditions for effective development of mine action in Croatia.

As of August 2018, the Government of the Republic of Croatia had issued a Conclusion to integrate some 54 government agencies, including CROMAC and GOMA, within existing State administration bodies. This meant CROMAC and GOMA ceased to exist as a legal entity/Government Office from 1 January 2019 and were integrated into the Ministry of the Interior. The intentions of this formal Conclusion were formalized through the Act on Amendments to the Act on Mine Action (OG No. 118/2018) and Act on amendment to the Act on the Government (OG No. 116/2018), enacted in December 2018, entered into force on 1 January 2019 where CROMAC became an operational sector within the Civil Protection Directorate – under the Ministry of the Interior.

In February 2023, the Croatian Parliament had officially adopted the National Mine Action Programme until 2026 (OG 21/2023) as the main strategic document that clearly presents the goals and guidelines of the Mine Action in the period until 2026. On May 26, 2023 the Croatian National Parliament had passed an amendment of the Act on Mine Action (OG 59/2003) which changes some of the regulations of the original law with a goal of increased effectiveness.

Ministry of the Interior / Civil Protection Directorate (Croatian Mine Action Centre sector) created the Mine Action 2023 Plan with the consent of the Ministry of Finances, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure, Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry

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of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets, Ministry of agriculture and all mine contaminated Counties in the Republic of Croatia.

Through 84 conceptual clearance projects, ERW threat has been removed from an area that amounts to 41,5 km² while additional 16,5 km² was excluded through Technical, Supplementary Non-technical and Non-technical survey activities. All these activities resulted with the total decrease of the hazardous area in the Republic of Croatia in the amount of 58 km² (excluding the 561.677 m² land released by the MoD operational staff performing clearance and technical survey activities during 2023). Hazardous area in the Republic of Croatia on December 31, 2023 totalled 92,1 km².(excluding the MoD areas of additional 18.9 km²)

The Annual Mine Action Plan was realized using the following funding sources - State Budget funds and EU funds. It is important to mention that, like in the previous reporting year, in 2023, funds acquired for the mine action operations from the EU contribution were significant. In 2023 the state budget had the biggest financing share with 70,3 % of the realized funds while the EU funds contributed with 27,6% along with Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme which amounted to further 2.1% of annual mine action designated funds. Parallel with the implementation of the clearance and survey activities, the management and maintenance of the marking system and, if necessary, additional marking of suspected hazardous areas was conducted in order to create a clear boundary between safe and hazardous areas. The locations of mine danger signs are one of the basic elements of the Mine Information System (MIS) that is also displayed on the maps provided towards the local authorities, police administration and individuals that have requested updated maps on HA situation as well as available as an online web service for the interested parties or general public. On December 31, 2023 the total hazardous area was marked with 4.082 mine warning signs.

Certain amount of Croatian military facilities including barracks, training areas and radar stations are still partially contaminated by ERW. The MoD Pioneer company of the Engineering regiment is responsible for clearance of all military facilities. During 2023 an area of 561.677 m² under the authority of the MoD (military areas) was cleared which resulted with 7 AP mines found and destroyed along with 888 UXOs eliminated as well.

In addition, the Police departments have, during the course of 2023, as a part of their regular activities, counter explosive unit (EOD) activities and annual public campaign “Less arms, less tragedies” (where the citizens are being educated as a part of EORE activities and in the same time encouraged to turn in their ERW and SALW leftovers from the Homeland War without legal penalty) collected and destroyed 172 AP and 40 AV landmines with different 3.360 pieces of UXO's. This includes Air bombs, Naval bombs, hand grenades, cluster bombs, artillery shells (20 mm and larger), mortar shells in addition to other ERW such as different types of explosives (222.73 kg) and SALW ammunition (up to 14.5 mm – 425.507 pieces). The Police department will continue to implement these programs and activities in the future. The weapons and ordinances collected by the Police department were transported and destroyed at Croatia's military facilities.

REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES:

Mine/UXO risk education

Different Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) activities, marking of Mine suspected area, possibility of getting an insight into mine situation throughout submission of HA maps as well as using [CROMAC web portal](#) had a positive effect on the prevention of mine incidents, but also required additional activities of informing the public and media of different mine action aspects. In addition to usual MRE methods CROMAC with its partners developed the Minefields.info application for Android and iOS smart phones, to further tackle and increase the availability of mine warning information towards the general public. The applications main purpose is to warn the user of a life-threatening danger caused by entering or approaching the vicinity of HA. It works on a basis of distance and GPS tracking so if user gets closer to a suspected hazardous area the application will alert him immediately. The application also

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has “Call for Help” option and to report and take a photo of unknown potential ERW, along with a database of known ERW in the corresponding country, which further provides EORE available through smartphones.

In 2023, all EORE activities were coordinated within the Civil Protection Directorate (CPD) of the Ministry of Interior, and directly provided or with the support of the National educational centre of Civil protection - which is an organizational sector within the CPD. In 2023, a total of 184 EORE were held in 8 Counties. The EORE activities covered a total of about 10,614 people, mostly elementary school age, as well as the target population of the local inhabitants of municipalities and cities within the hazardous areas. The trainings were conducted by the officers of the Civil Protection Directorate in cooperation with officials of the authorized police precincts. The number of activities related to the education about dangers of mines and UXO were done in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior relevant police departments through the "*Less arms, less tragedy*" campaign. The cooperation was also achieved with the city and municipal governments and other non-governmental organizations and associations. Aside from mentioned educational ex cathedra activities, special EORE children theatre plays was organized as a part of EU funded project ““Demining, restoration and protection of forest and forestland in protected and Natura 2000 sites in Danube-Drava regions – NATURAVITA” as one of the largest nature conservation projects in Croatia, financed by the European Structural and Investment Funds, which included 6 children theatre plays gathering 657 elementary school pupils from Osijek-Baranja County, one of the remaining 6 Counties with confirmed hazardous areas that was released in 2023. In addition, a specific EORE educational picture book for children of Ukraine about mine and ERW dangers has been created on Ukrainian language and donated to Ukrainian representatives during the international Donor Conference held in Zagreb in October, 2023.

Central ceremony for the April 4th, International day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was held in the usual capacity gathering major public media with organized press conference by the Director of Civil Protection Directorate at one of the clearance projects, along with established promotion and awareness campaigns to various offline and online media channels highlighting the importance of mine risk and awareness. All important actions and activities of Mine Action in the Republic of Croatia in 2023 were presented on web pages of the Civil Protection Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia.

Unfortunately, even with widely organized EORE activities in the Republic of Croatia, during 2023 there were 2 accounted mine accidents recording three deaths. One mine accident happened during clearance activities when 2 deminers, male and female, died from activation of PROM-1 High-Explosive Fragmentation (HE-Frag), pressure or Trip-Wire (TPW) actuated, bounding, Anti-Personnel (AP), landmine. The second accident happened when a hunter died from activation of same AP mine in the marked hazardous area.

At the end of 2023, the total number of mine victims in the Republic of Croatia from the end of the Homeland war (1996) reached 610 mine victims out of which 207 fatalities. This number includes 134 deminers, out of which 40 have died.

Providing assistance to mine victims

The Republic of Croatia has developed public health care structure that includes clinics, clinical centres, specialized polyclinics, hospitals and rehabilitation centres. All persons being involved in the incidents are entitled to health protection and acquisition of orthopaedic aids to the amount covered by the Croatian Health Insurance Institute. These rights are regulated by a number of laws, rules and regulations. Relevant state administration authorities were involved in solving the problems of mine victims relating to medical rehabilitation.

Republic of Croatia would like to highlight the Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme contribution and a specific project named “Demining and Socio-Economic Integration” which has been carried out in the

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2017-2023 period. One of the activities that were finalized in 2021, after a full-scale field survey, was the establishment of a comprehensive EO database, gathering, among other elements, the information about different needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men from diverse populations and all ages. We can conclude that this field survey was completed with a very good response rate of 82.6% of the available households (data was gathered from 423 EO victims and 473 EO closest family members.) The collected data concerned the social status, psycho-physical health, education, etc., and became an integral part of the comprehensive mine victim database, together with the analysis base value that served in future project activities / VA activities. In addition, a thematic brochure has been published, which contains all the rights and opportunities available to EO victims in the Republic of Croatia and the manner to exercise them. Further project activities continued in 2022 with the development and implementation of specific VA programs for psychosocial empowerment including counselling and educational activities, and an initiative to improve the social status of EO victims and their families featuring specific workshops and trainings. During 2023 an activity of small scale investment opportunities to EO victims aimed in increasing their economic welfare and employment capacities has been carried. Financial resources were allocated (Public Call) towards the Mine Victims in the amount of CHF 200,000.00, which financed the start of new and expansion of existing entrepreneurships for the 15 mine victims and members of their immediate families (indirect victims).

The Republic of Croatia has a highly developed legal framework relating to the persons with disabilities in realizing their legitimate rights and status. The status and various forms of rights are being realized through over 200 different laws and by-laws. There are 4 basic forms of mine victim assistance in which ministries, institutions, non-governmental sector, a number of organizations and individual initiatives take part in, such as medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological help and social reintegration and professional and economic rehabilitation. Additionally, we have to emphasize the strong determination of the Croatian Government and efforts to improve the inclusiveness and support for the EO victims continuously, even 20 years after the Homeland War ended. This is reflected through the enhancement of the legal framework when in July 2021 a new Law on Civilian Victims of the Homeland War was officially adopted by the Croatian Parliament. The new Law enabled the application for the status of a war-disabled civilian, based on a disability caused by a disease correlating with the Homeland War, due among other things to disabilities caused by explosions of EO left over after the end of war operations. This means the Law provides the same legal security to civilian victims as had already provided to the Croatian War Veterans, and among others, to EO survivors and families of individuals killed by EO, all with a goal to greatly improve socioeconomic status of the victims.

County institutes for emergency health care are available in all 21 counties which in turn provide even level of assistance in case of urgency. The time of response of emergency health teams (ambulances) in case of urgency (such as mine incident) has been improved and is now up to 10 min in urban areas and up to 20 min in rural areas (in 80% of situations). In cases of severe injuries or difficult medical conditions of any kind that require urgent transport of patient to a more equipped medical facility, helicopters of the Croatian Armed Forces are available and usually deployed. This in turn dramatically increases the level of survivability in such cases. Psychosocial interdisciplinary centres are available in all 21 counties with four being regional centres for psychological services that provide psychotherapeutic services, with the main centre in the capital of Zagreb. Finally, House of Croatian Veterans is accommodation / rehabilitation institution that can permanently or temporarily reside Homeland War veterans, returnees from the peacekeeping missions, injured deminers and members of their families, civilian war victims, as well as other persons in need (including mine/UXO victims and survivors), depending on their health status and socio-economic situation.

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Form E **International technical information exchange, cooperation on mine clearance, technical cooperation and assistance**

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (e)

“The High Contracting Parties shall provide annual reports to the Depository [...] on [...]:
(e) measures taken on international technical information exchange, on international cooperation on mine clearance, and on technical cooperation and assistance;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2023

dd/mm/yyyy

to:

31/12/2023

dd/mm/yyyy

INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE:

In May, 2023, the representatives of the Ministry of Defense and the Mine Action Center of the Republic of Tajikistan accompanied by the representatives of the OSCE Office Dushambe visited the Civil Protection Directorate. Several meetings were held with a goal to get acquainted with the structure and organization of the mine action system of the two countries, and the provision of various types of assistance through programs of psycho-social empowerment and improvement of socio- economic status of mine victims and their family members.

More than 200 participants from 35 countries gathered from 3 to 5 May in Vodice to attend the 19th International Symposium “Mine Action 2023.” The symposium was held in cooperation with the Directorate of Civil Protection, under the patronage of the Croatian Parliament. Special emphasis at this year’s Symposium was placed on the war events in Ukraine and providing an emergency response by all countries in order to maximize support for Ukraine, with the aim of clearing agricultural and infrastructural areas from mines as quickly as possible, given that this is a precondition for the process of economic development of these areas and before of all, the return of the population, which aroused the interest of those present. The main topics of this year’s symposium, along with presentations dedicated to Ukraine, were mine victims, activities aimed at increasing the safety of infrastructure from explosive remnants of war, mine action in Azerbaijan and research and development of new technologies on which more than 30 presentations of domestic and international experts were held. On the second day of this unique international gathering of leading experts in the field of mine action, a demonstration of mine action equipment producers was held at the Benkovac Test Site.

From May 24 to 26 in the cities of Baku and Aghdam, Azerbaijan CROMAC-CTRO representatives participated at the 2nd International Conference “Mine Action – The Path to Reaching Sustainable Development Goals”. The main goal of the conference was to inform the international community about the scale of the mine problem and its consequences.

From 29-31 May, Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia has participated at the GLOBSEC’s 2023 Bratislava Forum as a part of the side event regarding the Mine Action in Ukraine.

In October, 2023, a Memorandum of understanding with a view to enhance and develop the cooperation in the field of Mine Action Education between CROMAC-CTRO and MAT Kosovo was signed. As

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expert organizations, by signing this MoU, both CROMAC-CTRO and MAT Kosovo are focused on the knowledge exchange, enhancing training methods and exchanging best practices in the field of educating professionals in the Mine Action.

In October, 2023, participation of the CROMAC representative at the meeting of the NATO Ad Hoc Working Group on SALW and Mine Action with providing briefing regarding the outcomes of the Zagreb Donors Conference on humanitarian demining in Ukraine.

In addition, Civil Protection Directorate officials have continuously during 2023 provided thorough support and transparent information towards the international partners and organizations regarding the APMBC, CCM and CCW Conventions as well as Landmine Monitor, OSCE, Mine Action review (NPA), EU institutions Mine Action focal points and all other interested foreign Embassies and officials.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON MINE CLEARANCE:

n/a

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE:

Based on the Agreement on the transfer of tasks, Article 2, signed between the Croatian Mine Action Centre and CROMAC - Centre for Testing, Development and Training LLC (CROMAC-CTRO) on 30 October 2003, CROMAC-CTRO LLC took over the activities and projects focused on certification and testing of mine detection and mine clearance equipment, as well as research of new methods and technologies in Mine Action.

- During March 2023, CROMAC-CTRO had organized and implemented a training course on EOD Level 1 for the employees of Millennium Team from Belgrade, Serbia. The training course was implemented in line with IMAS 09.30 AND Test & Evaluation Protocol 09.30/01/2022.
- June 2023 - Appointment of Croatian expert (CROMAC) to the International Advisory Board of the Center for Humanitarian Demining of Ukraine.
- August 2023 - operational visit of the representatives of the CPD/CROMAC to Ukraine, Kyiv on the subject on providing assistance in humanitarian mine action.
- 11-12 October 2023, the first INTERNATIONAL DONOR CONFERENCE for humanitarian demining of Ukraine was held in Zagreb, Croatia. 1st working day has gathered 34 participating countries, with almost half of billion euros pledged for the humanitarian demining of Ukraine, with the Republic of Croatia donating additional 5 million euros. 2nd working day organized expert panel discussions on the topic of humanitarian demining, gathering 150 experts from about 30 countries. In addition, an educational (EORE) picture book for the children of Ukraine about mines and other ERW dangers has been donated on behalf of the Ministry of the Interior of the Croatia. Prior to the Conference a Bilateral Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Mine Action between the Republic of Croatia and the Ukraine was signed defining further cooperation in the field of humanitarian demining.
- During October 2023, CROMAC-CTRO participated at the 7th NATO EOD Demonstrations and Trials 2023 which was held in Bratislava, Slovakia. The event gathered 46 exhibitors from 17 countries and visitors from 24 countries. The two days event was organized to broaden knowledge about current and future aspects of EOD related technology, capability horizons and identifying the area of shortfalls.
- During November 2023, representatives from Civil Protection Directorate of the Croatian MoI and CROMAC-CTRO participated at the Innovation Conference 2023, organized by GICHD in Geneva.

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- In November 2023, CROMAC-CTRO has completed technical assistance education for the SESU Ukraine representatives regarding the legal framework, testing of the demining machines, and validation of the test results, certification issuing process and other relevant topics.

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Form G Information to the UN-database on mine clearance

Article 11, paragraph 2, “2. Each High Contracting Party undertakes to provide information to the database on mine clearance established within the United Nations System, especially information concerning various means and technologies of mine clearance, and lists of experts, expert agencies or national points of contact on mine clearance.”

Remark:

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2023

dd/mm/yyyy

to: 31/12/2023

dd/mm/yyyy

MEANS AND TECHNOLOGIES OF MINE CLEARANCE:

Mine clearance capacities included a complete equipment of 42 commercial demining companies that were authorized, throughout the 2023, by the Ministry of the Interior to perform mine clearance activities.

All the employees that work in mine clearance are wearing protective equipment that consists of flak jacket with protection for groins and helmets with visors. For special cases of UXO demolition, companies use ballistic suits. In the Republic of Croatia, mine clearance actions are mostly performed as a combination of mechanical demining, manual detection and mine-detection dogs (MDD).

LISTS OF EXPERTS AND EXPERT AGENCIES:

As of August 2018, the Government of the Republic of Croatia had issued a Conclusion to integrate some 54 government agencies, including CROMAC and GOMA, within existing State administration bodies. This meant CROMAC and GOMA ceased to exist as a legal entity/Government Office from 1 January 2019 and were integrated into the Ministry of the Interior. The intentions of this formal Conclusion were formalized through the Act on Amendments to the Act on Mine Action (OG No. 118/2018) and Act on amendment to the Act on the Government (OG No. 116/2018), enacted in December 2018, entered into force on 1 January 2019 where CROMAC became an operational sector within the Civil Protection Directorate – under the Ministry of the Interior.

CROMAC-CTRO LLC continued in 2023 to conduct testing and certification of mine detection and mine clearance equipment; MDDs, research and development of new mine detection and mine clearance methods and technology; and providing expert education and training in the field of mine action.

Throughout the 2023 there were 42 commercial demining companies that were authorized by the Ministry of the Interior and competed throughout the public tenders for mine clearance projects:

1. ACTA DEM ltd. Nuštar
2. ARES RAZMINIRANJE ltd. Radovanci
3. ALFA RAZMINIRANJE ltd. Zagreb,
4. Avatar razminiranje ltd. Osijek
5. BIOS-F ltd. Lekenik
6. Capsula Interna ltd. Dubrovnik
7. COR ltd. Požega
8. CREDO ltd. Požega
9. DETEKTOR ltd. Čakovec

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10. DETONATOR ltd. Gornja Vrba
11. DIZ EKO ltd. Zagreb
12. Dok-ing ltd. Zagreb
13. Dok-ing razminiranje ltd. Zagreb
14. EXPLORATOR ltd. Zagreb
15. FAS ltd. Karlovac
16. FOSSIO ltd. Požega
17. HARPIJA ltd. Varaždin
18. HEKSOGEN ltd. Dubrovnik
19. ISTRAŽIVAČ ltd. Nuštar
20. ISTRAŽIVAČ BENZ ltd. Nuštar
21. I.T.R. ltd. Gospić
22. KRIPTON ltd. Lepoglava
23. LOCO ltd. Sl. Brod
24. MAGNUS ltd. Bjelovar
25. MANANG ltd. Dubrovnik
26. MAPER ltd. Bjelo
27. MINA PLUS ltd. Velika Mlaka
28. MINE-EX ltd. Demining Company, Nova Gradiška
29. MKA DEMING ltd. Čakovec
30. ORKAN ltd. Ljubešćica
31. PIPER ltd. Požega
32. PIPER RAZMINIRANJE ltd. Zagreb
33. PITON ltd. Čakovec
34. RUMITAL ltd. Zagreb
35. Taurus razminiranje ltd. Karlovac
36. TETRAZEN ltd. Ozalj
37. TITAN ltd. Požega
38. TNT 7 ltd. Petrinja
39. Tornado razminiranje ltd. Lepoglava
40. ZELENI KVADRAT ltd. Lukarišće
41. ZIGO ltd. Lukarišće
42. ZONA RAZMINIRANJA ltd. Slavonski Brod

NATIONAL POINTS OF CONTACT ON MINE CLEARANCE:

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR - CIVIL PROTECTION DIRECTORATE

Mr. Damir Trut, Ph.D.

Director of the Civil Protection Directorate

CROMAC sector

Mr. Nikša Bogdanić, head of Sector,

e-mail: hcr@civilna-zastita.hr

Other points of contact:

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE - Defence Policy Directorate

Department of Multilateral Affairs and International Security - Arms Control Section

Phone: +385 1 3784 169, Fax: +385 1 3784 383, e-mail: mario.crnkoci@morh.hr

Croatian Mine Action Centre – Centre for Testing, Development and Training (CROMAC-CTRO) LLC

Ms. Katarina Markt, director, e-mail: katarina.markt@ctro.hr

Ministry of the Interior – Civil Protection Directorate Web site: <https://civilna-zastita.gov.hr/>

CROMAC Mine information System portal: <http://www.misportal.hcr.hr/>

CROMAC - CTRO Web site: www.ctro.hr

- PROTOCOL V -

**REPORTING FORMS
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 10, PARAGRAPH 2 (b) OF THE PROTOCOL AND THE
DECISION OF THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING
PARTIES TO PROTOCOL V**

(As adopted by the First Conference at its second plenary meeting on 5 November 2007)

HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT (Organization, telephones, fax, e-mail):

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR - CIVIL PROTECTION DIRECTORATE

Mr. Damir Trut, Ph.D.

Director of the Civil Protection Directorate

CROMAC sector

Mr. Nikša Bogdanić, head of Sector,

e-mail: hcr@civilna-zastita.hr

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Defence Policy Directorate

Department of Multilateral Affairs and International Security

Arms Control Department

E-mail: mario.crnkoci@morh.hr

Croatian Mine Action Centre – Centre for Testing, Development and Training (HCR-CTRO) LLC

E-mail: katarina.markt@ctro.hr

Ministry of Interior – Civil Protection Directorate web site: <https://civilna-zastita.gov.hr/>

CROMAC Mine information System portal: <https://misportal.hcr.hr/>

CROMAC - CTRO Web site: www.ctro.hr

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 31/03/2024

(dd/mm/yyyy)

This information can be available to other interested parties and relevant organizations

YES

NO

Partially, only the following forms:

A B C D E F G H I

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FORM A: Steps taken to implement Article 3 of the Protocol: Clearance, removal or destruction of explosive remnants of war

High Contracting Party: REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 3:

Through 84 conceptual clearance projects, ERW threat has been removed from an area that amounts to 41,5 km² while additional 16,5 km² was excluded through Technical, Supplementary Non-technical and Non-technical survey activities. All these activities resulted with the total decrease of the hazardous area in the Republic of Croatia in the amount of 58 km² (excluding the 561.677 m² land released by the MoD operational staff performing clearance and technical survey activities during 2023). Hazardous area in the Republic of Croatia on December 31, 2023 totalled 92,1 km².(excluding the MoD areas of additional 18.9 km²)

In 2023 the largest share in demined areas were the areas planned for different economic activities like forest areas and agricultural land which the local and regional governments have stated as their priority, crucial for the Nature 2000 protection sites, forest preservation and fire protection as well as revitalization of agricultural production and other activities where demining is a precondition. This means that at the end of 2023, 98.7% of the hazardous areas were categorized as forest areas and 1.3 % as agricultural ares. All of this clearly displays the efforts of the Republic of Croatia to resolve HA on agricultural soil, after which and in even parallelly, forest, nature 2000 and protected areas areas will be prioritized. The remaining forest areas hinder not only nature protection activities and fire protection but also serious aspects of economic development as well.

Table 2: Number of mines and UXO destroyed in the period 01/01/2023 – 31/12/2023

Year	Anti-personnel Mines	Anti-vehicle Mines	UXO
2023	790 (+ 7 MoD)	19	3.328 (+888 MoD)

Any other relevant information:

During the implementation of quality control and quality assurance measures, CROMAC quality control supervisors and QC/QA staff, have found that in 2 mine clearance operations/projects polygons, during QA activities in progress of clearance tasks, the performed activities have not met the prescribed quality requirements so the repetition of the clearance activities in an area of 1.200 m² has been ordered. In total, 121 Final QC procedures have been finalized in 2023 examining the area of 2.090.136 m² in total.

Mine clearance capacities include a complete equipment of 42 demining companies that were authorized by Croatian Ministry of Interior to perform demining activities in 2023. All the employees that work in mine clearance are wearing PPE or protective equipment that consists of flak jacket with apron protection for groins and helmets with visors. For special cases of UXO demolition, companies use ballistic suits. Following equipment is in usage for humanitarian demining activities: metal detectors, demining machines of all types (medium, light and heavy), excavators, machines for vegetation clearing and mine detection dogs. In Croatia, mine clearance actions are mostly performed as a combination of mechanical demining, manual detection and mine detection dogs. Aside from the Act on Mine Action, there are several regulatory bylaws which prescribe the entire methodology of demining activities. In addition, frequent use of demining machines puts Croatia among the leading states with mechanical mine clearance, but the usage of MDDs is also present and widely used.

Certain amount of the Croatian military facilities including barracks, air bases, training areas and radar stations are still partially contaminated with land mines and other UXO's. The Pioneer company of the Engineering regiment is responsible for clearance of all mentioned military facilities.

In the course of 2023, an area 561.677 m² was cleared, with 7 AP mines that were found and destroyed along with 888

- PROTOCOL V -

pieces of various UXOs eliminated as well.

In addition, the Police departments have, during the course of 2023, as a part of their regular activities, counter explosive unit (EOD) activities and annual public campaign “Less arms, less tragedies” (where the citizens are being educated as a part of EORE activities and in the same time encouraged to turn in their ERW and SALW leftovers from the Homeland War without legal penalty) collected and destroyed 172 AP and 40 AV landmines with different 3.360 pieces of UXO's. This includes Air bombs, Naval bombs, hand grenades, cluster bombs, artillery shells (20 mm and larger), mortar shells in addition to other ERW such as different types of explosives (222.73 kg) and SALW ammunition (up to 14.5 mm – 425.507 pieces). The Police department will continue to implement these programs and activities in the future. The weapons and ordinances collected by the Police department were transported and destroyed at Croatia's military facilities.

On June 05, 2009 The Croatian National Parliament passed a Law on Ratification of the Convention on cluster munitions. Republic of Croatia formally deposited its ratification with the UN on 17 August 2009. The CCM convention entered into force on 1 August, 2010. The Republic of Croatia declared that as at 1 August 2020 it cleared and destroyed all known cluster munitions contaminated areas, in accordance with article 4.1. of the Convention. The cluster munition contaminated area was originally determined in 8 Counties and 28 towns of the Republic of Croatia.

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FORM B: Steps taken to implement Article 4 of the Protocol: Recording, retaining and transmission of information

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 4 and the Technical Annex:

At the end of 2023, 21 towns and municipalities in 4 out of 21 counties were affected by mine problem. Total mine hazardous area of the Republic of Croatia at the end of the 2023 amounted to 92.1 km². (non military areas, additional 18.9 km² are military controlled contaminated areas)

On December 31, 2023 the total hazardous area was marked with 4.082 mine warning signs that are one of the basic elements of the Mine Information System (MIS) which is available on the web page of the MIS and also shown on the maps given to the local authorities, police administration and individuals that have requested maps on the HA situation.

Annual Mine Action Plan is based on priorities and requests of counties that are compliant to their development programs, programs of reconstruction and return of displaced people, needs and requests of public companies and other demining beneficiaries, defined mined and mine suspected area and financial means secured. The Plan is approved by Croatian Government and adopted by the Croatian Parliament.

Any other relevant information:

In February 2023, the Croatian Parliament had officially adopted the National Mine Action Programme as the main strategic document that clearly presents the goals and guidelines of the Mine Action in the period until 2026.

On May 26, 2023 the Croatian National Parliament had passed an amendment of the Act on Mine Action (OG 59/2003) which changes some of the regulations of the original law with a goal of increased effectiveness.

At the Seventeenth Meeting of the States Parties (17MSP) to the APMBC, Republic of Croatia was officially approved of the extension deadline regarding the Article 5 of the Ottawa Convention (previously set at March, 2019). The Meeting assessed the request submitted by Croatia for an extension of its deadline for completing the destruction of anti-personnel mines in mined areas in accordance with article 5.1, agreeing unanimously to grant the request for an extension until 1 March 2026. In granting the request, the Meeting acknowledged that Croatia had declared that it would finalise all operations and verification by 31 December 2025 and hence fulfil its Article 5 obligations in line with the aspiration of the States Parties. In accordance, Republic of Croatia had presented to states parties a Revised work plan document in 2022 which displayed all the efforts made along with the projections that are currently in line with the 2nd request milestones and 2026 goal.

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FORM C: Steps taken to implement Article 5 of the Protocol: Other precautions for the protection of the civilian population, individual civilians and civilian objects from the risks and effects of explosive remnants of war

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 5 and the Technical Annex:

Different Explosive Ordnance Risk Education activities, continuous marking of the hazardous areas, possibility of getting an insight into mine situation throughout submission of HA maps as well as using CROMAC web portal had a positive effect on the prevention of mine incidents, but also required additional activities of informing the public and media of different mine action aspects. In addition, during 2019 Civil Protection Directorate (CROMAC sector) has further developed a web application named MINE.info which can be downloaded onto smartphones (both android and iOS based) and accessed for free. The application includes information on the location of suspected and confirmed hazardous areas on the Croatian territory and can track the user's distance to the closest contaminated area. If a user happens to be in a mined area, the relevant police department can be notified immediately by selecting the "SOS Call"-option, which will automatically transmit the geo-data on the location of the caller to the police. The application also contains the option to report suspected explosive devices to the police by uploading photos and a short description of the encountered device. Further, the app contains a list of the most common ERW to be found in Croatia. For each item, there is a photo, the name and a brief narrative of the objects, as well as the most common locations where particular explosive remnants could be encountered.

In 2023, all EORE activities were coordinated within the Civil Protection Directorate (CPD) of the Ministry of Interior, and directly provided or with the support of the National educational centre of Civil protection - which is an organizational sector within the CPD. In 2023, a total of 184 EORE were held in 8 Counties. The EORE activities covered a total of about 10,614 people, mostly elementary school age, as well as the target population of the local inhabitants of municipalities and cities within the hazardous areas. The trainings were conducted by the officers of the Civil Protection Directorate in cooperation with officials of the authorized police precincts. The number of activities related to the education about dangers of mines and UXO were done in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior relevant police departments through the "Less arms, less tragedy" campaign. The cooperation was also achieved with the city and municipal governments and other non-governmental organizations and associations. Aside from mentioned educational ex cathedra activities, special EORE children theatre plays was organized as a part of EU funded project "Demining, restoration and protection of forest and forestland in protected and Natura 2000 sites in Danube-Drava regions – NATURAVITA" as one of the largest nature conservation projects in Croatia, financed by the European Structural and Investment Funds, which included 6 children theatre plays gathering 657 elementary school pupils from Osijek-Baranja County, one of the remaining 6 Counties with confirmed hazardous areas that was released in 2023. In addition, a specific EORE educational picture book for children of Ukraine about mine and ERW dangers has been created on Ukrainian language and donated to Ukrainian representatives during the international Donor Conference held in Zagreb in October, 2023.

Central ceremony for the April 4th, International day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action was held in the usual capacity gathering major public media with organized press conference by the Director of Civil Protection Directorate at one of the clearance projects, along with established promotion and awareness campaigns to various offline and online media channels highlighting the importance of explosive ordnance risk and awareness. All important actions and activities of Mine Action in the Republic of Croatia in 2023 were presented on web pages of the Civil Protection Directorate of the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia.

Any other relevant information:

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Unfortunately, even with widely organized EORE activities in the Republic of Croatia, during 2023 there were 2 accounted mine accidents recording three deaths. One mine accident happened during clearance activities when 2 deminers, male and female, died from activation of PROM-1 High-Explosive Fragmentation (HE-Frag), pressure or Trip-Wire (TPW) actuated, bounding, Anti-Personnel (AP), landmine. The second accident happened when a hunter died from activation of same AP mine in the marked hazardous area.

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FORM D: Steps taken to implement Article 6 of the Protocol: Provisions for the protection of humanitarian missions and organizations from the effects of explosive remnants of war

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 6:

Every humanitarian mission or organization that is coming to Croatia with goal to help or to get involved in mine action in Croatia can get all relevant information at the Civil Protection Directorate (CROMAC sector) which will provide information about ERW, Hazardous Areas, priorities and all other topics that could be point of interest of those organizations. That is one of the CROMAC's sector main tasks as baing a part of the Civil Protection Directorate, a central civil protection institution that acts as a Directorate inside the Ministry of the Interior and NMAA.

Among other activities, the Civil Protection Directorate tasks regarding the Mine Action are as follows:

- Collecting and processing data about the SHA and database management,
- Planning of demining operations and providing information towards organizing public tenders for awarding demining operations,
- SHA marking,
- Drafting of demining and technical survey projects,
- Quality assurance and quality control over demining operations,
- preparation of demining certificates,
- Co-ordination of MRE activities,
- International cooperation.

Any other relevant information:

N/A

- PROTOCOL V -

FORM E: Steps taken to implement Article 7 of the Protocol: Assistance with respect to existing explosive remnants of war

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 7:

- During March 2023, CROMAC-CTRO had organized and implemented a training course on EOD Level 1 for the employees of Millennium Team from Belgrade, Serbia. The training course was implemented in line with IMAS 09.30 AND Test & Evaluation Protocol 09.30/01/2022.
- June 2023 - Appointment of Croatian expert (CROMAC) to the International Advisory Board of the Center for Humanitarian Demining of Ukraine.
- August 2023 - operational visit of the representatives of the CPD/CROMAC to Ukraine, Kyiv on the subject on providing assistance in humanitarian mine action. The Government of Croatia donated €1 million to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) to help farmers and food producers resume work in regions most affected by explosive remnants of war.
- 11-12 October 2023, the first INTERNATIONAL DONOR CONFERENCE for humanitarian demining of Ukraine was held in Zagreb, Croatia. 1st working day has gathered 34 participating countries, with almost half of billion euros pledged for the humanitarian demining of Ukraine, with the Republic of Croatia donating additional 5 million euros. 2nd working day organized expert panel discussions on the topic of humanitarian demining, gathering 150 experts from about 30 countries. In addition, an educational (EORE) picture book for the children of Ukraine about mines and other ERW dangers has been donated on behalf of the Ministry of the Interior of the Croatia. Prior to the Conference a Bilateral Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Humanitarian Mine Action between the Republic of Croatia and the Ukraine was signed, defining further cooperation.
- During October 2023, CROMAC-CTRO participated at the 7th NATO EOD Demonstrations and Trials 2023 which was held in Bratislava, Slovakia. The event gathered 46 exhibitors from 17 countries and visitors from 24 countries. The two days event was organized to broaden knowledge about current and future aspects of EOD related technology, capability horizons and identifying the area of shortfalls.
- During November 2023, representatives from Civil Protection Directorate of the Croatian MoI and CROMAC-CTRO participated at the Innovation Conference 2023, organized by GICHD in Geneva.
- In November 2023, CROMAC-CTRO has completed technical assistance education for the SESU Ukraine representatives regarding the legal framework, testing of the demining machines, and validation of the test results, certification issuing process and other relevant topics.

Any other relevant information:

N/A

- PROTOCOL V -

FORM F: Steps taken to implement Article 8 of the Protocol: Co-operation and assistance

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 8:

In May, 2023, the representatives of the Ministry of Defense and the Mine Action Center of the Republic of Tajikistan accompanied by the representatives of the OSCE Office Dushambe visited the Civil Protection Directorate. Several meetings were held with a goal to get acquainted with the structure and organization of the mine action system of the two countries, and the provision of various types of assistance through programs of psycho-social empowerment and improvement of socio- economic status of mine victims and their family members.

More than 200 participants from 35 countries gathered from 3 to 5 May in Vodice to attend the 19th International Symposium "Mine Action 2023." The symposium was held in cooperation with the Directorate of Civil Protection, under the patronage of the Croatian Parliament. Special emphasis at this year's Symposium was placed on the war events in Ukraine and providing an emergency response by all countries in order to maximize support for Ukraine, with the aim of clearing agricultural and infrastructural areas from mines as quickly as possible, given that this is a precondition for the process of economic development of these areas and before of all, the return of the population, which aroused the interest of those present. The main topics of this year's symposium, along with presentations dedicated to Ukraine, were mine victims, activities aimed at increasing the safety of infrastructure from explosive remnants of war, mine action in Azerbaijan and research and development of new technologies on which more than 30 presentations of domestic and international experts were held. On the second day of this unique international gathering of leading experts in the field of mine action, a demonstration of mine action equipment producers was held at the Benkovac Test Site.

From May 24 to 26 in the cities of Baku and Aghdam, Azerbaijan CROMAC-CTRO representatives participated at the 2nd International Conference "Mine Action – The Path to Reaching Sustainable Development Goals". The main goal of the conference was to inform the international community about the scale of the mine problem and its consequences.

From 29-31 May, Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia has participated at the GLOBSEC's 2023 Bratislava Forum as a part of the side event regarding the Mine Action in Ukraine.

In October, 2023, a Memorandum of understanding with a view to enhance and develop the cooperation in the field of Mine Action Education between CROMAC-CTRO and MAT Kosovo was signed. As expert organizations, by signing this MoU, both CROMAC-CTRO and MAT Kosovo are focused on the knowledge exchange, enhancing training methods and exchanging best practices in the field of educating professionals in the Mine Action.

In October, 2023, participation of the CROMAC representative at the meeting of the NATO Ad Hoc Working Group on SALW and Mine Action with providing briefing regarding the outcomes of the Zagreb Donors Conference on humanitarian demining in Ukraine.

In addition, Civil Protection Directorate officials have continuously during 2023 provided thorough support and transparent information towards the international partners and organizations regarding the APMBC, CCM and CCW Conventions as well as Landmine Monitor, OSCE, Mine Action review (NPA), EU institutions Mine Action focal points and all other interested foreign Embassies and officials.

Any other relevant information:

- PROTOCOL V -

n/a

FORM F(a): Steps taken by States which have ERW victims to implement the relevant provisions of Article 8(2): Victim Assistance

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the relevant provisions of Article 8(2):

The Republic of Croatia has a highly developed legal framework relating to the persons with disabilities in realizing their legitimate rights and status. The status and various forms of rights are being realized through over 200 different laws and by-laws. There are 4 basic forms of mine victim assistance in which ministries, institutions, non-governmental sector, a number of organizations and individual initiatives take part in, such as medical care, physical rehabilitation, psychological help and social reintegration and professional and economic rehabilitation. Additionally, we have to emphasize the strong determination of the Croatian Government and efforts to improve the inclusiveness and support for the EO victims continuously, even 20 years after the Homeland War ended. This is reflected through the enhancement of the legal framework when in July 2021 a new Law on Civilian Victims of the Homeland War was officially adopted by the Croatian Parliament. The new Law enabled the application for the status of a war-disabled civilian, based on a disability caused by a disease correlating with the Homeland War, due among other things to disabilities caused by explosions of EO left over after the end of war operations. This new Law provided the same legal security to civilian victims as is already provided to the Croatian War Veterans, and among others, to EO survivors and families of individuals killed by EO, all with a goal to greatly improve socioeconomic status of the victims.

County institutes for emergency health care are available in all 21 counties which in turn provide even level of assistance in case of urgency. The time of response of emergency health teams (ambulances) in case of urgency (such as mine incident) has been improved and is now up to 10 min in urban areas and up to 20 min in rural areas (in 80% of situations). In cases of severe injuries or difficult medical conditions of any kind that require urgent transport of patient to a more equipped medical facility, helicopters of the Croatian Armed Forces are available and usually deployed. This in turn dramatically increases the level of survivability in such cases. Psychosocial interdisciplinary centres are available in all 21 counties with four being regional centres for psychological services that provide psychotherapeutic services, with the main centre in the capital of Zagreb. Finally, House of Croatian Veterans is accommodation / rehabilitation institution that can permanently or temporarily reside Homeland War veterans, returnees from the peacekeeping missions, injured deminers and members of their families, civilian war victims, as well as other persons in need (including mine/UXO victims and survivors), depending on their health status and socio-economic situation.

Other relevant information, guided by the Plan of Action on Victim Assistance:

Republic of Croatia would like to highlight the Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme contribution and a specific project named "Demining and Socio-Economic Integration" which has been carried out in the 2017-2023 period. One of the activities that were finalized in 2021, after a full-scale field survey, was the establishment of a comprehensive EO database, gathering, among other elements, the information about different needs, vulnerabilities and perspectives of women, girls, boys and men from diverse populations and all ages. We can conclude that this field survey was completed with a very good response rate of 82.6% of the available households (data was gathered from 423 EO victims and 473 EO closest family members.) The collected data concerned the social status, psycho-physical health,

- PROTOCOL V -

education, etc., and became an integral part of the comprehensive mine victim database, together with the analysis base value that served in future project activities / VA activities. In addition, a thematic brochure has been published, which contains all the rights and opportunities available to EO victims in the Republic of Croatia and the manner to exercise them. Further project activities continued in 2022 with the development and implementation of specific VA programs for psychosocial empowerment including counselling and educational activities, and an initiative to improve the social status of EO victims and their families featuring specific workshops and trainings. During 2023 an activity of small scale investment opportunities to EO victims aimed in increasing their economic welfare and employment capacities has been carried. Financial resources were allocated (Public Call) towards the Mine Victims in the amount of CHF 200,000.00, which financed the start of new and expansion of existing entrepreneurships for the 15 mine victims and members of their immediate families (indirect victims).

- PROTOCOL V -

FORM G: Steps taken to implement Article 9 of the Protocol: Generic preventive measures

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 9 and the Technical Annex:

Correspondingly to EORE activities performed throughout the 2023, the Republic of Croatia has, as previously described, performed the following measures in affected territories, to reduce the risks posed by explosive remnants of war:

- survey and assess the threat posed by explosive remnants of war;
- assess and prioritize needs and practicability in terms of marking and clearance, removal or destruction;
- mark and clear, remove or destroy explosive remnants of war;
- take steps to mobilize resources to carry out these activities.

Any other relevant information:

N/A

- PROTOCOL V -

FORM H: Steps taken to implement Article 11 of the Protocol: Compliance

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Steps taken to implement the provisions of Article 11:

a.) Munitions manufacturing management

Production of all types of arms and military equipment in the Republic of Croatia is regulated by the law on the Production, Overhaul and Trade in Arms and Military Equipment, adopted on 25 March 2002 (Official Gazette 33/2002). The law regulates safety and protection of methods of producing and refitting arms and military equipments.

b.) Munitions management

In order to ensure the best possible long-term reliability of explosive ordnance, Republic Croatia applies best practices and operating procedures with respect to its storage, transport, field storage and handling in accordance with the following:

Explosive ordnance is stored in 26 secured facilities that are well-guarded and protected against fires and thunders.

Explosive ordnance is stored and sorted in accordance with its condition. Out of date and faulty explosive ordnance is sorted out and stored separately. For explosive ordnance warehousing, tracking and testing procedures have been put in place in order to maintain its reliability.

All facilities are made of concrete and with insulation in order to maintain temperatures under 50C and humidity under not more than 75 %. Personnel working and handling explosive ordnance must be well pyrotechnically educated and certified in order to perform their duties.

Storage and handling, transport, supply and maintenance, laboratory testing and observing Life Cycle Management of explosive ordnance in Armed Forces is regulated by Ministry of Defence and General Staff of Armed Forces of Republic of Croatia with:

- Directive on storage protection and handling of explosive ordnance, MoD Zagreb dated 1998
- Decree on transport of explosive ordnance, MoD dated 2006
- Directive on chemical balance of gunpowder dated 2000
- Directive on explosive ordnance quality control in MoD and AF dated 2005
- Directive on maintaining of explosive ordnance in AF dated 2004
- Directive on record keeping of out of date and faulty explosive ordnance dated 2005
- Directive on managing with the existing quantities of explosive ordnance in AF dated 1997
- Directive on extension of rocket ammo lifetime in AF dated 2007.

Currently in the Croatian Armed Forces, process of implementation of NATO norms and standards in the area of explosive ordnance safekeeping is going on. Explosive ordnance experts from the Croatian Armed Forces are currently involved in work of NATO Committee AC/326 "CNAD Ammunition Safety group" responsible for development and improvement of norms and standards in the area of safe storage, transport and use of explosive ordnance.

Decision of the Defence Minister for the planning period to year 2018 defined:

- Types and quantities of usable explosive ordnance, their storage and maintenance;
- Types and quantities of usable and perspective classical rocket ammo that could be used for live-firing, quality control, life cycle oversight and its extension;
- Types and quantities of explosive ordnance that are not longer usable and needs to be removed by delaboration and destruction

c.) Training

Training:

One of the main fields of expertise of CROMAC-CTRO LLC is training. Training courses are conducted in accordance with IMAS and Testing and Evaluation Protocols.

- PROTOCOL V -

Any other relevant information:

N/A

- PROTOCOL V -

FORM I: Other relevant matters

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting for time period from: 01/01/2023 **to** 31/12/2023
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Any other relevant information:

N/A

REPORTING FORMS

pursuant to the Decision of the Third CCW Review Conference on the establishment of a **Compliance** mechanism applicable to the Convention, as contained in its Final Declaration, Annex II, Paragraph 5 (CCW/CONF.III/11, Part II)

COVER PAGE

NAME OF THE HIGH CONTRACTING PARTY: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

PARTY TO:

- Protocol I (Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments)
- Protocol II (Protocol on Mines Booby-Traps and Other Devices)
- Amended Protocol II (amended Protocol on Mines Booby-Traps and Other Devices)
- Protocol III (Protocol on Incendiary Weapons)
- Protocol IV (Protocol on Blinding Laser Weapons)
- Protocol V (Protocol on Explosive Remnants of War)

ACCEDED TO:

- The amendment to Article 1 of the Convention

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 31/03/2024

(dd/mm/yyyy)

(NOTE: the recommended deadline for submission of the national reports was fixed by the 2007 Meeting of the High Contracting Parties at 1 October of each calendar year)

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF CONTACT¹ (Organization, telephones, fax, e-mail):

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR - CIVIL PROTECTION DIRECTORATE

Mr. Damir Trut, Ph.D.

Director of the Civil Protection Directorate

CROMAC sector

Mr. Nikša Bogdanić, head of Sector,

e-mail: hcr@civilna-zastita.hr

Other points of contact:

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE - Defence Policy Directorate

Department of Multilateral Affairs and International Security

Arms Control Department

E-mail: mario.crnkoci@morh.hr

Croatian Mine Action Centre – Centre for Testing, Development and Training (HCR-CTRO LLC)

Ms. Katarina Markt, director

katarina.markt@ctro.hr

Ministry of the Interior – Civil Protection Directorate Web site: <https://civilna-zastita.gov.hr/>

CROMAC Mine information System portal: <https://misportal.hcr.hr/HCRweb/faces/intro/introduction.jspx>

CROMAC - CTRO LLC Web site: www.ctro.hr

¹ Please indicate individually for the CCW and each Protocol (if different).

This information can be available to other interested parties and relevant organizations

NO

Partially, only the following forms: A B C D E

NOTE: unless otherwise indicated all reports will be made public.

Note: Pursuant to paragraph 5 of the above Decision the High Contracting Parties have agreed “to provide information to the Secretary-General in advance of the Meeting, which will be circulated by the Secretary-General to all the High Contracting Parties, on any of the following matters:

- (a) Dissemination of information on the Convention and its annexed Protocols to their armed forces and to the civilian population;
- (b) Steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and its annexed Protocols and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;
- (c) Legislation related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols;
- (d) Measures taken on technical co-operation and assistance; and
- (e) Other relevant matters.”

Each of the items listed above are provided as separate individual forms to be filled out by each High Contracting Party accordingly.

SUMMARY SHEET

Reporting period: **from** 01/01/2023 **to** 31/12/2023
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

Form A: Dissemination of information: changed
 unchanged
(last reporting year:)

Form B: Technical requirements and relevant information: changed
 unchanged
(last reporting year:)

Form C: Legislation: changed
 unchanged
(last reporting year:)

Form D: Technical cooperation and assistance: changed
 unchanged
(last reporting year:)

Form E: Other relevant matters: changed
 unchanged
(last reporting year:)

NOTE: This **Summary Sheet** may be used only after the High Contracting Party has submitted its first national report pursuant to the Decision of the Third CCW Review Conference. Only the reporting forms which are indicated as „changed“ have to be submitted thereafter together with the Cover page and the Summary Sheet.

FORM A: Dissemination of information

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information [...] on:

- (a) *Dissemination of information on the Convention and its annexed Protocols to their armed forces and to the civilian population;”*

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting period: **from** 01/01/2023 **to** 31/12/2023
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

additional information of dissemination of information on CCW Amended Protocol II to armed forces and civilian population is contained in the National Annual Report provided in accordance with paragraph 4(a) of Article 13 of Amended Protocol II for the year:

additional information on dissemination of information on CCW Protocol V is contained in the National Report provided pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) of Article 10 of Protocol V for the year:

Information to the armed forces, including the extent to which the CCW and its Protocols are part of military manuals and the training curriculum of its armed forces:

Since the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and its Protocols, the Ministry of Defence has taken necessary steps in order to provide adequate and current information regarding the content and implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. Steps are also being taken to insure components responsible for the implementation acquire the specific level of expert matter knowledge according to their roles in the implementation process.

Having in mind the need to insure awareness and good understanding in the Armed forces of the obligations and implications stemming from the CCW (and other international agreements and conventions in the arms control domain), importance has been placed on inclusion of these contents into the military education and training curricula. In that regard, special attention has also been given to education and training for international operations and missions (NATO, EU, UN) as well as other international deployments. The Engineering Regiment, the unit responsible for demining activities within CAF, conducts regular training and education for demining tasks and other activities in the field of mines and other explosive ordnance, which are under the provisions of CCW.

In addition, each member of the Armed Forces acquires a basic knowledge of IHL/LOAC during regular education and training activities provided at the various stages of Croatian military service.

Information to the civilian population, including information on any programs, courses or documentation to disseminate the CCW to non-military audiences:

Dissemination of information about the CCW and its protocols to civilian population is performed through Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) activities. Croatian Ministries, Offices of the Government and State Administrative Offices as well as NGOs and international organizations, provide specific training according to their role in the national implementation of the Convention and Protocols. Croatian Red Cross with its local branches (in local communities), Civil Protection Directorate as NMAA (sector - National educational centre of Civil protection; sector - Croatian Mine Action Centre - CROMAC), Ministry of Interior and the Association of Civil Victims of Homeland War are active in the events and lectures where EORE messages are given.

The Republic of Croatia declared that as of 1 August 2020 completely cleared and destroyed all remnants of cluster munitions in accordance with article 4.1. of the Convention on Cluster Munition. The cluster munition contaminated area was originally determined in 8 Counties and 28 towns of the Republic of Croatia (Bjelovar-Bilogorska, Sisak-

– COMPLIANCE –

Moslavina, Karlovac, Lika-Senj, Zadar, Šibenik-Knin, Split-Dalmatia, Dubrovnik-Neretva), as a consequence of Homeland war conflict where the aggression side used Aerial cluster bombs type BL-755 (Mk-1 bomblets) and MLRS missiles 262 mm “Orkan” M87 type (kb-1 bomblets) in the 1991-1995 period. Until the August 2020, the national authorities (Civil Protection Directorate of the MoI) conducted final clearance operations in 2020 which included the remaining 0.033 km² of CMR contaminated area in Sisak-Moslavina County during which 11 kb-1 bomblets were found and destroyed.

Any other relevant information:

N/A

FORM B: Technical requirements and relevant information

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information [...] on:

(b) Steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and its annexed Protocols and any other relevant information pertaining thereto;”

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting period: **from** 01/01/2023 **to** 31/12/2023
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

additional information on steps taken to meet technical requirements of Amended Protocol II and other relevant information pertaining thereto is contained in the National Annual Report provided pursuant to paragraph 4(c) of Article 13 of Amended Protocol II for the year: 2023

additional information on steps taken to meet technical requirements of Protocol V and other relevant information pertaining thereto is contained in the National Report provided pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) of Article 10 of Protocol V for the year: 2023

Steps taken to meet the relevant technical requirements of the Convention and its annexed Protocols:

In order to ensure the best possible long-term reliability of explosive ordnance, Republic Croatia applies best practices and operating procedures with respect to its storage, transport, field storage and handling in accordance with the following: Management of explosive ordnance in Armed Forces is regulated by Ministry of Defence and General Staff of Armed Forces of Republic of Croatia with;

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- Types and quantities of usable and perspective classical rocket ammo that could be used for live-firing, quality control, life cycle oversight and its extension;
- Types and quantities of explosive ordnance that are not longer usable and needs to be removed by delaboration and destruction

Any other relevant information:

N/A

FORM C: Legislation

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information [...] on:

(c) Legislation related to the Convention and its annexed Protocols;”

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting period: **from** 01/01/2023 **to** 31/12/2023
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

additional information of legislation related to Amended Protocol II is contained in the National Annual Report provided pursuant to paragraph 4(d) of Article 13 of Amended Protocol II for the year

additional information on legislation related to Protocol V is contained in the National Report provided pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) of Article 10 of Protocol V for the year:

Legislation, including the status and content of national legislation to prevent and suppress violations of amended Protocol II:

Production of all types of arms and military equipment in the Republic of Croatia is regulated by the law on the Production, Overhaul and Trade in Arms and Military Equipment, adopted on 25 March 2002 (Official Gazette 33/2002). The law regulates safety and protection of methods of producing and refitting arms and military equipments.

Any other relevant information, including the regulations and policies (other than national legislation) adopted to implement the CCW's obligations and ensure compliance with its Protocols:

In February 2023, the Croatian Parliament had officially adopted the National Mine Action Programme as the main strategic document that clearly presents the goals and guidelines of the Mine Action in the period until 2026.

On May 26, 2023 the Croatian National Parliament had passed an amendment of the Act on Mine Action (OG 59/2003) which changes some of the regulations of the original law with a goal of increased effectiveness.

FORM D: Technical cooperation and assistance

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information [...] on:

(d) Measures taken on technical co-operation and assistance;”

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting period: **from** 01/01/2023 **to** 31/12/2023
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

additional information of measures taken on international technical information exchange, on international cooperation on mine clearance, and on technical cooperation and assistance is contained in the National Annual Report provided in accordance with paragraph 4(e) of Article 13 of Amended Protocol II for the year:

additional information on measures taken on international technical cooperation and assistance is contained in the National Report provided pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) of Article 10 of Protocol V for the year:

International technical co-operation, including relevant experiences in seeking or providing technical assistance and cooperation:

In May, 2023, the representatives of the Ministry of Defense and the Mine Action Center of the Republic of Tajikistan accompanied by the representatives of the OSCE Office Dushambe visited the Civil Protection Directorate. Several meetings were held with a goal to get acquainted with the structure and organization of the mine action system of the two countries, and the provision of various types of assistance through programs of psycho-social empowerment and improvement of socio- economic status of mine victims and their family members.

More than 200 participants from 35 countries gathered from 3 to 5 May in Vodice to attend the 19th International Symposium “Mine Action 2023.” The symposium was held in cooperation with the Directorate of Civil Protection, under the patronage of the Croatian Parliament. Special emphasis at this year’s Symposium was placed on the war events in Ukraine and providing an emergency response by all countries in order to maximize support for Ukraine, with the aim of clearing agricultural and infrastructural areas from mines as quickly as possible, given that this is a precondition for the process of economic development of these areas and before of all, the return of the population, which aroused the interest of those present. The main topics of this year’s symposium, along with presentations dedicated to Ukraine, were mine victims, activities aimed at increasing the safety of infrastructure from explosive remnants of war, mine action in Azerbaijan and research and development of new technologies on which more than 30 presentations of domestic and international experts were held. On the second day of this unique international gathering of leading experts in the field of mine action, a demonstration of mine action equipment producers was held at the Benkovac Test Site.

From May 24 to 26 in the cities of Baku and Aghdam, Azerbaijan CROMAC-CTRO representatives participated at the 2nd International Conference “Mine Action – The Path to Reaching Sustainable Development Goals”. The main goal of the conference was to inform the international community about the scale of the mine problem and its consequences.

From 29-31 May, Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia has participated at the GLOBSEC’s 2023 Bratislava Forum as a part of the side event regarding the Mine Action in Ukraine.

In October, 2023, a Memorandum of understanding with a view to enhance and develop the cooperation in the field of Mine Action Education between CROMAC-CTRO and MAT Kosovo was signed. As expert organizations, by signing this MoU, both CROMAC-CTRO and MAT Kosovo are focused on the knowledge exchange, enhancing training methods and exchanging best practices in the field of educating professionals in the Mine Action.

In October, 2023, participation of the CROMAC representative at the meeting of the NATO Ad Hoc Working Group on SALW and Mine Action with providing briefing regarding the outcomes of the Zagreb Donors Conference on humanitarian demining in Ukraine.

International technical assistance:

Based on the Agreement on the transfer of tasks, Article 2, signed between the Croatian Mine Action Centre and CROMAC - Centre for Testing, Development and Training LLC (CROMAC-CTRO) on 30 October 2003, CROMAC-CTRO LLC took over the activities and projects focused on certification and testing of mine detection and mine clearance equipment, as well as research of new methods and technologies in Mine Action.

During March 2023, CROMAC-CTRO had organized and implemented a training course on EOD Level 1 for the employees of Millennium Team from Belgrade, Serbia. The training course was implemented in line with IMAS 09.30 AND Test & Evaluation Protocol 09.30/01/2022.

June 2023 - Appointment of Croatian expert (CROMAC) to the International Advisory Board of the Center for Humanitarian Demining of Ukraine.

August 2023 - operational visit of the representatives of the CPD/CROMAC to Ukraine, Kyiv on the subject on providing assistance in humanitarian mine action.

11-12 October 2023, the first INTERNATIONAL DONOR CONFERENCE for humanitarian demining of Ukraine was held in Zagreb, Croatia. 1st working day has gathered 34 participating countries, with almost half of billion euros pledged for the humanitarian demining of Ukraine, with the Republic of Croatia donating additional 5 million euros. 2nd working day organized expert panel discussions on the topic of humanitarian demining, gathering 150 experts from about 30 countries. In addition, an educational (EORE) picture book for the children of Ukraine about mines and other ERW dangers has been donated on behalf of the Ministry of the Interior of the Croatia. Prior to the Conference a Bilateral Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Mine Action between the Republic of Croatia and the Ukraine was signed defining further cooperation in the field of humanitarian demining.

During October 2023, CROMAC-CTRO participated at the 7th NATO EOD Demonstrations and Trials 2023 which was held in Bratislava, Slovakia. The event gathered 46 exhibitors from 17 countries and visitors from 24 countries. The two days event was organized to broaden knowledge about current and future aspects of EOD related technology, capability horizons and identifying the area of shortfalls.

During November 2023, representatives from Civil Protection Directorate of the Croatian MoI and CROMAC-CTRO participated at the Innovation Conference 2023, organized by GICHD in Geneva.

In November 2023, CROMAC-CTRO has completed technical assistance education for the SESU Ukraine representatives regarding the legal framework, testing of the demining machines, validation of the test results, certification issuing process and other relevant topics.

Any other relevant information:

N/A

FORM E: Other relevant matters

Paragraph 5 of the Decision on Compliance:

“The High Contracting Parties will provide information [...] on:

(e) Other relevant matters.”

High Contracting Party: THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Reporting period: **from** 01/01/2023 **to** 31/12/2023
[dd/mm/yyyy] [dd/mm/yyyy]

additional relevant information is contained in the National Annual Report provided pursuant to paragraph 4(a) of Article 13 of Amended Protocol II for the year:

additional relevant information is contained in the National Report provided pursuant to paragraph 2 (b) of Article 10 of Protocol V for the year:

Other relevant matters:

Croatian Mine Action Centre – Centre for Testing, Development and Training (HCR-CTRO) LLC continued in 2023 to conduct testing and certification of mine detection and mine clearance equipment; MDDs, research and development of new mine detection and mine clearance methods and technology; and providing expert education and training in the field of mine action.