



**Intersessional Meetings of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
Geneva, 7–8 June 2018**

**INTERVENTION BY THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
ON MINE CLEARANCE IN 2017 AND 2018**

Thank you Madam President.

Croatia aligns itself with the EU Statement just made.

With regards to the preliminary observations made by the Committee on Article 5 Implementation on Croatia, we can inform about the following.

Mine Clearance in 2017

- As of 1 January, 2017, Croatia has changed the method for calculation of the mine suspected area (MSA)¹, thus switching from the spherical method to the Cartesian method which is more compatible with other institutions' approach (eg. State Geodetic Directorate) that are using Geographical Information System (GIS) tools.
- Since 2017, and in order to avoid any misunderstanding, the demined area has been considered only the area for which all administrative activities are finished, or the areas for which certificate of exclusion from the MSA has been issued.
- The Annual Plan of Mine Action for 2017, through implementation of demining, technical survey, non-technical survey and supplementary non-technical survey activities, foresaw the reduction of the MSA by 58.3 km², which for several reasons has not been accomplished, so the final realization was 36.5 km² reduced from the total MSA (plus approx. 0.5 km² demined by the Croatian Armed Forces).
- The following funding sources for mine clearance for were used in 2017 – State Budget (40.75%); donations (0.76%); and most importantly,

¹ The MSA as such includes both suspected hazardous area (SHA) and confirmed hazardous area (CHA).

European Union (EU) funds (58.48% ~ 30.5 million €). As in 2016, the EU-acquired funds again had the biggest financing share of total funds spent and contracted.

Mine Risk Education Activities in 2017

- 77 lectures and presentations were held through which almost 28.000 citizens were educated and informed (mostly elementary schoolchildren). The lectures were held in 14 counties and the capital Zagreb.
- Most of these activities were conducted in synergy between the Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) and Ministry of Interior (MoI) / relevant Police Departments, particularly through MoI's long-standing campaign "Less arms, fewer tragedies".

Mine Incidents in 2017

- Last year, for the first time since the beginning of the Homeland War in 1991, we have not recorded a single mine/UXO/ERW-related incident!

Mine Clearance in 2018

- In the first five months of 2018 (1 January – 1 June) mine suspected area (MSA) in the Republic of Croatia has been reduced by 22.5 km² through implementation of demining, technical survey, non-technical survey and supplementary non-technical survey.
- According to the Annual Plan of Mine Action for 2018, through implementation of demining, technical survey, non-technical survey and supplementary non-technical survey activities, the total MSA in Croatia in 2018 will be reduced by 56.5 km². Through demining operations, the MSA will be reduced by 39.8 km² and through technical survey, non-technical survey and supplementary non-technical survey activities it will further be reduced by 16.7 km².
- The main priorities regarding mine clearance according to the Annual Mine Action Plan for 2018 are – a) clearance of 56.5 km² of the MSA; b) clearance of all remaining cluster munitions-contaminated areas; c) completion of mine clearance in one county; d) clearance of all remaining mine-contaminated agricultural land.
- The Annual Mine Action Plan for 2018 again foresees, as a continuance of 2017 financial trends, a high share of financing from the EU funds,

while the total planned funds for mine clearance in 2018 amount to 53.2 million € (from all sources).

And finally, in line with the speakers before, we would like to make a call to Ukraine to submit a formal extension request for its mine clearance obligations, thus ensuring its compliance with the Convention's provisions.

Thank you.