

**Felszólalás-tervezet (Ottawai Egyezmény, Standing Committees, 2012. május 22.)**

Madam Co-chair,

At the 11th MSP of the Ottawa Convention Hungary reported that a mine suspicious area is located on its territory. As a State Party, my country wishes to fulfil its obligations deriving from the Convention in an open and transparent manner. This is why in the latest annual report we gave a detailed description of the situation and, using the opportunity of today's meeting, I would like to give you a brief update.

The area suspected to contain mines is located in the very Southern part of Hungary. It consists of a stripe of land, straddling the Hungarian-Croatian state border line between Dráva and Duna (or Danube) rivers. The length of this border section is 80 kilometres, while the estimated width of the suspected stripe of land varies, from a few centimetres up to a few meters.

As you may know, in the course of military operations during the war in the former Yugoslavia, mostly in the period from 1991 to 1992 and from 1994 to 1995, extensive emplacements of anti-personnel and anti-tank landmines were carried out on Croatian territory, in the immediate vicinity of the above mentioned borderline. Due to possible inaccurate emplacements as well as natural processes (meaning for example terrain movements caused by natural waters), it cannot be completely excluded that mined areas may, to some extent, extend over to Hungarian territory. Mines may be found sporadically in a range from a few centimetres to a few meters from the state border line on the Hungarian side of the border.

Emplaced mines may include *inter alia* types of PMR-2, PMR-2A and OMSZ-2. Since no exact data and maps of the emplacements are available, the quantity of mines on Hungarian territory is extremely difficult to estimate. It is, however, unlikely to exceed a total of 100 pieces.

The risk to population is low, since the suspected contaminated area is located out of populated places. The area is grown over by mostly high and thick vegetation. Human activities are practically limited to border control patrolling, civilians rarely enter the area.

In order to prevent accidents, around one hundred well visible warning signs were placed in the area and inhabitants of the 13 nearby municipalities have been duly informed about the risks.

The most important measures to be taken, however, are in the framework of a joint Croatian-Hungarian project which started last year with a considerable financial support of the European Union. The project is called „Rehabilitation of land mine contaminated sites in the Drava-Danube area” and it is part of the Hungary-Croatia European Union's *Instrument for the Pre-Accession Assistance* Cross-Border Co-operation Programme of 2007-2013. Its aim is to convert the area entirely safe and freely accessible for all, suitable for civilian purposes and totally clear of mines. To that end, a sum of 3.5 million euros was allocated to the Police of Baranya County in Hungary and the Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAG), as co-beneficiaries of the project to carry out the necessary works in the affected areas of both sides

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

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

#### **1. Surveying and marking of mine suspected areas**

Objectives of the survey are to:

- Define the size and distribution of mine contaminated and mine suspected areas (including digital ortophoto);
- Define the structure of mine suspected areas according to the methods of demining (categorization of areas on those for demining and areas for technical survey);
- Define the structure of the mine suspected areas by structure of land;
- Collect all other necessary information in order to produce well developed documentation.

#### **2. Establishing a Mine Information Database (MID)**

During the implementation of the project the Hungarian Mine Informational Database (MID) containing the data on mine suspected areas and their priority sequence for demining is to be created based on data derived from surveying.

### **Phase II (1/9/2012 – 31/8/2013)**

#### **1. Demining of mine contaminated and mine suspected areas**

All activities will be performed in accordance with CROMAC Standard Operating Procedures and in line with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). Surveying and demining activities will be implemented with procuring the participants with the most considerable expertise from the public market.

#### **2. Environmental rehabilitation of the target area**

Demining activities under this project will be performed in EU's ecologically protected NATURA 2000 areas on both Hungarian and Croatian borderland. The target territory - a hatching area of birds and habitat of protected animals and plants - is under increased natural protection. It is essential to preserve the propagated specimens of protected plants and marker specimens of protected animals. Alterations with possibly negative effects caused in the nature shall be assessed and handled.

Today, I can report to you that works under Phase I are going on according to the planned schedule. After conducting the necessary procurement processes, contracted companies started the general localization of mine contaminated areas. This April experts started to make localization works on the terrain, putting markings and warning signs as well as providing information to local inhabitants. Works for taking ortophotos have also started to set up a Mine Information Database.

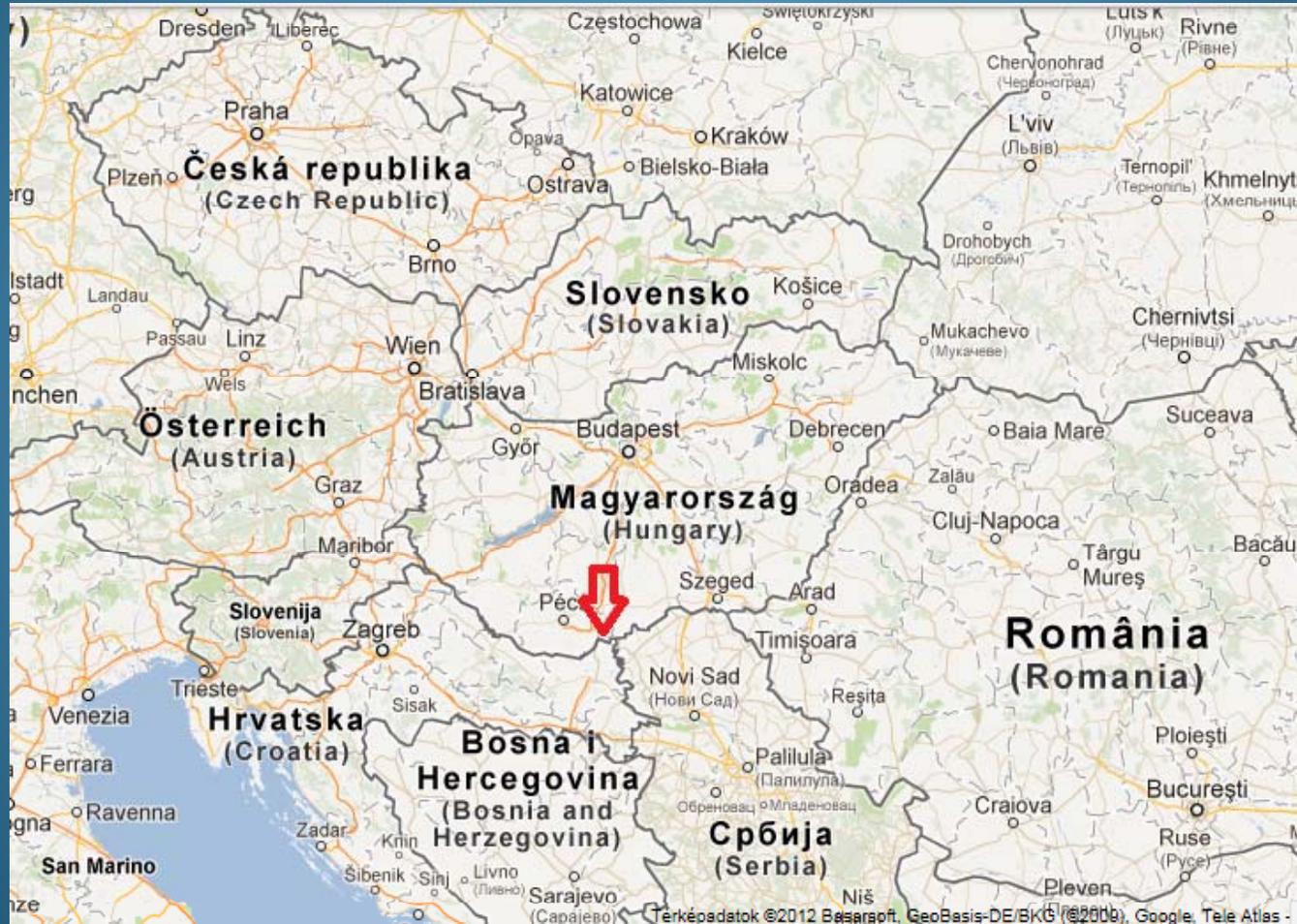
As a result of these efforts, no mine suspicious area should remain in Hungary by the end of the project, that is the end of August 2013. We shall provide States Parties of the Ottawa Convention with regular updates on this issue. If you need any further details, I am ready to provide you with it at the contact presented here.

# Information on a mine suspicious area in Hungary

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

May 2012

# Location







- Suspected area location: a stripe of land on Hungarian territory along the borderline with Croatia
- Extension: from municipality Matty (Dráva river) to municipality Kölked (Duna/Danube river)
- Length: 79.683 m

# Emplacement information

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



## Area characteristics

- out of populated places
- thick vegetation
- rare human activities
- border control patrolling



# Measures taken

- well visible warning signs
- extensive communication with inhabitants of municipalities affected



# Measures to be taken

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

# Project implementation

## Phase I (1/9/2011 – 31/8/2012)

1. *Surveying and marking of mine suspected areas – work already in progress as of 21/5/2012*
  - Define the size and distribution of mine contaminated and mine suspected areas (including digital ortophoto);
  - Define the structure of mine suspected areas according to the methods of demining (categorization of areas on those for demining and areas for technical survey);
  - Define the structure of mine suspected areas by structure of land;
  - Collect all other necessary information in order to produce well developed documentation.
2. *Establishing a Mine Information Database (MID)*
  - The Hungarian Mine Informational Database (MID) containing the data on mine suspected areas and their priority sequence for demining is to be created based on data derived from surveying

# Project implementation

## Phase II (1/9/2012 – 31/8/2013)

### *3. Demining of mine contaminated and mine suspected areas*

- All activities in line with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).
- Surveying and demining activities with procuring participants with the most considerable expertise from the public market.

### *4. Environmental rehabilitation of the target area*

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

# Conclusion

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

Thank you for your attention!

Szabolcs Varga

MFA of Hungary

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