

## CONVENTION ON CLUSTER MUNITIONS

### Article 4 Declaration of Compliance

**Submitted by [State Party]:**        **REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

**Article 4 destruction deadline:**   **1 August 2020** [day/month/year]

**Date of completion:**                **1 August 2020** [day/month/year]

-----

**On June 05, 2009 The Croatian 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.**

#### **I. Declaration of compliance**

1. The Republic of Croatia hereby declares that as at 1 August 2020 it made every effort to identify all the areas under its jurisdiction and control contaminated by remnants of cluster munitions, in accordance with article 4.1 of the Convention on Cluster Munitions.
2. The Republic of Croatia hereby declares that as at 1 August 2020 it cleared and destroyed all remnants of cluster munitions found in the areas mentioned in paragraph 1, in accordance with article 4.1. of the Convention.
3. By taking the action described in paragraphs 1 and 2, the Republic of Croatia has fulfilled its obligations under article 4.1 (a).

#### **Location**

4. The cluster munition contaminated area was originally determined in 8 Counties and 28 towns of the Republic of Croatia (Bjelovar-Bilogorska, Sisak-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. The total hazardous area was initially determined up to 5.3 km<sup>2</sup> of CMR contaminated areas.

#### **Methods**

5. The cluster munition contaminated areas were cleared using different methods and combining manual and mechanical actions in accordance with the standard operational procedures which were developed by the Croatian experts in line with the International Mine Action Standards (IMAS) framework. Clearance was performed on a commercial basis through public tenders, where only the private commercial companies fulfilling the preconditions and authorized by the Ministry of the Interior (MOI) could partake in the bidding. Aside from clearance, Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC, as of Jan 1, 2019 integrated part of the Ministry of the Interior – Civil Protection Directorate) performed the activities of QC/QA during and after clearance while in the same time conducting the Non-technical and Technical survey of the CMR contaminated areas. Overall, in the respective period, more than 2840 CMR bomblets were found and destroyed under the authority of CROMAC/MOI.

### Contact information

6. Until 2019, clearance operations were directed and under the responsibility of the Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC) which was established in 1998 as Croatian Government's public institution with a role of national operational body primary tasked with planning and implementation of mine action operations, also highlighting the role of QC/QA activities which were preconditioned in providing the Certificate of clearance. As of Jan 1, 2019 CROMAC was integrated into Civil Protection Directorate as an integral part of the Ministry of the interior. Correlating to prior Governmental organisational changes, Government Office for Mine Action which acted as a coordinating body regarding the Conventions on APMBC, CCW and CCM, ceased to exist, so certain coordinating duties and transparency reports regarding these obligations are performed by the Civil Protection Directorate since Jan 1, 2019.
7. National point of contact: **MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR**  
Civil Protection Directorate  
Croatian Mine Action Centre - sector  
E-mail: [hcr@civilna-zastita.hr](mailto:hcr@civilna-zastita.hr)

### Residual risk

8. The national authorities conducted final post-clearance quality control operation in 2020 which included the remaining 0.033 km<sup>2</sup> of CMR contaminated area in Sisak-Moslavina County. Highlighting the cooperation that was continued during 2019 between the Croatian Civil Protection Directorate/CROMAC and The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) on the research activities, which resulted with the study "*National Capacities and Residual Contamination – Croatia*", published in August, 2019, we can emphasize that the important step to efficiently deal with the residual risk and liability in the Republic of Croatia had begun with the integration of the CROMAC within the Mol (2019). This meant that the challenges of the residual risk contamination will be handled within the responsibilities of the Mol itself – Police Directorate EOD teams and Civil Protection Directorate.

## II. Action to be taken if areas unknown to have been contaminated by cluster munitions are identified after completion

9. In the event that areas unknown to have been contaminated by cluster munitions are identified after August, 2020, the Republic of Croatia will, as soon as possible, take action:
  - a) To accurately identify the extent of the contaminated areas and destroy all cluster munitions found in those areas, using the most effective and efficient methods, including the ones described above;
  - b) To ensure the effective exclusion of civilians from those areas until they are no longer contaminated;
  - c) To report such contaminated areas in accordance with the obligations of the Republic of Croatia under article 7 of the Convention and to share any relevant information to the general public, stakeholders and States parties through other formal and informal means;
  - d) To submit an additional declaration of compliance to States parties when those contaminated areas are identified and all remnants of cluster munitions in those areas have been cleared and destroyed.



**Procedure for reporting sightings of possible explosive remnants of war, including remnants of cluster munitions**

10. The Republic of Croatia has been contaminated significantly by explosive remnants of war since the end of the Homeland war back in 1995. After more than 20 years of mine action in the Republic of Croatia, with a generous help of the international community and EU member states, along with substantial national commitment and resources over the years, based on the accumulated experience, we can conclude that all established mine action measures are highly comprehensive and well organized.
11. Sightings of a possible ERW are channelled either through Police Departments or emergency 112 service of the Civil Protection Directorate. Forthcoming procedure involves special EOD counter-explosive police service which can also act in coordination with the Civil Protection Directorate/CROMAC sector officials. Sightings can also be reported through the Ministry of the Interior-developed "MINE.info" application for smartphones, which has a main purpose to warn the user of a life-threatening danger caused by entering or approaching the vicinity of hazardous area. The application also has "Call for Help" option and to report and take a photo of unknown potential ERW, along with available database of known and common ERW.
12. Pursuant to Article 67 of the Act on Mine Action, in the case where the Certificate on release of the areas and / or buildings from the hazardous areas, ERW is found, after the Technical survey or Non-technical survey and / or demining activities, the Ministry of the Interior officials will conduct an investigation, make a Record of the subsequent discovery and destroy the ERW. The record on the subsequent discovery of ERW shall be submitted to the organizational unit of the MoI in charge of Mine Action, which will check the data on whether the corresponding area and / or building was the subject of Technical survey or Non-technical survey and / or demining activities along with the data regarding the legal person that performed the above tasks, in order to take appropriate inspection measures. If the ERW is found in an area and / or building that was previously released from the HA, the MoI is obliged, depending on the type of ERW found, to conduct a control inspection on at least 500 square meters and at each further discovery to re-check with a purpose to completely remove any suspicion of a possible contamination by ERW. In these cases where ERW is found after the Certificate on released land was issued, a misdemeanour liability of a legal and responsible person and a high fine are prescribed. This is also the procedure for reporting of possible contamination by cluster munitions.

---

August 1, 2020  
ZAGREB, CROATIA

---

*Date and place*

**Deputy Prime Minister and Interior  
Minister  
Davor Božinović, PhD**



*Signature and official stamp*

99 17