

**Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention
on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,
Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel
Mines and on Their Destruction**

5 December 2013

English only

Thirteenth Meeting

Geneva, 2–5 December 2013

Item 11 of the agenda

Consideration of the general status and operation of the Convention

**Declaration of completion of implementation of Article 5 of
the Convention**

Submitted by Hungary*

1. Hungary ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction on 6 April 1998. The Convention entered into force for Hungary on 1 March 1999. In its initial transparency report submitted on 1 October 1999, Hungary reported that there were no areas under the control or jurisdiction of Hungary which were known and suspected to contain anti-personnel mines. In doing so, Hungary acknowledged that it did not have an obligation under Article 5 of the Convention.

2. In early 2011, Hungary discovered a previously unknown minefield along the Hungarian-Croatian border. The origins of this mine-suspected area date back to the early 1990s when, as a result of the armed conflict in the Former Yugoslavia, notably the military activities of 1991, 1992 and 1995, large territories of Croatia, including areas near the state border of Croatia and Hungary, remained contaminated with mines. In 2011 during ongoing demining work in Croatia, patches of land straddling the border of Hungary and Croatia were suspected of containing mines.

3. During the Eleventh Meeting of the States Parties in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Hungary indicated that on 7 September 2011 Hungary and Croatia, with the support of the European Union, launched a joint project called “Rehabilitation of land mine contaminated sites in the Drava-Danube area” as part of the Hungary-Croatia Instrument for the Pre-Accession Assistance Cross-Border Cooperation Programme of 2007–2013 which provides technical assistance to create a sustainable environment and develop tourism between the two countries.

4. Given this situation, Hungary indicated, for the first time, in its 2012 transparency report that it indeed had areas under its jurisdiction or control that were suspected to contain various types of anti-personnel mines in a section of the Hungarian–Croatian state border

* Document issued in the language of submission, without any editorial changes, as received by the Secretariat.



between the municipalities of Matty and Kölked (a roughly 79.7 kilometre-long: land border section between Drava and Danube Rivers) resulting from inaccurate emplacement of mines as well as natural processes (i.e. terrain movement caused by waters) on the Croatian side of the border. For these reasons the possibility that mined areas may, to a minor extent, extend over Hungarian territory could not be excluded. The suspected territory was located out of populated areas, grown over by thick vegetation and civilian activity was limited to border control patrolling with trespassing being rare. Nonetheless, a hundred warning signs were placed in the area and inhabitants of the 13 municipalities affected were duly informed about the risks of entering.

5. Unfortunately, no exact data or maps existed which offered clear evidence that these border areas had been cleared from mines or explosive remnants of war; therefore the Hungarian and Croatian authorities had to take steps to verify that these areas were indeed clear of mines and safe to be used for civilian purposes. In the framework of this project, a sum of 3.5 million¹ EUR was allocated to the Police of Baranya County (Hungary) and the Croatian Mine Action Centre (the Lead Beneficiary of the project) to carry out the necessary work.

6. The project was planned to be implemented over a 24 month timeframe,² in two phases:

Phase I (1/9/2011–31/8/2012)

A General Survey was conducted between 26 March–13 August 2012. The purpose of the contract on implementation of general mine survey involved:

- definition of the size and distribution of mine contaminated and mine suspected areas (with exclusion of areas from MSA)
- definition of the structure of the mine suspected areas by structure of land
- collection of all other necessary information in order to produce a well-developed database, and handing over of all the collected information and database to the contracting authority
- laying out mine threat warning signs and informing local communities on the current situation in the MSA
- creation of Mine Information Database (MID) in digital form with digital geographical, topographical and ortho-photo map, paper-based map and text part for the contracting authority
- categorization and prioritization of mine contaminated and mine suspected areas according to the methods of humanitarian demining, and compilation of its documentation, preparation for humanitarian demining in English
- issuance of certificates (approved by the contracted quality controller) on the areas excluded from MSA and areas which are free of war contamination.

7. The survey of the whole area suspected to contain anti-personnel mines was completed in accordance with the preliminary schedule. The surface of the total mine suspected area surveyed amounted to 1,007,747 square meters. A Mine Information

¹ The total project value was 3.529.393 EUR, of which 2.999.984 EUR was provided by the EU, with the rest funded by Hungary and Croatia.

² Due to massive floods, at the request of Croatia the original project deadline has been extended by two months, until 31 October 2013.

Database (MID) was created which included detailed information (including ownership) on the area and on the location of UXO dangerous areas within. A total of 350 clearly marked warning signs were placed in the area as well.

Phase II (1/9/2012–31/8/2013)

8. Having the survey completed, in the second half of 2012 an international tender was announced in order to find the most appropriate companies to undertake demining work in cooperation with the EOD Regiment of the Hungarian Armed Forces as, in accordance with Hungarian legislation, it is the only entity who can legally dispose of mines after their location.

9. This contract was awarded on 23 May 2013 to Dok-Ing Demining Ltd.³ Practical demining activity was carried out by Dok-Ing between 3 June and 7 September 2013. All activities were performed in accordance with CROMAC Standard Operating Procedures and in line with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS). CROMAC SOPs represent a set of prescribed operating procedures according to which CROMAC conducts its operations. Besides their experience, CROMACs SOP's were developed based on IMAS. Surveying and marking was implemented through procurement of participants with the most considerable expertise from the public market.

10. Environmental rehabilitation of the target areas: demining activities under this project were 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 was essential to preserve the propagated specimens of protected plants and marker specimens of protected animals. Alterations with possibly negative effects caused in the nature had to be assessed and handled, thus environmental assessment was elaborated, including authority provisions assigning the natural values (flora and fauna) to be protected.

11. A closing event for the joint Hungarian-Croatian project was held in Harkány, Southern Hungary on 25 October. Following that, the International Community was informed of Hungary's full compliance with the Anti-Personal Mine Ban Convention in a press release issued by the ISU.

12. As a result of efforts undertaken, Hungary declares that it has fulfilled its obligations under Article 5 of the Convention by having determined that there are no longer areas under the jurisdiction or control of Hungary in which anti-personnel mines are known or suspected to be emplaced. 997.881 square meters have been demined of the mine-suspected area surveyed in 2012, amounting to 1,007,747 square meters, while 9.866 square meters were excluded from MSA, in conformity with the Standard Operational Procedures of the project. Demining operations involved the destruction of 5 anti-personnel mines (2 pieces of PMR-2A, 3 pieces of PMA-2) and 1 anti-tank mine remnant (TMA-4 – broken up by the machine) and 25 UXOs found during the clearance works.

13. In the event that previously unknown mined areas are discovered after this date, Hungary, in keeping with the decisions of the States Parties during the Twelfth Meeting of the States Parties will:

³ <http://com.mercell.com/m/mts/Tender/36276038.aspx>

(a) Immediately inform all States Parties of such a discovery and report such mined areas in accordance with its obligations under Article 7 and share such information through any other informal means such as the Intercessional Work Programme;

(b) Ensure the effective exclusion of civilians in accordance with Article 5 and;

(c) Destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in these mined areas as a matter of urgent priority, making its need for assistance known to other States Parties, as appropriate.

(d) If Hungary believes that it will be unable to destroy or ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines in the mined areas before the next Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference (whichever falls earlier), it will submit a request for an extended deadline, which should be as short as possible and no more than ten years, either to that Meeting or Review Conference if the timing of the discovery permits or to the next Meeting of the States Parties or Review Conference if the timing of the discovery does not permit, in accordance with the obligations enshrined in Article 5 and the process for submission of requests for extensions agreed to at the Seventh Meeting of the States Parties.

Results

<i>Name of the area under the jurisdiction or control of Hungary in which anti-personnel mines were known or suspected to be emplaced</i>	<i>Size of area under the jurisdiction or control of Hungary in which mines were emplaced or suspected to be emplaced (square meters)</i>	<i>Size of area that was addressed (square meters)</i>	<i>Number of AP mines destroyed</i>	<i>Number of AT mines destroyed</i>	<i>Number of UXO destroyed</i>	<i>Dates in which the area was considered no longer dangerous due to the presence or suspected presence of mines</i>
1 Drava-Danube area (section of the Hungarian-Croatian border between the municipalities of Matty and Kölked)	1,007,747 square meters	1,007,747 square meters	5	1	25	7 September 2013
2 -	-	-	-	-	-	-
3						
4						
...						
Total	1,007,747 square meters	1,007,747 square meters	5	1	25	7 September 2013