

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

**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: Republic of Serbia

DATE OF SUBMISSION: 01/04/2024

NATIONAL POINT(S) OF
CONTACT: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sector for
Security Policy, Arms Control Department,
+381 11 306 89 36, okn@mfa.rs,
sbp@mfa.rs

Mine Action Centre of the Republic of
Serbia: +381 11 30 45 280,
czrs@czrs.gov.rs
(Organization, telephones, fax, e-mail)

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

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

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:

Republic of Serbia

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2023

dd/mm/yyyy

to: 31/12/2023

dd/mm/yyyy

INFORMATION TO THE ARMED FORCES:

The Serbian Armed Forces have consistently applied procedures as defined in the Amended Protocol II and there have been no changes in the manner of dissemination of relevant data to members of the Serbian Armed Forces.

INFORMATION TO THE CIVILIAN POPULATION:

The Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia, as a national coordinating body in charge of humanitarian demining/mine action activities in the Republic of Serbia, carries out a number of efforts to ensure that the civilians from affected communities are not injured by mines, cluster munitions and other UXO including through the following methods:

-Marking;

The whole area suspected to be contaminated with various types of mines has been visibly marked with “STOP UXO” signs in Serbian and Albanian languages, given that it is an area with multiethnic population. Areas contaminated with cluster munitions, air bombs – rockets and other UXO, have been also marked correspondingly. Marking is conducted by the Serbian Mine Action Centre (SMAC) and within its regular activities the SMAC periodically visits contaminated locations making sure that these signs remain emplaced.

-Risk education;

Locals of the affected communities are being informed about demining activities through a number of means and media. Mine risk education has been conducted in schools and affected communities. In accordance with the IMAS, during demining operations,

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

evacuation of people from houses, shops and other communal locations located within the zone of demining works is conducted. Suspension of traffic on the roads within the zone of demining operations is conducted, too. In relation to that, the SMAC coordinates activities with local authorities, school authorities and other relevant state bodies (Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Transport), local media means in communities where demining operations are conducted.

Pursuant to Article 35 of the Law on Ministries, SMAC conducts expert works in the field of humanitarian demining related, among others, to educating population of mine/ERW risk.

As the SMAC is the only institution responsible for conducting training in this area, SMAC has developed its own program for recognizing explosive remnants of war in accordance with IMAS and submitted it to the Ministry of Education for verification which verified it in March 2021.

The purpose of the training is to educate trainees (members of local self-governments, civil protection, hunters and construction workers engaged in excavation works in the ERW contaminated areas) in the field of mine action and to enable them to improve knowledge and ability to recognize ERW in the Republic of Serbia. In 2023, over 20 trainees undertook the course.

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

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:

Republic of Serbia

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2023

dd/mm/yyyy

to: 31/12/2023

dd/mm/yyyy

MINE CLEARANCE PROGRAMMES:

The Serbian Mine Action Centre (founded in 2002) is a national coordinating body in charge of humanitarian demining/mine action activities in Serbia. SMAC develops, implements and reviews a program of humanitarian demining/mine action activities with an annual work plan, which is adopted by the Serbian Government.

Serbia's deadline to fulfil its Mine Ban Treaty Article 5 obligations was 1 March 2023. Given that Serbia was not be in a position to fulfill its obligations, Serbia submitted the request for the extension until December 31, 2024, which was granted at the Twentieth Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP) to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Antipersonnel Mines and on their Destruction, which took place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 21 to 25 November 2022.

As of December 2023, the area in the Republic of Serbia suspected to contain anti-personnel mines totals 390,300 square metres in the Municipality of Bujanovac, plus newly discovered mine suspected areas in the Bujanovac Municipality, which will be the subject of the non-technical survey project aimed at determining the scope of contamination. Since the Republic of Serbia will not be in a position to fulfil its obligations by December 31, 2024, the Republic of Serbia has submitted a new request for the extension until December 31, 2026.

The whole area suspected to be contaminated with various types of mines and other UXO has been visibly marked with bilingual warning signs, given that it is an area with mixed ethnic population.

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

REHABILITATION PROGRAMMES:

In the Republic of Serbia, the Strategy for promoting the position of persons with disabilities, 2020-2024 is in force. The Strategy recognized their equal rights of other disabled persons, such as disabled war veterans, peacetime disabled veterans, as well as civilian disabled veterans.

The Republic of Serbia is also implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Under the Law on professional rehabilitation and employment of person with disabilities, the status of a person with disabilities is granted to disabled war veterans, peacetime disabled veterans and civilian disabled veterans. This Law is based on the principles governing the protection of human rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, inclusion of all persons with disabilities, on an equal footing, in all spheres of social life – in accordance with their professional skills.

The Law on professional rehabilitation and employment of persons with disability was adopted in our country and it entered into force on 23 May, 2009. Provisions of law relating to the duties of the employer who employs fifty (50) employees to engage one person with disability entered into force on May 24, 2010.

This law is based on the principles: respect for human rights and dignity of persons with disabilities; inclusion of persons with disabilities in all spheres of social life on an equal basis - in accordance with professional skills; encourage employment of persons with disabilities in appropriate jobs and appropriate working conditions; prohibiting discrimination against persons with disabilities, in accordance with the law; equal rights and obligations; gender equality of persons with disabilities.

On the basis of the law, the Rulebook on closer conditions, criteria and standards for carrying all the measures and the activities in professional rehabilitation was adopted during year 2009.

Also, the Steering Committee of the National Employment Agency adopted the Rulebook on methods and criteria for the implementation of active labour market of a persons with disabilities.

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

Form C **Technical requirements and relevant information**

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (c)

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

(c) steps taken to meet technical requirements of this Protocol and any
other relevant information pertaining thereto;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party:

Republic of Serbia

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2023

dd/mm/yyyy

to: 31/12/2023

dd/mm/yyyy

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS:

In accordance with Article 7 of the Ottawa Convention, the Ministry of Defense and the Serbian Armed Forces possess antipersonnel mines in quantities of 3.134 pieces, for training of personnel and testing of protective equipment, which are kept in ammunition warehouses under supervising, in accordance with the technical requirements defined by the Protocol.

ANY OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:

Training of SAF members in proper and safe handling of mines and explosive ordnance within the armaments of the SAF is realized based on existing rules and instructions, aligned with the provisions of the Protocol.

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

Form D Legislation

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (d)

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

(d) legislation related to this Protocol;”

Remark:

High Contracting Party:

Republic of Serbia

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2023

dd/mm/yyyy

to: 31/12/2023

dd/mm/yyyy

LEGISLATION:

The Serbian Armed Forces consistently apply procedures defined in the Amended Protocol II, and there are no changes compared to the previous reporting period.

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

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:

Republic of Serbia

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2023

dd/mm/yyyy

to:

31/12/2023

dd/mm/yyyy

INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL INFORMATION EXCHANGE:

The Serbian Mine Action Centre retains vast expertise in mine clearance and cluster munitions clearance, in particular as regards survey, project tasks developing, quality control and governing of mine clearance and cluster munitions clearance project tasks.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON MINE CLEARANCE:

The Serbian Mine Action Centre achieves international cooperation with numerous subjects in the field of mine action.

Cooperation with the ITF, after the foundation of the SMAC, ITF strongly supported the SMAC at first providing donations for training of personnel, technical equipping and survey of the mine suspected area, and in 2003 started funding our projects for humanitarian demining.

ITF and the SMAC signed the Memorandum of Understanding which further enhances cooperation between the SMAC and ITF.

SMAC also cooperates with the International Civil Defence Organization under the Memorandum of Understanding.

In order for the SMAC to create an effective system for information management in mine action, in August 2022, the Donation Agreement has been signed between the GICHD and SMAC, whereas the SMAC will be implementing IMSMA Core over a project period of 1 year. In March 2023, the GICHD visited SMAC to hold a workshop with relevant stakeholders to better understand the context and the requirements of SMAC with the aim of defining and planning the next steps of their IMSMA Core Implementation.

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

SMAC is continuing its work on implementation of IMSMA Core and establishment of a centralized database aimed at improving data quality, accessibility, and sharing at SMAC and with external stakeholders, as well as bringing informed decisions when it comes to prioritization and planning of activities.

In the period from 29 May 2023 until 9 June 2023, SMAC representatives participated in Mine Action Information Management System Administrator (IMSMA Core Administrator) training course, which was held in Spietz, Swiss Confederation, within the framework of the Partnership for Peace Work Program, implemented by the Swiss Government, through the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS) and the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining.

In the period from May 8 to 12, 2023, in Podgorica, Montenegro, SMAC participated in a quality management course in the field of demining and mine action, which was organized by the Norwegian People's Aid, in cooperation with the Rescue and Protection Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Montenegro. This course was conducted as part of the Norwegian People's Aid project that improves the quality management systems of national mine action authorities in the Western Balkans, financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

In the organization of the Norwegian People's Aid, in the period from May 22 to 26, 2023, in Belgrade, at the SMAC, a course on quality management in the field of demining and mine action was held. Fourteen trainees from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Defence and the company Jugoimport SDPR attended the course. The course was implemented within the framework of the Norwegian People's Aid project that improves the quality management systems of national mine action authorities in the Western Balkans.

In the period from November 28 to 29, 2023, in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, SMAC participated in the regional workshop "Lessons Learned and Next Steps", organized by the Norwegian People's Aid. (NPA). The workshop "Lessons learned and next steps" was a follow-up to the workshops "Assessment of needs and planning to improve the quality management capacity of national/state mine action authorities ", which, was organized by the Norwegian People's Aid, in Sarajevo in December 2022 and in Belgrade, May 2023. SMAC and UK based DRAGON Group have signed the Memorandum of Understanding regarding Cooperation on EOD Training. IMAS Level 3+, Advanced Explosive Theory Course, between 18 - 29 September 2023, was delivered.

In May 2023 and December 2023, SMAC participated at the 30th and 31st Meeting of the South Eastern Europe Mine Action Coordination Council (SEEMACC).

In April 2023, SMAC signed MoU with the Diving Safety Management Service Ltd. in the field of mine action.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE:

The Serbian Mine Action Centre is willing to share experience and lessons learned from the ongoing and completed operations.

Based on the Conclusion of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, on July 18, 2023, the Ministry of Defense as the transferor and the Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia as transferee of property, completed handover of the former Military complex "Velika Moštanica", which was included in the Master plan of the Serbian Army.

The "Velika Moštanica" military complex is located in Belgrade and consists of 16 buildings on an area of 3 hectares. It is planned that the military complex with classrooms and premises, as

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

well as training grounds within the complex, among other things, will be used for organizing and conducting EOD training courses and EORE courses in accordance with IMAS standards. Also, the existing buildings and training grounds within the complex provide the opportunity to work on the development and testing of new technologies and innovations in mine action.

In March 2023, at the invitation of the Protection and Rescue Directorate of the Republic of North Macedonia, and through the SEEMACC regional cooperation, representatives of SMAC visited the Directorate, in order to provide technical assistance and support in detection of aerial bombs by engaging SMAC equipment and experts for the purpose of in depth scanning of terrain. The aerial bombs were from the WW2 and the equipment used by the SMAC on that occasion was the US donation to the SMAC.

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

Form F **Other relevant matters**

Article 13,
paragraph 4 (f)

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

(f) other relevant matters.”

Remark:

High Contracting Party:

Republic of Serbia

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2023

dd/mm/yyyy

to:

31/12/2023

dd/mm/yyyy

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS:

--

AMENDED PROTOCOL II

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:

Republic of Serbia

Reporting for time period

from: 01/01/2023

to: 31/12/2023

dd/mm/yyyy

dd/mm/yyyy

MEANS AND TECHNOLOGIES OF MINE CLEARANCE:

The following methods have been employed in Serbia for SMAC projects to release areas known or suspected to contain mines:

- Manual demining
- Mechanical demining
- Canine demining

LISTS OF EXPERTS AND EXPERT AGENCIES:

Bojan Glamočlija, Director- Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia, Vojvode Toze 31, +381 11 30 45 280, bojan.glamoclija@czrs.gov.rs

NATIONAL POINTS OF CONTACT ON MINE CLEARANCE:

Mine Action Centre of the Republic of Serbia: czrs@czrs.gov.rs