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PRESS RELEASE

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ASB Croatia signs reconstruction contracts with 15 families living in collective centres in Serbia

Within its EU-funded CARDS 2001 programme, the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) is reconstructing 1,000 housing units in the Republic of Croatia along with technical, social and economic infrastructure. One of the main priorities of ASB is the assistance to refugees, particularly the ones who are still living in collective centres in the Republic of Serbia.

On 18 December, 2002 ASB signed 15 reconstruction contracts and design studies with future returnee families. The signing was held at the Skupština opštine Stari Grad, Makedonska Street bb in Belgrade. The Signing Ceremony was opened by Ms Sanda Rašković-Ivić, the Head of the Serbian Commissariat for Refugees. Ms Rašković-Ivić gave a warm speech greeting the ASB beneficiaries and congratulating them on their decision to return to their pre-war homes in Croatia. On behalf of the beneficiaries, Mr Đuro Vranešević from Donji Čaglić, Lipik thanked the ASB for their assistance.

The beneficiary group includes three families currently living in collective centres of Obrenovac, Šimanovci and Palić. In total, 15 families will now be able to return to eight municipalities in Western Slavonia.

Since 1996, ASB/EC has implemented € 56 million worth of EU-funded projects in the Republic of Croatia, reconstructed more than 3,067 destroyed housing units and carried out numerous projects in the field of public, social and economic infrastructure as well as mine-clearance.

For further information please contact:



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