

P R E S S R E L E A S E



Stabilitätspakt für Südosteuropa
Gefördert durch Deutschland
Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe
Sponsored by Germany

30 July 2008

ASB SIGNED A NEW MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CROATIAN CENTRE FOR DEMINING AT VALUE OF €800,000

On 22 July 2008, the Office of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) in the Republic of Croatia, represented by Mr. Wolfgang Raschka, Project Manager of ASB Croatia and the Croatian Centre for Demining (HCR), represented by Mr. Mirko Ivanušić, Deputy Director of HCR, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Sisak in the presence of Mr. Bernd Heinze, Deputy Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. Based on this MoU, the Government of the FR of Germany commits to provide € 800,000 for mine-clearance in Croatia in 2008 within the framework of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, while ASB will implement mine-clearance of 650,000 m² of mine-suspected areas in the municipalities of Pakrac and Sunja and municipalities in other counties, especially in the Šibensko-Kninska County.

"In the last 10 years, the Federal Republic of Germany donated in total € 6.6 million for mine-clearance in Croatia and in this way contributed to removal of the consequences of war and economic development in Croatia", emphasised Mr. B. Heinze, Deputy Ambassador to the FR Germany. Mr. M. Ivanušić, Deputy Director of HCR expressed his gratitude to the Government of the FR Germany for this donation stressing that along with this donation the contribution of the German Government to mine-clearance in Croatia comes to amount of approx. € 7.5 million. He also pointed out that HCR has had an exceptionally good co-operation with ASB during the mine-clearance activities.

Since 1996, mine-clearance of the war-affected areas in Croatia had been a precondition to the safe return as well as to reconstruction projects and further socio-economic development undertaken by ASB. From 2001 until 2008, the German Government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs allocated € 5.9 million for humanitarian mine-clearance of approx. 4,400,000 m² in war-affected areas of Croatia. However, according to HCR, there are still 997 km² which are suspect to be mine-contaminated in Croatia. Along with mine-clearance, the German Government has been supporting projects such as the reconstruction of houses in categories 1-3 and the provision of humanitarian aid proving to be a valuable partner in this region over the past number of years.

For further information please contact:



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German Foreign Ministry
Referat GF07
Werderscher Markt 1
10117 Berlin, Germany

Tel: 0049 1888 17 3758
Fax: 0049 1888 17 53758

Embassy of Germany in the Republic of Croatia
Ulica grada Vukovara 64
10 000 Zagreb, Croatia

Tel : +385 01 6158 105
Fax : +385 01 6158 103



Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund
Deutschland e.V.

The project is implemented by:
Office of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund
in the Republic of Croatia

ASB Country Office
Donja Poljana 3
Ivanić Grad, Croatia

Tel: +385 1 2883 141
Fax: +385 1 2883 142

E-mail: ecasbmo@zg.htnet.hr
Web: www.asb-see.org



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The Stability Pact is based on key experiences and lessons from worldwide international crisis management. Conflict prevention and peace building can be successful only if they start in parallel in three key sectors: the creation of a secure environment, the promotion of sustainable democratic systems, and the promotion of economic and social well-being. Only if there is progress in all three sectors can a self-sustaining process of peace be achieved. In the founding document, more than 40 partner countries and organisations undertook to strengthen the countries of South Eastern Europe "in their efforts to foster peace, democracy, respect for human rights and economic prosperity in order to achieve stability in the whole region". Euro-Atlantic integration was promised to all the countries in the region.