



ASB OFFICE FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

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

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Belgian Government and ASB support the economic development in the Republic of Croatia

In Croatia, the Office of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) has recently received funds from the Belgian Government to implement two new projects which will significantly contribute to the economic development of the Croatian Danube region and beyond. These projects will be implemented within the period from 15 February 2006 until 14 October 2006.

The first project is the reconstruction of the Bogojevo/Erdut Danube River railway bridge. The total value of this project amounts to € 709,546 which is partially funded by the Belgian Government with € 220,000, while the remaining funds will be covered by the Norwegian Government with € 200,000 and with € 309,000 by the Serbian Government. By reconstructing the bridge, ASB will assist in the resumption of the international railway traffic between Croatia and Serbia and Montenegro, which will also stimulate economic development in two very important regions, Vojvodina and the Croatian Danube region.

The second project is the purchase of new crane with 16t lifting capacity for the port of Vukovar which will increase, improve and modernise reloading capacities at the port and raise the quality of services. The traffic in the port will be increased by 260,000 t per year. This purchase will additionally contribute to further development and employment in the region. The total value of this crane purchase amounts to € 2.2 million which is partially funded by the Belgian Government with € 480,000 and partially by the Croatian Government with € 1,750,000. In 1996, the Belgian Government also assisted the port of Vukovar to resume its activities with purchase of two second-hand cranes and repair of port facilities which was implemented by ASB.

Since 1991, ASB has implemented projects for a total amount of € 80.1 million in Croatia with funding from the European Union and individual member states. ASB reconstructed 4,235 housing units and carried out projects in the field of mine-clearance, technical, social and economic infrastructure, sustainability measures and capacity building. In 2006, ASB continues to be active in Croatia and to provide support especially in the field of economic recovery of the war-affected areas which is still slow and very much needed.

For further information, please contact:



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