

# 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

22 July 2008

## MR. BURKHARD KÜHNAPFEL, GERMAN MILITARY ENVOY, VISITS ASB MINE SITE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF STARI JANKOVCI

On Thursday, 14 July 2008, Lt. Col. Burkhard Kühnapfel, Military Envoy of the Federal Republic of Germany, visited the ASB mine survey site in the municipality of Stari Jankovci to mark this year's ASB mine-clearance project funded by the German Foreign Ministry in the Republic of Croatia. Through this project, the Office of the Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB) in Croatia carries out mine-clearance activities of 650,000 m<sup>2</sup> of agricultural areas, yards and gardens in six counties in Croatia in co-operation with the Croatian Centre for Demining (HCR).

During his visit, Lt. Col. Kühnapfel was accompanied by Mr. Franz Emedi, Master Chief of the German Navy and Mr. Wolfgang Raschka, Programme Manager of ASB Croatia. Upon his arrival, Mr. B. Kühnapfel was greeted by Mr. Željko Cirba, Deputy Prefect of the Vukovarsko-Srijemska County, Mr. Ivo Lozić, Mayor of the municipality of Stari Jankovci, Mr. Zlatko Pavlović, Trustee for Demining of the Vukovarsko-Srijemska County, Dr. Mirko Ivanušić, Deputy Director of HCR, Mr. Dubravko Krušarovski, Head of the HCR sub-office in Osijek, and Mr. Željko Romić, Director of the "PIPER" demining company from Požega. The meeting was held at the municipal office in Novi Jankovci.

In his welcoming speech, the mayor of S. Jankovci Mr. Lozić expressed gratitude to the German Government on behalf of the municipality for previous donations and support provided to this municipality. Mr. Raschka, ASB Project Manager thanked HCR for their long-term assistance and co-operation emphasising that ASB will have demined 5 million m<sup>2</sup> by the end of this project. He stressed that this mine-clearance project in Stari Jankovci is an ideal humanitarian mine-clearance project in Croatia because their inhabitants requested an area of 165,446 m<sup>2</sup> to be demined, which is currently in progress. As well, 50,000 m<sup>2</sup> will be demined in the future in this municipality. Mr. Ivanušić provided details on Croatian Mine Action emphasising that out of 13,000 km<sup>2</sup> of mine-



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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.

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suspected areas 247 km<sup>2</sup> have been demined in Croatia since 1996. However, there are still 997 km<sup>2</sup> of mine-suspected areas presenting a constant threat to everyday living for residents in those areas. He expressed a particular gratitude to the German Government for supporting mine-clearance in Croatia with € 6.6 million so far (the largest part of these funds was used for demining while the remaining part was used for anti-mine actions).

Afterwards, the guests visited the mine survey site in Novi Jankovci – Vrapčana and Panjik, an area of 156,000 m<sup>2</sup> where the PIPER company demonstrated mine-clearance activities in the field carried out with trained dogs and equipment. The German Government donated 1.3 million kuna for demining of this area through ASB.

From the beginning of its return and reconstruction programme in Croatia, ASB has been carrying out extensive humanitarian mine-clearance activities to secure sustainable return and reconstruction and to ensure stable communities throughout war-affected areas. 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 m<sup>2</sup> in war-affected areas of Croatia. In this period, ASB disposed 70,000 explosive devices. 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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