

**Question for written answer E-000168/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: A new forest strategy - mine clearance in European forests

The problem of remaining landmines is seldom mentioned at EU level, and it is forgotten that, as a result, freedom of movement in Croatia, a Member State, is limited still today, and that deaths still occur from landmines. Because of the presence of the remaining mines, elementary and useful forest functions have been endangered, with the associated inability of the owners to use the forests. Remaining landmines also present a threat to the life and safety of citizens. In Croatia alone, 38 000 hectares of forests are scattered with landmines. The demining process is slow and expensive – it will cost EUR 600 million to complete it. Also, one should not forget the mine problem in neighbouring Bosnia and Herzegovina, where landmines affect 120 00 hectares of forest.

In the light of all this, we ask for support from the Union to address this economic and social problem. The EU finances mine clearance in Southeast Asia, which we welcome, but forgets to address the same problem closer to home, in a Member Country.

How does the Commission plan to assist Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina in demining the forest areas in question?