

## CROATIAN PARLIAMENT

In terms of Article 88 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, I adopt

## DECISION

### ON PROCLAMATION OF THE ACT ON CROATIAN RED CROSS

I proclaim the Act on Croatian Red Cross, adopted by the Croatian Parliament at the session on 12th of October 2001.

Number: 01-081-01-3222/2  
Zagreb, October 17, 2001

President  
of the Republic of Croatia  
**Stjepan Mesić**, signed personally

## ACT

### ON CROATIAN RED CROSS

#### Article 1

Croatian Red Cross is a national, humanitarian, and voluntary society of county Red Cross branch organizations, and municipal and city Red Cross branch organizations (hereinafter referred to as the Croatian Red Cross) acting on the basis of the principles of the International Movement of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent and it shall enjoy the special protection and care of the Republic of Croatia.

The Croatian Red Cross shall perform the public activities it is authorized to perform, as spelled out hereby, and by other regulations.

#### Article 2

The Croatian Red Cross shall fulfil humanitarian aims and tasks in the domain of health protection and promotion, social welfare, health and humanitarian education, and encourage honouring of international humanitarian law and human rights protection.

The Croatian Red Cross shall perform special tasks in situations of large-scale natural, ecological and other disasters that result in mass sufferings, epidemics, and armed conflicts.

The Croatian Red Cross shall perform its wartime duties in conformity with the Geneva Conventions for the protection of war victims, Additional Protocols, and Conclusions of International Conferences of the Red Cross.

### Article 3

The basic aims of the Croatian Red Cross are:

- to alleviate human suffering, especially suffering caused by large-scale natural, ecological and other disasters that result in mass sufferings, epidemics, and armed conflicts;
- to contribute to promotion and protection of health, sickness prevention and improving civil health and ecological culture;
- to encourage and advance solidarity, mutual aid, and social security of citizens.

The Croatian Red Cross shall adhere to these aims in full observance of all rights and freedoms of all individuals, regardless of their race, skin colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, property, birth, education or social status.

### Article 4

The Croatian Red Cross shall act on the territory of the Republic of Croatia as a non-profit juridical person.

The associations of the Croatian Red Cross – affiliations on regional and national level are formed and shall act in concordance with provisions of the law regulating activities of the associations and of this Act.

The structure of the organization, members, scope and mode of work of bodies and services, property, and other matters concerning the operation and activities are defined by the Assembly of the Croatian Red Cross, in the Statute of the Croatian Red Cross.

The Statute of the Croatian Red Cross is approved by the Croatian Parliament.

### Article 5

The Croatian Red Cross shall cooperate, develop, and maintain relations with the international institutions of the International Movement of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent and national societies of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent and other international and national humanitarian, charity, health and social organizations.

### Article 6

The sign of the Croatian Red Cross is a cross with red bars of equal length on a white ground.

The flag of the Croatian Red Cross is white, rectangular or square shaped, with the sign of the Croatian Red Cross in the middle. The sign of the Croatian Red Cross is sized proportionately to the flag.

The sign of the Croatian Red Cross is used as a sign of protection, indication and distinction in the manner defined by this Act and other regulations.

The right to use the sign and the name of the Croatian Red Cross belongs exclusively to the Croatian Red Cross or its bodies.

The right to use the sign and the name of the Red Cross by other subjects is prescribed by special regulation.

#### Article 7

In performing public activities it is authorized to perform and other tasks regulated by this Act, the Croatian Red Cross shall cooperate with the state administration bodies and the bodies of local and district (regional) self-government units, armed forces, civil defence, health and social welfare organizations, and other juridical and physical persons.

The Croatian Red Cross may, in order to carry out its tasks, require information and facts from the bodies, organizations and other juridical and physical persons mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article, within their scope of work, as well as their expert assistance and other help.

The Croatian Red Cross shall cooperate with diplomatic and consular representative offices in concordance with international agreements.

#### Article 8

In the Croatian Red Cross, a Tracing Agency shall be organized and shall be active in cases of armed conflict, performing tasks of the Information Office according to provisions of the Geneva Conventions relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War.

Tracing Agency shall perform tasks of providing information and searching for the victims of natural and other disasters that result in mass sufferings, as well as peacetime searching.

Tracing Agency shall be authorized to:

- collect, keep and process records and provide information to the interested individual persons, bodies of authority, and domestic and foreign organizations on the victims of armed conflict, civilian internees, protected persons arrested for the duration of more than two weeks, protected persons on compulsory labour, the wounded, sick and dead

- members of armed forces, missing children, children evacuated to another country, and children separated from parents due to an armed conflict;
- exchange family messages between family members separated due to an armed conflict or other extraordinary circumstances;
  - reunify family members separated due to an armed conflict or other extraordinary circumstances;
  - carry out other tracing tasks in the domain of the Republic of Croatia in which the participation of the Croatian Red Cross is regulated by the international agreements.

In addition to keeping official records, the Tracing Agency shall issue certificates showing established facts and extracts from collected documents, and initialize processes of making entries on the state register of deceased with competent administrative bodies.

The Croatian Red Cross shall prescribe the structure, scope and manner of Tracing Agency operating by the special general document determined by the Assembly of the Croatian Red Cross.

## Article 9

The Croatian Red Cross shall be authorized to perform the following public activities:

1. to carry out obligations of the Republic of Croatia arising from the Geneva Conventions relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War in the part of the international activities entrusted to the Croatian Red Cross;
2. to advocate and promote ideas and principles of the International Movement of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent, as well as international humanitarian law, to monitor their implementation in armed conflicts, and to foster protection of all victims and protection of human rights;
3. to organize and direct the Tracing Agency;
4. to necessitate, receive, and distribute humanitarian aid from international organizations and other donors, national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies for the needs on the territory of the Republic of Croatia;
5. to initiate, organize, and carry out or participate in regular and special solidarity actions in the Republic of Croatia aimed at helping persons in need and victims of large-scale natural, ecological and other disasters that result in mass sufferings, epidemics and armed conflicts, both in the country and in the world, and to ensure preserving of certain quantities of material goods for those purposes;
6. to participate in actions of international aid and solidarity with the victims of large-scale ecological and other disasters that resulted in mass sufferings, epidemics and armed conflicts, both in the country and in the world, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent Societies;

7. to train citizens to give first aid in everyday life, educational facilities, workplace, traffic accidents, large-scale natural, ecological and other disasters that resulted in mass sufferings, epidemics and armed conflicts, to take care of training first aid instructors, to keep records and to issue corresponding passed exam certificates;
8. to carry out vocational training of first aid instructors for the victims of traffic accidents, to keep records and issue corresponding certificates, and to organize refreshment of knowledge for instructors every five years.

To coordinate national first aid program for drivers. To carry out first aid training for candidates for drivers aimed at helping casualties in traffic accidents, to organize first aid tests for drivers, to keep records and to issue corresponding certificates of the passed exam.

9. to carry out first aid courses in places of work according to the Act on Safety at Work;
10. to organize and carry out voluntary blood donation campaigns. To popularize voluntary blood donation, to amass donors, to keep donor register, to set standards for awarding certificates of acknowledgement to voluntary blood donors, and to award certificates and acknowledgements to them;
11. to organize the Water Rescue Section and ecological protection of the coastal region and environment, to train rescue workers for the service, to keep evidence and issue certificates of training, and to organize refreshment of knowledge and physical fitness tests of rescuers every three years;
12. to establish, train, and equip task teams in cases of large-scale natural, ecological and other disasters that cause mass sufferings, epidemics and armed conflicts, for relief actions in the country and abroad, namely teams for: first aid, hygienic-epidemiologic protection, care of the wounded and sick, social work, psychological help and prevention of secondary sufferings, and help in traffic;
13. to continuously carry on informing and training citizens, particularly children and adolescents, on subjects of danger of mines and other explosive devices.

#### Article 10

The organization, scope and methods of work of the Water Rescue Section and coastal region ecological protection shall be prescribed by the special general document by the Assembly of the Croatian Red Cross, antecedently approved by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Traffic and Communication.

#### Article 11

Apart from the public duties mentioned in Article 9 hereof, the Croatian Red Cross may perform following tasks and activities:

1. to participate in receiving, sheltering, and other measures that contribute to assisting vulnerable and disaster-stricken persons;
2. to work on health education and information of its members and other citizens, particularly children and adolescents. To encourage and train for various forms of health self-protection and mutual protection, as well as to extend help to citizens, to help the medical services in implementing medical protection, especially in prevention of all forms of addiction;
3. to provide services of shelter and food to persons in need of this for health, social, and other reasons (the Red Cross kitchens, food delivery to homes, the Red Cross resorts, etc.) and services of the same kind for members of the Croatian Red Cross. Providing aforementioned services of shelter and food is not considered to be catering industry;
4. to organize service of the care and assistance to the sick and helpless at homes, to train personnel to work in such services, and to train family members to take care of the sick member;
5. to organize and carry out transport of goods for humanitarian and other purposes, and persons with special needs – disabled, elderly and helpless persons and the like, as well as voluntary blood donors and members of the Croatian Red Cross;
6. to organize assistance to transporting drivers under the influence of alcohol during weekend days (holidays), aimed at reducing the number of traffic accidents;
7. to implement relief programmes via mobile teams in local communities for the elderly and helpless;
8. to organize various forms of mutual help among citizens in the spirit of humanism and solidarity, and through humanistic education of children and adolescent to expand solidarity, impartiality, respect for human beings and life in mutual peace and cooperation;
9. to perform other tasks prescribed by laws and other regulations.

## Article 12

In order to achieve its aims and perform its tasks, the Croatian Red Cross shall obtain funds from:

- membership fees;
- the budget of the Republic of Croatia and the budgets of all local and district (regional) self-government units;
- activities the Republic of Croatia, units of local and district (regional) self-government and juridical, and physical persons have entrusted to the Croatian Red Cross;
- activities mentioned in Article 9, paragraph 1, item 7, 8, and 9 hereof;

- the execution of programmes under written agreements;
- campaigns and activities undertaken in order to raise funds and collect material;
- donations, subsidies, gifts and legacies;
- revenues from property and rights;
- contributions from citizens, legal entities and others;
- revenue obtained on the basis of the law and other regulations.

From the collected residence fees, there shall be set aside 1% for the Water Rescue Section and the coastal region ecological protection.

From the compulsory vehicle insurance, there shall be paid 1% annually to the account of the Croatian Red Cross for improving the first aid services, aimed at reducing of traffic accidents.

From the funds Croatian Lottery lays out and assigns for humanitarian support, there shall be paid 51% to the account of the Croatian Red Cross, aimed at carrying out activities and tasks mentioned in Articles 9 and 11 hereof.

#### Article 13

From the state budget of the Republic of Croatia the funds shall be secured for execution of public activities the Croatian Red Cross performs based on authorization spelled out in Article 9 hereof.

#### Article 14

The funds set aside from the budget of all local and district (regional) self-government units and the state budget of the Republic of Croatia shall secure the financing of the authorized public activities mentioned in Articles 8 and 9 hereof, as well as tasks and activities mentioned in Article 11 hereof, as follows:

- for the work and activities of Tracing Agency on the municipal, city, and county levels, there shall be set aside 0.2% from the budget of the respective municipality, city or county and for National Tracing Agency the funds shall be secured from the state budget according to the established activity plan and international obligations;
- for the regular activities and authorized public activities, there shall be set aside 0.5-1.8% from the budgets of a municipality, city or county.

The Croatian Red Cross shall take the obligation of reporting its financial activities according to regulations of budget implementation.

## Article 15

The basis of tax assessment of physical and juridical persons which are not exempt from the income tax or corporation tax shall be reduced for the complete outflow of goods with the cash value (money, goods, and services) to the Croatian Red Cross without compensation, according to law.

## Article 16

To promote its activities, the Croatian Red Cross shall organize the “Red Cross Week”, the “Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign Week”, and the “Solidarity Week”.

The “Red Cross Week” shall be held each year from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, the “Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign Week” shall be held from the 14<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> of September, and the “Solidarity Week” shall be held from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of December.

As an exception to paragraph 2 of this Article, the Government of the Republic of Croatia may enact that the “Red Cross Week”, the “Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign Week”, and the “Solidarity Week” be held during some other period in a particular year.

## Article 17

During the duration of the “Red Cross Week”, the “Anti-Tuberculosis Campaign Week”, and the “Solidarity Week”, obligatory contributions in favour of the Croatian Red Cross shall be charged:

1. on each passenger ticket sold in inter-city and international air, rail, boat, and bus traffic – the amount of 3% of the fare cost;
2. on all mail posted in domestic traffic, except for newspapers and magazines, the amount of 50% of nominal value of the charge for the first category of letters in postal traffic;
3. on each ticket sold for cultural, entertainment and sport events (concerts, festivals, films at cinemas, sport matches and competitions of local, national, and international nature, etc.), the amount of 3% of the ticket price.

During the duration of the weeks mentioned in paragraph 1 of this Article, the Croatian Red Cross may organize drives to collect voluntary contributions and gifts.

## Article 18

The funds mentioned in Article 17 hereof shall be collected by juridical and physical persons that sell tickets for events, fares and postages.

The funds collected on the basis of Article 17, paragraph 1, item 1 and 3 hereof shall be paid to the account of the communal organization of the Red Cross in the area they have

been collected and the funds collected on the basis of Article 17, paragraph 1, item 2 hereof shall be paid to the account of the Croatian Red Cross.

#### Article 19

The Minister of Finance shall enact regulations regarding the method of accounting and paying the revenue of the Croatian Red Cross mentioned in Article 17 hereof.

#### Article 20

The Croatian Red Cross shall be granted the following prerogatives:

1. it shall be exempt from taxation on revenues from its movable property and real estate, donations, and legacies;
2. it shall be exempt from taxation on its revenues from events, concerts, lotteries, lectures, etc., organized by itself, the revenues of which are intended for humanitarian purposes;
3. it shall be exempt from taxation on producing promotional and educational material;
4. it may organize one lottery draw annually intended for the voluntary blood donation programme, being exempt from the charges for organizing the event;
5. it shall be exempt from charges for submissions to state bodies;
6. it shall be given a discount on the transport of goods and people by means of public transport and a discount on the group journeys, and shall be exempt from paying road tolls for using expressways and facilities for vehicles of the Croatian Red Cross. The discount on the transport of the Red Cross identification holders and on the group journeys (group consisting of at least five persons) shall be 50% of the fare, and for transportation of goods as humanitarian aid shall be exempt from paying for all means of public transport. The compensation of the services rendered by public transport carriers shall be secured in the state budget and the remuneration shall be done according to regulation determined by the Minister of Finance;
7. it shall be exempt from paying postal, telephone and facsimile services for the Tracing Agency, and in times of large-scale natural, ecological, and other disasters that result in mass sufferings, epidemics, and armed conflicts, as well as calling for voluntary blood donations, and all kinds of letters and parcels sent by the Croatian Red Cross;
8. when paying public utility bills, it shall be charged as a household;
9. it shall be granted VAT at the zero-rate, according to law, for purchasing humanitarian aid and rendering services within the scope of the Croatian Red Cross activities,;
10. it shall be exempt from paying customs duties, according to law;

11. it shall dispose independently of foreign currency funds obtained.

#### Article 21

In case of large-scale natural, ecological and other disasters that result in mass sufferings and epidemics, the Croatian Red Cross, in performing its tasks and activities, shall have the right of precedence in the transportation of persons and goods on all means of public transport, and the right of precedence in conveying news through the public media.

#### Article 22

The state administrative bodies, in accordance with the Act on Associations, shall perform supervision over the legality of the activities of the Croatian Red Cross and its societies.

#### Article 23

The Croatian Red Cross shall be held liable for its obligations with its entire property.

The founders of the Croatian Red Cross shall be held liable in solidarity and to the full extent for its obligations.

#### Article 24

A fine in the amount of HRK 10,000.00 to 50,000.00 shall be imposed on a juridical or physical person:

1. should the insurance companies fail to pay the prescribed part of the insurance premium mentioned in Article 12 hereof, in the amount prescribed, to the account of the Croatian Red Cross;
2. should the tourist associations fail to pay the prescribed part of residence fee mentioned in Article 12 hereof, in the amount determined, to the account of the Croatian Red Cross;
3. should the prescribed part of each sold fare and tickets sold for cultural, entertainment and sport events during weeks mentioned in Article 16 hereof not be paid to the account of the Croatian Red Cross in the area they have been collected;
4. should the prescribed part of the amount of sold postages mentioned in Article 17 hereof not be paid to the account of the Croatian Red Cross.

For a violation mentioned in item 1 of this Article, a fine in the amount of HRK 5,000.00 to 20,000.00 shall be imposed on responsible person of the legal entity.

#### Article 25

Provisions of the Act on Associations shall be implemented to all relations not regulated by this Act.

#### Article 26

Property the Croatian Red Cross disposed of or had the right of use prior to passing the Act on Associations shall become the property of the Croatian Red Cross and its societies.

#### Article 27

The Croatian Red Cross shall be compelled to bring its Statute in accordance with the provisions of this Act within six months from the date of coming into effect of this Act.

#### Article 28

The Act on Croatian Red Cross (Official Gazette, No. 61/91) shall cease to be valid upon the date of coming into effect of this Act.

#### Article 29

This Act shall come into effect on the eighth day after its publication in the Official Gazette.

Number: 550-05/01-01/01  
Zagreb, September 12, 2001

CROATIAN PARLIAMENT

President  
of the Croatian Parliament  
**Zlatko Tomčić**, m.p.