

## EADRCC Executive Summary

### REGARDING

### **FOREST FIRES IN ALBANIA, BULGARIA AND THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA<sup>1</sup>**

31 July 2007 10:00 UTC

#### **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

- **High temperatures in Bosnia and Herzegovina caused great number of forest and wild-land fires affecting more than 250 hectares.**
- **On 31 July at 09:30 UTC, Bosnia and Herzegovina appealed for international assistance and requested 30 sets of SCBA (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus).**

#### **ALBANIA**

- The efforts made from local and national structures and forces to face small and medium scale fires have enabled the extinguishing of fires in various regions.
- **The situation remains serious in Northern and North-Eastern Albania. A new fire started yesterday at the district of Puka** with a large scale of fire, which caused the interruption of the circulation on the national road connecting Albania to Kosova.
- The most active fires are still burning in: National Park of Valbona Valley, Forest Economy of Lura, in Trull-Surroj area, in Southern Albania (near the Greek border).
- **The Ukrainian aircraft "Antonov 32" has contributed in these extinguishing operations and will continue to operate for the next two days.**
- **Two fire fighting helicopters with Bambi Bucket** from two German private companies are landing in Tirana International Airport today at 14:00 UTC. They **will be operational at 15:00 UTC.**
- **Czech Republic sent 120 pairs of fire protection boots and 120 protection gloves** on 30 July 2007.
- **There is still requirement for international assistance for aerial fire fighting capacities.**

#### **BULGARIA**

- **The situation in Bulgaria is still serious. The State of disaster is still ongoing in 3 districts – Lovech, Smolyan and Stara Zagora.** The fire fighting efforts involve all available resources from local and national fire services, Civil Protection, Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Defence. Also private helicopter takes part in the fire fighting efforts.
- The Russian Federation, on a bilateral basis, provided one IL-76 fire fighting airplane, arrived on 21 July. The airplane performed 18 fire-fighting flights. On 24 July, the aircraft completed its mission in Bulgaria and was relocated to another theatre.

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<sup>1</sup> Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

- **International assistance for fire fighting helicopters is still required.**

THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA <sup>1</sup>

- **One human casualty has been reported due to smoke poisoning, 200 Roma people (approximately 45 families) have been evacuated. 4600 Ha of forest in 32 municipalities have been burnt out within the period from 17 till 27 July.**
- As from 24 July up today Croatia, Slovenia, The Republic of Turkey provided with aerial fire fighting support. **Germany has also deployed 2 of its KFOR helicopters for air fire fighting operations.**
- Austria and Sweden provided national experts.
- So far, Sweden, Poland, Norway and Denmark donated different fire fighting equipment items. Estonia allocated financial support. The assistance consisting of fire fighting equipment from Germany and the Czech Republic is also on its way to the stricken nation.
- **The most of fires are put under control as of July 30. In spite of that the declared crisis situation is still on going. The aerial fire fighting interventions have to be continued without cease. The number of active fires is changing on a daily basis.**
- **The situation is getting better but still remains serious because of dryness in mountainous forested areas. However, the weather forecast shows slightly decreasing temperatures and rain for upcoming days in the region.**

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