



## ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

### **Information on possibility for opening the border crossing point between villages Jamena in Srbija and Montenegro and Strosinci, in the Republic of Croatia**

After breakup of former Yugoslavia in early 90ties of the last century and civil war that followed, ties between former republics were torn and people suffered from lack of communication, cooperation, distructed families, lost properties and heavy burden of war. The first what happened was that border crossings were closed and traffic was cut-off.

OSCE Mission to Serbia and Montenegro is striving to support rehabilitation programmes in which regards, initiative to open border crossing is compatible with Economic and Environmental priorities for 2006.

The border crossing concerned, should be opened between two vilages that, during former Yugoslavia lived as extellent neighbours. Jamena (Serbia) is located on the far southwest part of Srem. First time that it was mentioned was in the year 1691. The village is situated on the border between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

Close to Jamena, Strosinci village is located in Croatia, just 2 km apart. On the other side of Sava river, in Bosnia and Hercegovina, there is village Gornje Crnjelovo.

As early as from the year 1702, a ferry has been established to transport over Sava river and it has been working continuously ever since. Today, this ferry is operating mainly for the needs of local people that have land on the both side of river Sava.

Due to the fact that Sava is international river, transit over it has been regulated in accordance with laws of BiH and Serbia. Ferry is a small boat and could carry 20 cars. For the border crossing on Sava river, there is border police and customs post in Jamena. On the Bosnian side, there is only border police that act as customs, as well.

Opening of the border crossing wih Croatia would help tremendously to solve transport in this area. For the time being, people from Strosinci need to travel almost 70 Km through three countries in order to get ton their property which is just 2 Km away! At the same time, road to Gornje Crnjelevo(BaH) from Strosinci(Cr) goes through Serbia.

Agreement between Srbia and Croatia concerning border crossings, does take into account crossing between Jamena and Strosinci and there is overall will from both sides, Croatian and Serbian to reopen this road where villeges in Croatia like Drenovci, Racinovci would also benefit from opening of this crossing.

Major obstacle – mine fields has been solved, and the terain is cleared from mines.

Two years ago, there has been a local referenda for the reopening the border crossing point in Strosinci, and more than 90% vote for it. On the Croatian side, infrastructure has been nearly finished and it is easy to establishe police and customs office. On the Serbian side of Jamena, there is much to be done.

Elektro Vojvodina, electric company, and Direkcija sever, Novi Sad state company for regional roads, claimed that they would help in infrastructural work.

**On the Mission side, Law enforcement Department and EE Department agreed to proceed with support to this outstanding initiativer that has pragmatic needs but has been seen as good practice example in the reconcuilitaion and rehabilitation process between the states that once were republics in the former Yugoslavia.**