

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0008/03

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by José Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Karl-Heinz Florenz and Antonios Trakatellis, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

to the Commission

Subject: Harmful effects of unexploded ordnance (land mines and cluster bombs) and depleted uranium ammunition

What has the Commission contributed to the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Explosive Remnants of War and Anti-Vehicle Mines which has been discussing cluster bombs and other forms of unexploded ordnance? When will the Commission report on the work and the recommendations of this Group?

What efforts has the Commission made or is it undertaking – within or without the framework of the UN and/or OSCE – to clear regions such as Kosovo and Afghanistan from unexploded ordnance, in particular from cluster bombs, in order to enable humanitarian workers to do their work in safety and civilians and refugees to return to their homelands?

What is the current state of the Commission's efforts to address the issue of mine clearance, and when will it announce its Mine Action Strategy paper?

Tabled: 06.02.2003

Forwarded: 10.02.2003

Deadline for reply: 17.02.2003