

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1999



2004

Session document

6 February 2003

B5-0131/2003

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

further to Oral Question B5-0009/2003

pursuant to Rule 42(5) of the Rules of Procedure

by José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, Karl-Heinz Florenz and Antonios Trakatellis

on behalf of the PPE-DE Group

on the harmful effects of unexploded ordnance and depleted uranium (DU) ammunition

European Parliament resolution on the harmful effects of unexploded ordnance and depleted uranium (DU) ammunition

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the work and the opinion of the Euratom Treaty Article 31 Expert Group, which was convened in early 2001 to consider the use of DU ammunition and the post-war risk to the health of local people and the international assistance teams,
 - B. having regard to the reports issued by UNEP (13 March 2001), the WHO (1 May 2002), and the UK Royal Society (12 March 2002),
 - C. having regard to the special attention which the European Commission has paid to mine clearance,
 - D. having regard to the ongoing use of anti-personnel landmines (APLs) and anti-vehicle landmines in many major armed conflicts, and whereas they are mainly used in conflicts in which both state and non-state armed groups are involved,
 - E. acknowledging that most EU Member States have signed the Ottawa Treaty on a global ban on anti-personnel landmines and hence do not use this type of weaponry any longer,
 - F. whereas the CCW (Convention on Conventional Weapons) is the current international framework which provides the basis for the prohibition and elimination of weapons which operate in an indiscriminate fashion or cause excessive injury or suffering,
1. Takes note of the opinion of the Article 31 Expert Group, released in March 2001, as well as the conclusions of the competent UN agencies and most of the specialist scientific and medical literature;
 2. Asks the Commission, in the light of the results of these scientific investigations on the use of DU ammunition, to monitor developments in relation to the possible serious, widespread contamination of the environment, as well as an acute or appreciable long-term hazard to human health, and to keep it regularly informed;
 3. Supports the stepping up of the EU contribution to the fight against APLs, and asks the Commission to play a prominent role in fostering cooperation and coordination with the Member States, the United Nations and the US and to support effectively coordination between the main programmes of activities and the partners on the ground;
 4. Calls on the Council to fully support the Commission's programmes in the area of mine clearance; emphasises that this programme should be extended to the broader area of the remnants of war;

5. Calls on the Council and the EU Member States to take the steps required to promote the general application of the 1997 Ottawa Treaty and the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons;
6. Calls on the Commission, the Council and the Member States, as well as the applicant countries, to closely follow and give full support to the Group of Governmental Experts which is seeking to negotiate a new or revised version of the existing Protocol to the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons with a view to addressing the issue of explosive remnants of war and, in particular, setting benchmarks for the speedy provision of assistance to victims;
7. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the EU Member States, the applicant countries, the UN Secretary-General and NATO.