

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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## **MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION**

further to the Commission statement

pursuant to Rule 37(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Jan Marinus Wiersma and Giovanni Claudio Fava  
on behalf of the PSE Group

on the Preparation of the First Review Conference in Nairobi of the 1997  
Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer  
of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa 'Mine Ban Treaty')

**European Parliament resolution on the Preparation of the First Review Conference in Nairobi of the 1997 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction (Ottawa 'Mine Ban Treaty')**

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to the 1997 Convention on the prohibition and destruction of anti-personnel mines (the Ottawa Convention),
  - having regard to the EU Mine Action Strategy 2002-2004,
  - having regard to its previous resolutions on anti-personnel landmines (25 October 2000, 6 September 2001 and 13 February 2003),
  - having regard to Rule 37(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. reaffirming its determination to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, which kill or maim hundreds of people every week, mostly innocent and defenceless civilians and especially children, obstruct economic development and reconstruction, inhibit the repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons, and have other severe consequences for years after emplacement,
- B. believing it is necessary to do the utmost to contribute in an efficient and coordinated manner to facing the challenge of removing the anti-personnel mines placed throughout the world and to ensure their destruction,
- C. wishing to do the utmost to ensure assistance for the care and rehabilitation, including social and economic reintegration, of mine victims,
- D. whereas as of 1 April 2004, the 1997 treaty banning the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of antipersonnel landmines has been ratified or acceded to by 141 countries which have signed but have not yet completed their ratification process, bringing the total number of countries supporting the treaty to 150,
- E. whereas 44 countries have not yet joined this treaty<sup>1</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bhutan, China, Cuba, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Kazakhstan, North Korea, South Korea, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Micronesia, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam.

- F. whereas the UN Secretary-General is required to convene a review conference five years after the entry into force of the Convention, under Article 12 of the Ottawa Convention,
- G. whereas the First Review Conference/2004 Summit on a mine-free world will take place from 29 November to 3 December 2004 in Nairobi, Kenya,
- H. noting with regret that anti-personnel mines continue to be used in conflicts around the world, causing human suffering and impeding post-conflict development,
1. Invites all states that have not signed the Convention on the prohibition of the use, stockpiling, production and transfer of anti-personnel mines and on their destruction to accede to it without delay;
  2. Urges all states that have signed but not ratified the Convention to ratify it without delay;
  3. Invites all states that have not ratified the Convention or acceded to it to provide, on a voluntary basis, information to make global mine action efforts more effective;
  4. Reiterates its call on all states and other relevant parties to work together to promote, support and advance the care and rehabilitation of mine victims, mine awareness programmes, the removal of anti-personnel mines placed throughout the world, and the assurance of their destruction;
  5. Believes that the First Review Conference in Nairobi should be structured to emphasise progress to date in the pursuit of the four core aims of the Ottawa Convention, clearing mined areas, assisting victims, destroying stockpiles of anti-personnel mines and universalising the Convention;
  6. Calls on the Nairobi Review Conference of the Ottawa Convention to make a strong commitment calling on all NSA (Non-State Actors) to sign the 'Deed of Commitment for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Landmines and for Cooperation in Mine Action' under the Geneva Call;
  7. Insists that the review should also assess progress and challenges related to key matters essential for achieving these aims, and particularly: resource mobilisation; the exchange of information; measures taken to prevent and suppress prohibited activities; and measures to facilitate compliance;
  8. Invites the Council and the EU Member States to speak with one voice at the Review Conference;
  9. Urges the Council and Commission to continue to support the efforts to commit NSAs (Non-State Actors) to a landmine ban; whereas this does not imply support for, or recognition of the legitimacy of, Non-State Actors or their activities;

10. Recalls that the European Community has pledged 240 million Euro for the period 2002-2009, and that the EC mine action strategy focuses on five mutually reinforcing components (advocacy of stigmatising the use of anti-personnel mines and support for a total ban on them; mine risk education; mine clearance; victim assistance; and stockpile destruction), and that it prioritises its financial aid towards those countries which adhere to the principles and obligations of the Mine Ban Convention;
11. Recalls, however, that the European Union may consider also providing financial support to States not party to the Mine Ban Convention, should humanitarian emergencies arise; as in the past, this support must be contingent upon the proven political will of the recipient country to move towards accession to the convention;
12. Invites the Council and Commission to continue to assist the capacity of mine-affected countries to face and solve the hard mine problems in association with non-state actors if possible, while increasing the efficiency of operations on the ground;
13. Strongly believes that both bilaterally as well as regionally, through its assistance, partnership and association policies, the EU should promote a dialogue on overall mine action including and leading to stockpile destruction;
14. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the States Parties to the Ottawa Convention, the 44 countries which have not signed the Convention, and the UN Secretary-General.