

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3157/02  
by Yasmine Boudjenah (GUE/NGL)  
to the Commission

Subject: The effects of Agent Orange on health and the environment in Vietnam

Between 1962 and 1970 the American army sprayed thousands of litres of a defoliant known as Agent Orange, containing dioxin in particular. Apart from major environmental damage, thousands of people are still affected by serious health problems such as lymphomas, cancers, Hodgkin's disease and diabetes as a result of their exposure to dioxin.

In March 2002 a conference in Hanoi brought together epidemiologists, toxicologists and environmental specialists. At the end of the conference the USA and Vietnam signed an agreement to set up a joint research programme on the effects of Agent Orange on health and the environment.

Does the Commission not think that the European Union could participate in this research programme and help to improve patient care?