

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0109/02

pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Jannis Sakellariou, on behalf of the PSE Group, Paul Lannoye, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group, Johan Van Hecke, on behalf of the ELDR Group, Pernille Frahm, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group to the Commission

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

How will the Commission strengthen its efforts in favour of projects assisting the victims of antipersonnel mines or unexploded ordnance (primary care or social and economic reintegration projects) and/or encourage third countries which are mine-affected to set up a national policy towards these victims and people with disabilities more broadly?

Has the Commission given any thought, and would it make a statement, on how it could incorporate the clearance of Unexploded Ordnance broadly into its efforts to address mines?

The Governmental Group of Experts at the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons is expected to begin to negotiate a new protocol to address post-conflict clearance of explosive remnants of war. As this will strengthen rapid efforts to efficiently clear affected areas after hostilities cease in order to support civilian reconstruction and peace-building effort; how does the Commission envisage being able to include rapid response mechanisms in such activities in its traditional longer term approach to affected countries?

In order to support the efforts in Geneva with the States Parties to the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons, would the Commission issue a communication on its assessment of priorities and best practice that might be usefully incorporated into any international legal efforts to address the broader issue of unexploded ordnance?

Tabled: 17.12.2002

Forwarded: 19.12.2002

Deadline for reply: 10.01.2003