

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0009/03
pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure
by Luís Queiró, on behalf of the UEN Group
to the Council

Subject: Unexploded munitions and depleted uranium munitions

There is growing concern in the medical, scientific, military and political communities, and therefore amongst the general public, about the consequences for civilians and soldiers and the environment, of the use of specific munitions whose effects may continue to be felt after the cessation of hostilities; these include munitions which incorporate depleted uranium, despite the lack of clear clinical and statistical evidence rigorously demonstrating the existence or otherwise of a cause-and-effect relationship between the use of this radioactive metal in munitions, and the onset of disease:

1. Is the Council prepared, via its High Representative for the CFSP, to tell the European Parliament what help it has given the government experts working party on explosive military waste and anti-tank mines and particularly, whether priority has been given - or not - to studying and assessing the eventual long term effects of the use of munitions incorporating depleted uranium?
2. When does the Council think it will be in a position to submit an initiative to the European Parliament which, in the light of the results obtained by the government experts working party, will put forward recommendations or specific measures seeking to establish, in scientific, political and even military terms, the most appropriate means of helping minimise the effects on people and places affected by the deployment of munitions of this kind?

Tabled: 06.02.2003

Forwarded: 07.02.2003

Deadline for reply: 28.02.2003