

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0048/07  
pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Josep Borrell Fontelles, on behalf of the Committee on Development  
to the Council

Subject: International treaty to ban cluster munitions; follow-up to the Oslo Declaration

Since the adoption of the Oslo Declaration on 23 February 2007 calling for an international treaty to ban cluster munitions globally and the follow-up Lima conference on cluster munitions which took place on 24-25 May 2007, some 80 States have decided to support the process leading to such a treaty, including almost all the EU Member States. Belgium will host a high-level regional meeting on this issue at the end of October 2007. In December there will be a third global conference in Vienna, following up the Oslo and Lima meetings.

1. What initiatives has the Council taken to follow up Parliament's previous resolutions supporting the Oslo process, in particular the resolution of 16 November 2006 on the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological and Toxin Weapons (BTWC), cluster bombs and conventional arms (P6\_TA(2006)0493), in which it asks the EU to support the initiative 'to establish a comprehensive and effective convention to ban cluster munitions worldwide'?
2. Is the Council planning to participate in both the Brussels and the Vienna meetings and what contributions will the Council make at these meetings? Will the Council prepare a Common Position as the basis for these contributions?
3. What initiatives has the Council taken to ensure that the various Member States follow the example of Austria and Belgium in banning cluster bombs and, at international level, to ensure that those countries which have not yet signed the Oslo Declaration now do so, as requested by Parliament in its resolution on human rights in the world 2006 and the EU's policy on the matter, adopted on 26 April 2007?

Tabled: 18.07.2007

Forwarded: 19.07.2007

Deadline for reply: 09.08.2007