

ORAL QUESTION WITH DEBATE O-0052/07
pursuant to Rule 108 of the Rules of Procedure
by Josep Borrell Fontelles, on behalf of the Committee on Development
to the Commission

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 globally ban cluster munitions, and the follow-up Lima conference on cluster munitions which took place on 24-25 May 2007, around 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 Commission taken to follow up Parliament's previous resolutions supporting the Oslo process, in particular the resolution on the Convention on the Prohibition of Biological and Toxin Weapons (BTWC), cluster bombs and conventional arms of 16 November 2006, asking the EU to support the initiative 'to establish a comprehensive and effective convention to ban cluster munitions worldwide'?
2. Is the Commission planning to participate in both the Brussels and Vienna meetings or to contribute in a different manner to the negotiations, and in what way?
3. What initiatives has the Commission taken to encourage EU Member States to adopt national measures banning cluster bombs, and at international level to encourage all states which have not yet done so to sign the Oslo Declaration? What initiatives is the Commission taking to support the implementation of existing commitments within the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and specifically the Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War?
4. What programmes and projects does the Commission support or plan to support in third countries as regards assistance to communities and individuals affected by unexploded cluster munitions, the clearance of contaminated areas, risk education and destruction of stockpiles of prohibited cluster munitions?
5. Will the Commission consider holding an international conference on the role of the EU in tackling post-conflict socio-economic, humanitarian and developmental consequences of explosive remnants of war in the context of recent international initiatives?

Tabled: 29.08.2007

Forwarded: 31.08.2007

Deadline for reply: 07.09.2007