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B5-0116/2003 }
B5-0117/2003 }
B5-0126/2003 }
B5-0129/2003 }
B5-0131/2003 } RC1

JOINT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 42(5) of the Rules of Procedure by

- Antonios Trakatellis, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group
- Jannis Sakellariou, on behalf of the PSE Group
- Johan Van Hecke and Bob van den Bos, on behalf of the ELDR Group
- Nelly Maes, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group
- Luisa Morgantini, Pernille Frahm and Ilda Figueiredo, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group

replacing the motions by the following groups:

- PSE (B5-0116/2003),
- ELDR (B5-0117/2003),
- GUE/NGL (B5-0126/2003),
- Verts/ALE (B5-0129/2003),
- PPE-DE (B5-0131/2003),

on the harmful effects of unexploded ordnance (landmines and cluster submunitions) and depleted uranium ammunition

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European Parliament resolution on the harmful effects of unexploded ordnance (landmines and cluster submunitions) and depleted uranium ammunition

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its previous resolution on cluster submunitions and depleted uranium ammunition,
- A. reaffirming the need to establish moratoriums on these types of ammunition pending a total ban,
- B. having regard to the work of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Explosive Remnants of War and Anti-Vehicle Mines, which has been discussing and will begin to negotiate in 2003 on weapons and weapons systems, including cluster submunitions that produce unexploded ordnance,
- C. having regard to the excellent progress that the Commission has made in the area of mine clearance support,
- D. having regard to the ongoing use of anti-personnel landmines and anti-vehicle landmines in many major armed conflicts; whereas landmines are mainly used in conflicts in which both state and non-state armed groups are involved,
- E. recognising that most EU Member States have signed the Ottawa Treaty to globally ban anti-personnel landmines, and hence do not use these types of weaponry any longer; recognising that NATO has de facto banned the use of anti-personnel mines,
- F. whereas cluster submunitions have been and are currently widely used in armed conflicts,
- G. having regard to the use of depleted uranium ammunition in past military interventions,
- H. whereas NATO has not banned these types of weapons,
- I. whereas - whilst acknowledging that international law does not refer specifically to the issue of depleted uranium at present - credible efforts are needed to ensure that any use of such weapons is not in violation of the Additional Protocol I to the Convention on Conventional Weapons,
- J. whereas current international law does not cover compensation for possible harmful effects from users of such kinds of weapons and weapons systems,
- K. whereas, furthermore, states, including EU Member States, are willing to aid in the effort to address this shortfall by providing assistance, in the form of economic assistance, land clearance, social assistance and medical support, to those affected by such weapons,

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- L. whereas EU citizens, civilian and military members of peacekeeping and peace enforcement operations, could have been and could continue to become victims of such weapons, in humanitarian civilian and military missions and potentially under future ESDP missions,
- M. whereas the targeting of civilians in any conflict with any weapon is contrary to international humanitarian law, and the use of these types of weapons might be considered a war crime under the competence of the ICC,
- N. whereas for the EU, in developing its ESDP and deploying armed forces, it is vital to uphold international humanitarian law and arms control to the highest standards,
1. Calls on the Council and the EU Member States to review and monitor the design and development of weapons, ensuring that these are in line with the appropriate international law to meet the highest international standards against technical misuse, misdeployment, mistargeting and malfunction;
 2. Calls on the Council and the EU Member States, as well as on NATO and its non-EU Member States, to make a public declaration and guarantee that they will not use weapons or weapons systems that have been banned or are deemed to be illegal under international law in present or future armed conflicts;
 3. Calls on the Council and the EU Member States, as well as the applicant states, to fully support the Group of Governmental Experts aiming at negotiating a new or amended protocol, within the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons, to tackle the issue of explosive remnants of war, in particular so as to achieve benchmarks for speedy assistance to affected victims;
 4. Calls on the Council to fully support the Commission's programmes in the area of mine clearance; emphasises that these programmes should be extended to the broader area of explosive remnants of war; invites the Commission to make a statement on how this could be done;
 5. Invites the Commission to issue a communication on this matter outlining in detail how it is strengthening its efforts in favour of projects assisting the victims of anti-personnel mines or unexploded ordnance (primary care or social and economic reintegration projects) and by what means it is encouraging the third countries concerned to set up a national policy towards these victims;

6. Invites the Commission to issue a communication on its assessment of priorities and best practice which might be usefully incorporated into any international legal efforts to address the issue of unexploded ordnance, in order to support the efforts in Geneva with the States Parties to the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons;
7. Asks the Commission, in the light of the results of these scientific investigations on the use of DU ammunition, to monitor developments in relation to the possible serious, widespread contamination of the environment, as well as an acute or appreciable long-term hazard to human health, and to keep it regularly informed;
8. Supports the stepping up of the EU contribution to the fight against anti-personnel landmines, and asks the Commission to play a prominent role in fostering cooperation and coordination with the Member States, the United Nations and the US and to support effectively coordination between the main programmes of activities and the partners on the ground;
9. Calls on the Council and the EU Member States to take all necessary steps to promote the universalisation of the 1997 Ottawa Treaty and the 1980 Convention on Conventional Weapons;
10. Calls for a ban of the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of anti-personnel landmines by non-state armed groups; calls on the States Parties to the Ottawa Treaty to incorporate this issue in their forthcoming meeting in Bangkok and to support the efforts of specialist NGOs and international humanitarian organisations in engaging non-state armed groups in the ban on landmines;
11. Calls on the Council to support independent and thorough investigations into the possible harmful effects of the use of depleted uranium ammunition (and other types of uranium warheads) in battlefield operations such as in the Balkans, Afghanistan and other regions; stresses that such investigations should concern the effects on the soldiers in affected areas as well as the effects on civilians and their land; calls for the results of these investigations to be presented to Parliament;
12. Requests the EU Member States - in order to play their leadership role in full - to immediately implement a moratorium on the further use of cluster ammunition and depleted uranium ammunition (and other uranium warheads), pending the conclusions of a comprehensive study of the requirements of international humanitarian law;
13. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission, the EU Member States, all non-EU NATO Member States, the UN Secretary-General and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.