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MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

to wind up the debate on statements by the Council and Commission

pursuant to Rule 103(2) of the Rules of Procedure

by Ana Maria Gomes and Jan Marinus Wiersma

on behalf of the PSE Group

on a world without land-mines

European Parliament resolution on a world without land-mines

The European Parliament,

- having regard to and confirming its previous resolutions on landmines, cluster munitions and unexploded ordnance,
 - having regard to the EU Mine Action Strategy 2005-2007,
 - having regard to the report of the ad hoc delegation of the European Parliament to the First Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Nairobi, 28 November - 3 December 2004),
 - having regard to its determination to contribute to a truly mine-free world as expressed in its hearing of 16 June 2005,
 - having regard to Rule 103(2) of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. reaffirming its determination to put an end to the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel mines, which kill and maim thousands of people every year, mostly innocent and defenceless civilians and especially children, obstruct economic development and reconstruction, hinder the repatriation of refugees and internally displaced persons, generally violate the most basic human rights, and have other severe consequences for years after they are placed,
- B. recalling that anti-personnel landmines, by reason of their social, economic, environmental and humanitarian consequences, constitute a grave threat to long-term human security wherever they are placed,
- C. whereas to date the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (also known as the 'Mine Ban Treaty') has been ratified or acceded to by 144 states and signed by an additional eight, but concerned that 50 countries remain outside this treaty, some of them EU Member States, and further concerned regarding the one EU Member State that has neither signed, ratified nor acceded to the treaty,
- D. whereas compliance with the Convention remains strong, with 69 States Parties having completed the destruction of their stocks, with more than 38.3 million mines destroyed, while another 13 are in process of so doing; whereas all States Parties which have reached their stockpile destruction deadlines have declared successful completion,
- E. whereas in spite of this progress, it is estimated that between 180 and 185 million anti-personnel mines are still stockpiled, and that landmines still litter 83 countries around the world, including 54 States Parties,

- F. whereas there are still between 15 000 and 20 000 new victims every year, most of them being civilians, and many of them children, adding to the many hundreds of thousands of mine survivors around the world in need of care and assistance for the rest of their lives; whereas in the vast majority of mine-affected countries the assistance available to rehabilitate and reintegrate landmine survivors back into society remains desperately inadequate,
- G. whereas the Convention requires States Parties to ensure the destruction of all anti-personnel mines no later than ten years after its entry into force, and requires those in a position to do so to provide assistance towards this goal,
- H. recognising, therefore, the importance of the First Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention, held from 29 November to 3 December 2004 in Nairobi, Kenya (the 'Nairobi Summit on a Mine-Free World'), and the Action Plan adopted by the States Parties at that Summit,
- I. whereas today most conflicts are internal or civil wars, and landmines may be laid in this context by both state armed forces and non-state armed groups,
- J. recognising the efforts and successes obtained in engaging armed Non-State Actors to ban the use of landmines, while reiterating that this does not imply support for or recognition of the legitimacy of armed non-state actors or their activities,
- K. whereas the international community has a moral duty to seek commitments from all parties involved in conflicts, both states and armed Non-State Actors, to cease the use of anti-personnel mines in order to achieve a truly universal ban on these inhuman weapons; whereas the international community, especially the main producers, exporters and users of the past, has a moral responsibility to provide assistance and resources for mine action, above and beyond the legal obligations derived from the Ottawa Convention,
- L. recognising the widespread use of anti-vehicle mines in at least 56 countries, causing long-standing humanitarian problems in countries such as Afghanistan, Angola, Eritrea, Ethiopia and Sudan,
- M. reaffirming that all types of anti-handling devices are targeting humanitarian clearance personnel and are also representing a threat to civilian populations,
 - 1. Expresses its grave concern at the harmful and widespread impact of landmines and unexploded ordnance on civilian populations, especially children;
 - 2. Calls on all states that have not signed the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction to accede to it without delay and urges all states that have signed but not ratified the Convention to do so without delay;

3. Invites all mine-affected states that have not ratified the Convention or acceded to it to take all necessary measures to alleviate the suffering of civilians living in mine-affected areas by undertaking clearance and providing adequate assistance to survivors, and to provide, on a voluntary basis, information to make global mine action efforts more effective (the transparency reports referred to in Article 7 of the Convention);
4. Calls on the US to reconsider its February 2004 announcement that it will not join the Convention and that it will retain its 8.8 million 'smart' (self-destructing) anti-personnel mines for use anywhere in the world indefinitely, as well as its 1.2 million 'dumb' (non-self-destructing) anti-personnel mines to be used in Korea until 2010; further calls on the US not to resume the production of, trade in or use of any munitions that would meet the definition of anti-personnel mines under the Convention, including the so-called Spider system; also calls on the US to immediately cease delivery of anti-personnel mines to EU Member States and other friendly countries; calls on China to reconsider its production of landmines and to destroy its colossal stockpile, estimated at over 100 million antipersonnel landmines, most of them lacking self-destructing, self-deactivating or detection mechanisms; calls on Russia to cease using anti-personnel mines in its conflict in Chechnya and remove any stockpiles still at the disposal of its forces in Georgia and Tajikistan;
5. Calls on the three remaining Member States of the enlarged EU which have not yet ratified or acceded to the 1997 Mine Ban Treaty to do so without further delay;
6. Calls on all States Parties to fully and thoroughly implement the Nairobi Action Plan, to achieve the Convention's humanitarian and disarmament aims in the period 2005-2009, and to carry out the actions of this Plan:
 - a) to accelerate mine clearance and ensure that mine-affected States Parties will be able to meet their 10-year deadlines for clearing all anti-personnel mines, which will begin to expire in 2009;
 - b) to implement the right to immediate, adequate and appropriate assistance of mine survivors and their families;
 - c) to provide comprehensive annual transparency reports as required in the Convention, and to include in these information on: victim assistance matters; the intended purposes and actual use of mines under Article 3; steps taken to ensure that claymore mines can only be used in command-detonated mode; and foreign stockpiles of anti-personnel mines;
 - d) to reach a common understanding among all States Parties on the implementation of Articles 1, 2 and 3 of the Convention, as these relate to joint operations, anti-vehicle mines with sensitive fuses, and mines retained for training and development, and in particular to insist that any mine which is likely to be detonated by the presence, proximity or touch of a person is an anti-personnel mine, prohibited by the Convention; underlines specifically that this includes tripwires, breakwires, tilt-rods, low-pressure fuses, anti-handling devices and similar fuses;
 - e) to develop and adopt national implementation measures to prevent and suppress activities prohibited by the Convention, including penal sanctions as required by its Article 9;

7. Calls on the EU to mainstream adherence to, and compliance with, the Ottawa Convention into development programmes with third countries in cases where anti-personnel landmines stand in the way of economic and social development; calls on Member States to create specific incentives for countries where anti-personnel landmines do not directly affect economic and social development to adhere to, and comply with, the Ottawa Convention;
8. Calls on the Member States that are States Parties to the Ottawa Convention to push for the broadest possible interpretation of the concept of 'anti-personnel landmine' to include all those landmines that can be set off unintentionally by a person, independently of the technical category ('anti-vehicle', 'anti-personnel landmine') they fall under;
9. Reiterates its view that a 'mine-free world' can be realised if all types of mines are banned and not only specific types of landmines; underlines that this includes all types of anti-vehicle mines; calls on the EU and its Member States to take a leadership position in reaching this goal;
10. Calls on the EU to strengthen European leadership in global disarmament, with a view to replicating the success story of the Ottawa Convention in other areas, namely in the domain of anti-vehicle mines, cluster ammunition and small arms and light weapons;
11. Calls on all mine-affected States Parties to ensure that mine action and victim assistance are included in their national priorities, and where relevant in their national, sub-national and sectoral development plans and programmes;
12. Calls on States Parties and the Commission to strengthen their assistance to States Parties in need, particularly to improve and increase the assistance provided to mine survivors and their families, to ensure that the first mine clearance deadlines in 2009 are met and destroy stockpiles which may represent a particular challenge because of the types or quantities of mines to be destroyed and the locations/conditions of the stockpiles, and also to make such assistance available in areas under the control of Non-State Actors;
13. Calls on all NSAs (armed Non-State Actors) to sign the 'Deed of Commitment for Adherence to a Total Ban on Anti-Personnel Landmines and for Cooperation in Mine Action' under the Geneva Call; urges the Council and Commission to continue to support their efforts to engage NSAs in this domain;
14. Calls for increased resources to be made available for humanitarian demining, stockpile destruction, mine risk education and the care, rehabilitation and social and economic reintegration of mine victims in areas under the control of NSAs;
15. Calls on all states in a position to do so to support politically and diplomatically the work of specialised NGOs engaging NSAs, such as Geneva Call and the national campaigns of the ICBL;

16. Calls on states affected by an internal conflict to facilitate the work done by such NGOs; calls especially on the Government of Colombia also to facilitate humanitarian demining programs and related activities in the context of local or regional humanitarian agreements, for the sake of the civilian population; considers that not to facilitate a verification process of humanitarian demining is a violation of the humanitarian spirit of the Ottawa Convention;
17. Welcomes the Community's pledge of EUR 140 million for the period 2005-2007 for its new mine action strategy; urges the EU to ensure that these resources are confirmed by the yearly budgetary decisions and that sufficient resources are made available after 2007;
18. Calls on State Parties to ensure transparency in the implementation of the Treaty, especially by involving national parliaments and the general public;
19. Calls on States Parties, particular those which are EU members, to ensure that their funding of mine clearance will be partially allocated to the development of a national mine clearance capacity and that demining assistance continues until all known or suspected mined areas are cleared;
20. Recommends, moreover, that the EU consider providing financial support to states not party to the Convention in case of humanitarian emergencies; reiterates that such support must be contingent on the proven political will of the recipient country to move towards accession;
21. Calls on the EU and its Member States to introduce appropriate legislation to prohibit financial institutions under their jurisdiction or control from investing directly or indirectly in companies involved in anti-personnel mine production, stockpiling or transfers, and other related controversial weapon systems such as cluster submunitions;
22. Calls on the EU and its Member States to ensure compliance with the legislation prohibiting investment in companies involved in anti-personnel mines, by creating effective mechanisms of control and punishment; this implies an obligation on financial institutions to offer full transparency in the companies they invest in;

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23. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council, the Governments of the Member States, the UN Secretary-General, the OSCE Secretary-General, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, the Governments and Parliaments of the United States, the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, and the President-Designate of the First Review Conference of States Parties to the Convention.