Anti-personnel mines in the developing countries

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The committee adopted the report by Mr Tony CUNNINGHAM (PSE, UK) on anti-personnel mines, a murderous obstacle to development. In doing so, it called for all Member States to draft and adopt national legislation containing a total ban on the production, stockpiling, transfer, sale, importation, exportation and use of anti-personnel mines, all anti-personnel mine components and blinding weapons as quickly as possible. It also called for existing stocks everywhere to be destroyed. The committee welcomed the fact that the Council had adopted a joint action on anti-personnel mines but deplored the fact that the proposed moratorium was limited to mines which were "non-detectable" and "non-self-destructing". It also deplored the fact that this joint action did not include production and storage and only contributed a maximum of ECU 3 million to international mine-clearance efforts. The report called on the European Union and its Member States to step up mine-clearance programmes. The European Commission was called on to prepare rehabilitation and mine-clearance projects and to set up a special European Union fund to finance mine-clearing and rehabilitation efforts. Finally, the Committee on Development and Cooperation called for sufficient resources to be allocated to research into safer and more economically viable mine-clearance techniques. The Council was urged to launch a joint action in which it undertook to ban the production and marketing of anti-personnel mines throughout the European Union.