Anti-personnel mines

1995/2076(INI) - 29/06/1995 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

In its resolution on land mines and blinding laser weapons, the European Parliament voted in favour of a total ban on anti-personnel mines and their components which included the production, stockpiling, transfer, sale, exportation and use of these weapons. Parliament welcomed the fact that the Council had adopted a joint action in this area together, more importantly, with a moratorium seeking to introduce a complete ban on exports of non-detectable and non-self-destructing anti-personnel mines to countries which had not ratified the convention on the use of certain conventional weapons and its protocol on land mines. However, Parliament was most disappointed that the moratorium was so limited in scope as to prevent any real progress towards a total ban on anti-personnel mines. Parliament therefore called on the Council to extend the scope of its joint action (or to adopt additional joint actions) tightening the provisions on anti-personnel mines, strengthening regulations on anti-vehicle mines and strengthening the convention on certain conventional weapons as a whole, mainly by addressing the problem of blinding weapons. More specifically: - as regards the convention itself, which is due for revision in the autumn of 1995, Parliament called for it to be extended in scope; - as regards protocol II on land mines, the European Parliament called in particular for an assurance that all mines should be detectable and self-destructing and should not contain any anti-detection device or device which prevents them from being handled. At the same time, the European Parliament called for the Council to include a Union-wide ban on the production of non-detectable anti-personnel and anti-vehicle mines, a ban on the production of such mines by Community companies and a ban on the stockpiling, transfer, sale or use of such mines in its joint action. The Member States were also called on to ban the production of mines and to order research into mine production or improvements to be stopped. Finally, the European Parliament was most disappointed that both Luxembourg and Portugal, together with a sizable number of African or Asian countries particularly affected by this problem, had yet to sign the convention on conventional weapons.