Anti-personnel mines in the developing countries

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In its resolution on anti-personnel mines in developing countries, the European Parliament called on the Member States to draft and adopt national legislation categorically banning the production, stockpiling, transfer, sale, importation, exportation and use of anti-personnel land mines and/or their components and blinding weapons without delay. It called for all existing stocks to be destroyed and called on the Member States to have technological research into mine production and improvements suspended. It welcomed the recent adoption (10 May 1995) by the Council of a joint action in this area but was disappointed that the proposed moratorium only related to "non-detectable" and "non-self-destructing" mines and did not cover the production or storage of mines. Parliament also reiterated that the international community and the Union had a duty to take preventive action against mines and to clear mines and called on the Commission and the Council to take more meaningful action here (especially a commitment in a joint action under Article J.3 of the Treaty on European Union to banning the production and marketing of mines in the Community). While welcoming the Union's decision to increase its contribution to international mine-clearing efforts by putting ECU 3 million at the disposal of the UN mine-clearance benevolent fund, the European Parliament was disappointed that this contribution was so limited, which was why it was calling for a separate budgetary line to fund mine-clearance operations and for additional resources to be granted to NGOs carrying out work in mined areas. Similarly, it called for resources to be allocated to research into safer mine detection techniques (mainly by a joint research centre) and for the Union and its Member States to step up mine-clearance programmes and use their influence within the UNO to develop these programmes. Finally, it suggested that the WEO could play a role in this area.