Resolution on cluster munitions

2004/2596(RSP) - 28/10/2004 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted a resolution by a clear majority, calling for an immediate moratorium on the use, stockpiling, production, transfer or export of cluster munitions until an international agreement has been negotiated on the regulation, restriction or banning of these weapons. Parliament urged all states not party to Protocol V to the UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons on Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and the Ottawa Convention on Anti-Personnel Landmines to sign and ratify both and to abide by their spirit in the interim period. It urges the Presidency of the Council and the EU Member States to support a new protocol to the United Nations Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons that tackles all humanitarian problems associated with the use of cluster munitions.

Parliament went on to call on all those who use cluster munitions to accept responsibility for their clearance and in particular to keep accurate records of where such munitions have been used in order to help clearance efforts following conflict. It underlined the responsibility of a state in control of territory to provide warnings, and take measures to protect the civilian population, including through the education of children, and to provide special information on assisting victims of ERW.

Parliament also called on the Commission to increase financial assistance to communities and individuals affected by unexploded cluster munitions through all available instruments.