


Procedure file

Basic information		
INI - Own-initiative procedure	1995/2076(INI)	Procedure completed
Anti-personnel mines		
Subject 6.10.03 Armaments control, non-proliferation nuclear weapons		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	AFET Foreign Affairs, Security and Defense Policy	ELDR BERTENS Jan Willem	02/12/1994

Key events			
23/05/1995	Vote in committee		Summary
23/05/1995	Committee report tabled for plenary	A4-0119/1995	
12/06/1995	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
28/06/1995	Debate in Parliament		
29/06/1995	Decision by Parliament	T4-0332/1995	Summary
29/06/1995	End of procedure in Parliament		
17/07/1995	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	1995/2076(INI)
Procedure type	INI - Own-initiative procedure
Procedure subtype	Initiative
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 54
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	AFET/4/06641

Documentation gateway					
Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading		A4-0119/1995 OJ C 166 03.07.1995, p. 0003	23/05/1995	EP	

Anti-personnel mines

Adopting the report by Mr Jan Willems Bertens, the Committee on Foreign Affairs 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 such weapons. The report stressed that 5 to 10 million mines were produced annually throughout the world, killing or maiming 26,000 people a year, mainly civilians. The Committee on Foreign Affairs welcomed the adoption by the Council of a joint action on anti-personnel mines but felt that the provisions lacked teeth and would not be conducive to any real progress towards banning anti-personnel mines. Consequently, it called on the Council to amend and extend the scope of its joint action (or to adopt additional joint actions) in order to: - tighten the provisions relating to anti-personnel mines; - strengthen regulations on anti-vehicle mines; - address the problem of blinding laser weapons; - strengthen the United Nations convention on the use of certain conventional weapons as a whole (this convention had proven to be impractical as regards the problem of land mines and is due to be revised in the autumn of 1995). According to the report, the European Union has an important role to play in the run up to the forthcoming revision of the United Nations Convention on three counts. It needs to: - introduce a ban on the production of anti-personnel mines throughout the Union; - present a common position to the conference with a view to obtaining maximum restrictions on the use of land mines; - use its relations with third countries (especially African and Asian countries) to exert pressure on them to join the revised convention.?

Anti-personnel mines

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.?