



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

EC ASSISTANCE TO MINE ACTIONS IN 2005-2006 AND BEYOND

Standing Committee Meeting Geneva, 11 May

Co-Chairs, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Would you please allow me to give a short overview on of the European Community assistance to mine actions in 2005-2006 and the way forward.

The European Commission keeps high its commitment of assisting countries that suffer from the presence of landmines and unexploded ordnance in their efforts to restore the conditions necessary for the security of their populations as well as their economic and social development.

Through its Mine Action Strategy "The European Roadmap towards a Zero Victim Target" and the Multi-annual Indicative Programming 2005-2007, the EC has been providing assistance to 39 mine affected countries throughout the world.

In 2005 the overall EC contribution to the fight against landmines amounted to more than 62 million euros. This figure represents

almost 1/3 of the total EU, that is European Community and EU Member States', contribution to mine action, the latter amounting to about 170 million euros in 2005 alone.

Among the main beneficiaries of EC assistance in 2005:

- ✓ Afghanistan,
- ✓ Angola
- ✓ Bosnia-Herzegovina
- ✓ Colombia
- ✓ *Peru*
- ✓ *Sudan*
- ✓ Ukraine
- ✓ Belarus

As regards the EC contribution to mine actions in 2006, we do not have the overall exact figures yet but we can say that funds committed in 2006 do not differ much from those released in favour for mine actions in 2005, that is to say around 62 million euros.

Out of these 62 million euros for 2006, almost 17 million euros and a half are provided by the thematic APL budget line, while the rest is funded through the Community geographic, humanitarian and development programmes.

In 2006 the APL budget line addresses 11 geographic priorities. These are:

- ✓ Afghanistan
- ✓ Bangladesh
- ✓ Bosnia-Herzegovina
- ✓ Burundi
- ✓ Cambodia
- ✓ Colombia
- ✓ DRC
- ✓ Georgia

- ✓ Sudan
- ✓ Yemen

With the next budget cycle 2007-13, hence starting from next year, new Instruments for external assistance have been created. These instruments are: the Stability, the Pre-accession, the Neighbourhood and the Development instruments. They will replace and repeal almost all the numerous geographic and thematic budget lines, including the devoted APL budget line.

The EC mine actions will thus be funded directly through the channels of the new financial and legal instruments.

The European Commission is currently engaged in a multilayered and complex process of integration of the security dimension into development policies.

In this framework we are currently working in order to integrate mine actions (including ERW) as a development issue within the peace, security and development nexus.

Thank you very much for your attention.