



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
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to the International Organizations in Geneva

Head of Delegation
Ambassador Carlo TROJAN

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**Statement of the European Commission of the
European Union at 4th Meeting of the States
Parties to the Mine Ban Treaty**

**Head of Delegation
Ambassador Carlo TROJAN**

Mr Chairman,

Allow me first to congratulate you with your election as President of this important Conference.

As a continuation of the statement of the Presidency of the European Union, I would like to convey a message from the Commissioner for External Relations of the European Commission, Mr Chris Patten.

The European Commission reiterates its commitment to fight the threat of Landmines and to continue its vigorous efforts in collaboration with the mine action community and international partners.

The EU has assumed a leading role in this struggle. The Brochures on EU mine Action (which are available at the back of the room) indicates the yearly EU contribution to Mine Action. In 2001, EU Member States and the European Commission together, contributed a new record figure of more than 142 Million Euro to this cause. But this only shows the most material part of our work.

Much more is done behind the scene, in terms of co-ordination, dialogue, awareness raising, and partnerships, which should enable funds to be disbursed in the most beneficial way.

The Ottawa Convention process has created a massive coalition of States and peoples against the terror of Landmines.

This coalition needs constant political support. It is our intention to work with our partners to prevent donor fatigue, to reinforce the impact of interventions through more co-ordination and efficiency and to strengthen the sense of ownership of solutions to the Landmines problem by mine affected countries.

These objectives will be pursued by the European Commission through a Multiannual APL (Anti-Personnel Landmines) Strategy for 2002-2004, which will make our assistance predictable, transparent and at the same time adaptable. Its success, ultimately, will have to be measured in terms of its contribution to the goal set by the international Community in the Ottawa Convention.

Beyond this, removing sources of conflict and reasons for planting mines, reconciling populations which lived through armed conflicts, satisfying their basic needs, reconstructing their social and economic fabric, will remain the objectives of the European Commission's action.

Thank you Mr Chairman.