

The EU and cluster munitions; another example of incoherence

A striking example of incoherence concerns the EU policies on cluster munitions. The effect of this weapon on human lives and the destruction of basic services are well known. Although some EU Member States seem to back a new instrument banning the use of certain types of cluster munitions, only a few Member States have taken steps to ban the use of or trade in cluster munitions.

At the same time, the European Commission and Member States spend millions on the clearance of unexploded ordnance. In 2005 the world saw the devastating effects of the use of cluster bombs in Lebanon on lives and basic services. In 2006 the EU spent approximately 525 million euros on development aid to Lebanon, including funds used for the removal of unexploded ordnance¹. There is, therefore, a serious incoherence between the funding aimed at mitigating the effects of cluster munitions and the lack of political will to completely prohibit the trade and use of cluster munitions.

Source: European Union Directorate General Communication, International Donor Conference focuses on Lebanon: January 2007 (Date of Access: 1 May 2007)
