

FORM FOR TABLING PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

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To the: COUNCIL
 COMMISSION

ORAL QUESTIONS	WRITTEN QUESTIONS
Oral Question with debate (Rule 108) <input type="checkbox"/> Question Time (Rule 109) <input type="checkbox"/>	Written Question (Rule 110) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priority Written Question (Rule 110 (4)) <input type="checkbox"/>

AUTHOR(S): Caroline Lucas and Els de Groen

SUBJECT: (please specify) Israel's use of (Depleted) Uranium warheads in Lebanon

TEXT:

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is investigating allegations that the Israeli air force may have used not just "classical", but also ultramodern and experimental uranium-based weapons during this summer's war in Lebanon. These weapons have been developed to cause extremely powerful hot shrapnel blasts within a relatively small radius.

Twenty UN experts, working with Lebanese environmentalists, have spent two weeks assessing various samples found at centres of fierce recent fighting, in particular in the South Lebanese villages of Khiam and At Tiri. The findings of these investigations are due to be published in December. The Israeli Defence Forces are denying the allegations. Experts warn that particles from the explosions were long-lived in the environment and could be inhaled into the lungs, with 'significant' health effects on civilians.

1) Is the Council aware of these allegations and of the UNEP investigations? Will they receive the findings of the report at the earliest possible date? What contacts have they built up with both UNEP and the Israeli authorities to address the matter and to make sure that Israel will take responsibility for cleaning up the environment, in the event that the outcome of UNEP's investigation is positive? What steps have they taken to convince the Israeli government to categorically end the use of this type of weaponry in any possible future warfare in the Gaza Strip and elsewhere?

2) What measures is the Council taking to ensure that EU citizens and other humanitarian workers in that region will not be afflicted by radiation in the course of their work? What measures have been taken to minimise any medical risks of this nature?

Signature(s): Date: 07-11-2006