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Conclusions on the depleted uranium issue

The conclusions of The First International Conference of the Environmental Recovery of Yugoslavia (ENRY, 2001) - the Session on Depleted Uranium are:

- As available relevant data must be measured, quantified and assessed, the methodology and metrology of this work must be standardised thus requiring Quality Assurance systems to be used.
- Only scientific and not political approaches to data acquisition and interpretation should be considered, as ultimately the potentially exposed population needs to be objectively informed of the results obtained from a scientific study of the problem.
- The critical groups of potentially exposed people should be identified.
- An assessment of the present and potential body burdens of both DU and natural uranium for general populations living in or near DU target areas is of importance;
- Based on the study of representative volunteers the uptake of DU by the general population in DU target areas should be evaluated.
- The investigation of present and potential health effects, physical and psychological, in the exposed population must be very carefully executed by employing both well-validated and appropriate newly proposed scientific approaches.
- International co-operation in this field is essential in order to develop and apply solutions and remedies to the problems arising from the use of DU ammunition in Yugoslavia.

It is recommended that the main activities in the future should consist of:

- The identification and cleaning up of locations contaminated with DU.
- The storage and ultimate safe disposal of recovered DU and materials contaminated by DU.
- The development of long-term monitoring systems, of both the population and their dietary intakes, in affected areas;
- Investigating the possibility of forming an independent international scientific commission, with members in relevant disciplines from both Yugoslavia and abroad, which would work in cooperation with the Yugoslav authorities.