

European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

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14 April 1980

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## Oral Questions

**Pursuant to Rule 47a of the Rules of Procedure**

**for QUESTION TIME**

**on 14 and 16 April 1980**



1. Question by Mr DANKERT (H-70/80)

Subject : Exceeding of the 1979 budget

Is it true that the Commission has exceeded the appropriations available for the Guarantee section of the EAGGF during the 1979 financial year by over 200 million EUA? If so, on what legal basis were commitments made beyond the appropriations available? When did it become apparent that appropriations were going to be exceeded? Why did the Commission only inform one part of the Budgetary Authority and not alert both parts immediately and what administrative, financial and legal measures does the Commission propose to regularise the situation relating to the 1979 budget?

2. Question by Mr SEAL (H-464/79)

Subject: Labelling of clothing imports

In view of the increase in the number of origin marking frauds and the unilateral action of the French government in introducing its own origin marking regulation will the Commission open immediate negotiations with the AEIH and other interested bodies with a view to a Community regulation requiring all clothing to be clearly marked with its country of origin and establishing machinery to ensure effective enforcement?

3. Question by Mrs CHOURAQUI (H-488/79)

Subject: The common agricultural policy vis-à-vis Spain

Would the Commission not agree that the common agricultural policy has proved to be a signal European achievement and that its application has made it possible to forge close links with many Mediterranean countries, which cannot be jeopardized by unrealistic and costly concessions to Spain - particularly as regards citrus fruit - during the negotiations on Spanish accession to the Community?

4. Question by Mr ROSSI (H-509/79)

Subject: Data processing in the Community

The Commission recently arranged a meeting of representatives of the main electronics industries in the Community; does it now intend to develop major programmes for efficient and pragmatic implementation by these

industries? For example, does the Commission not consider that the necessary industrial cooperation could be secured with a view to setting up a 'telematics' network for the acquisition, transmission and processing of data required for the management of the common agricultural policy?

5. Question by Mr IPPOLITO (H-515/79)

Subject: Aids to prospection in the energy sector

In view of the present serious crisis concerning supplies of raw materials and energy, is the Commission studying any system of direct aids or assisted loans which would give industrial concerns in the Member States practical support whilst they were prospecting for deposits of fossil fuels, fissile materials or raw materials?

6. Question by Mrs PRUVOT (H-519/79)

Subject: Social situation of workers in the cultural sector

In its resolution of 18 January 1979 embodying an opinion on the communication from the Commission concerning 'Community action in the cultural sector' the European Parliament stated that there was a need for information on the social situation of persons working in the cultural sector and requested the Commission to instruct its Statistical Office to undertake the necessary work. Has the Commission simply ignored this request or has it taken steps to obtain figures through its Statistical Office on the employment, remuneration and social security (level of benefits) of cultural workers, so that we may analyze them in the same way as figures on workers in industry and agriculture?

7. Question by Mr COLLINS (H-60/80)<sup>1</sup>

Subject : Effect of Community on Prices

Will the Commission say whether at any time they have calculated the effect of changes in Community Policy on prices to European Consumers and whether in future, they will undertake to do so and to make the figures public?

<sup>1</sup> Former oral question without debate (0-110/79) converted into a question for Question Time

8. Question by Mr ROGERS (H-65/79)<sup>1</sup>

Subject: Guatamala

Will the Commission in conducting trade relations with Guatamala bear in mind the appalling record of the present regime in power there in the matter of human rights, including imprisonment without trial for political offences and numerous political murders of trade unionists and others, as documented by Amnesty International?

9. Question by Mr LINDE (H-69/80)<sup>2</sup>

Subject: Human rights in the USSR

In view of the continuing arrests of members of the group inside the USSR monitoring the political situation following the Helsinki and Belgrade agreements, will the Commission obtain a full report from Amnesty International on this deteriorating situation?

10. Question by Mr BERKHOUWER (H-385/79)

Subject: Postal system in the Community

Would the Commission be willing to take the initiative in establishing a postal system under which all residents in the Community would be able to use for normal postal communication a common stamp of the same value valid throughout the Community in addition to their national stamps?

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<sup>1</sup> Former oral question without debate (0-142/79) converted into a question for Question Time

<sup>2</sup> Former oral question without debate (0-145/79 converted into a question for Question Time

11. Question by Mr VAN AERSSSEN (H-465/79)

Subject: Differing subscription rates for newspapers in the European Community

Newspapers and magazines are important and detailed sources of news, purveyors of culture and provide a linguistic bridge in the European Community. Owing to the different rates charged by the national postal authorities the cost to the subscriber of individual newspapers varies widely depending on the country to which they are delivered.

Does the Commission intend to submit proposals and take measures to remove these cultural barriers in the European Community.

12. Question by Mr BALFE (H-476/79)

Subject: Social Fund

Does the Commission consider that the present rules concerning the operation of the Social Fund prevent applications by, and grants to, projects fulfilling the purposes for which the Fund exists, but intended to help people outside areas designated for regional development by national Governments?

13. Question by Mr DALSASS (H-477/79)

Subject: Brenner tunnel to expedite rail traffic

In view of the need to make fundamental improvements to transalpine rail traffic does the Commission not think that the capacity at which the Brenner railway needs to operate can only be achieved and greater energy savings ensured by the construction of a long base tunnel and has the Commission considered the possibility of providing finance for this major European construction project, and if so, how much?

14. Question by Mr PROVAN (H-504/79)

Subject: Subsidization of fishing fleets

There is a large amount of fish being dumped at below intervention prices. Will the Commission give details of all aids given by national Governments to their own fishing fleets including tax concessions and fuel subsidies?

15. Question by Mr RUFFOLO (H-524/79)

Subject. Bagnoli steel plant

Can the Commission indicate its progress in considering the plans for restructuring the Bagnoli steel plant and what commitments does the Commission intend to make with regard to this programme?

16. Question by Mrs EWING (H-4/80)

Subject: Parliamentary access to the Commission's data bank systems

Following the Commission's reply to written question no 690/79<sup>1</sup> from Mr Gillot relating to access to the CIRCE automated data system, in view of the fact that a security device has been built into the computer programme of the Commission's data bank system which prevents unauthorised access to certain categories of confidential information, and given the large expense of creating a parallel system for the Parliament's own use, how can the Commission justify withholding direct Parliamentary access to all CIRCE files - notably the PRC and ASMODEE sub-files which comprise basically open information?

17. Question by Mr O'CONNELL (H-2/80)

Subject: Employment of physically handicapped people

In view of its interest in promoting the employment of physically handicapped people would the Commission agree to ascertain the number of handicapped people employed in each community institution with a view to maximising the employment of the disabled through a policy of positive discrimination including the use of minimum quotas where such an instrument would prove useful?

<sup>1</sup> OJ, 24.1.1980, p. 10

18. Question by Miss HOOPER (H-3/80)

Subject: International sugar agreement

What steps are being taken by the Commission to ensure that the Community may join the international sugar agreement at the earliest possible stage?

19. Question by Mr ADAM (H-6/80)

Subject: Consumer protection

Considering that consumers have differing levels of income can the Commission show that lower income groups are receiving more attention than higher income groups in the field of consumer protection and can the Commission show that at least an equivalent value for money is obtained for a cheaper article as with a more expensive article?

20. Question by Mr Christopher JACKSON (H-10/80)

Subject: Tax on fuel leaving Italy

It is reported that Italy has imposed a new fuel tax on vehicles leaving the country with full, or partially full, fuel tanks. The tax was introduced on January 1st without advance warning and a limit of 50 litres (about 11 gallons) has been set as the maximum amount of fuel that commercial vehicles can take out of the country. If the vehicle's tank has more than this, the driver must pay a tax of 1 000 lire (55p) for each litre over the amount. Is such action in accordance with the Treaty of Rome and as this new tax clearly hinders intra-Community traffic what action does the Commission propose to take?

21. Question by Sir Peter VANNECK (H-11/80)

Subject: Relations between the Community and the oil producing states

Will the Commission communicate to the Parliament's Committee for Energy and Research a written record of the meeting with representatives of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, 30 June 1979, and if not, why not?



22. Question by Mr PONCELET (H-14/80)

Subject : Compliance by the Member States with the recommendation dealing with the serious difficulties confronting the synthetic-fibre tights (panty-hose) industries

In view of the steady increase in imports of synthetic-fibre tights into the Community and the serious difficulties confronting our industries, the Commission issued a recommendation in 1976 asking Member States to discourage any expansion in production capacity and the practice of having finishing carried out in third countries. To what extent have the Member States followed this recommendation?

23. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-16/80)

Subject : Developments on the sugar market

What conclusions does the Commission draw from the developments on the world sugar market? Does it intend to revise its restrictive proposals on the organization of the internal market?

24. Question by Mr WELSH (H-17/80)

Subject: Research into machine translation systems

Is the Commission satisfied that money being invested in research into machine translation systems is being spent in the best possible way?

25. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-18/80)

Subject: Food aid for Kampuchea

Will the Commission report the latest progress in the distribution of the Community's food aid to the people of Kampuchea?

26. Question by Mr NEWTON-DUNN (H-19/80)

Subject: Fishing

Would the Commission confirm that there have been numerous breaches of the zero TACs which were agreed on behalf of all member states by the Council on 29th October 1979, viz. German fishing for Cod in Area XIV (Greenland), Irish fishing for Herring in VII g-k (Celtic Sea), French fishing for Herring in Area IV (North Sea), and what action does the Commission intend to take to ensure that all member states fulfill their obligations in this respect?

27. Question by Mr GRIFFITHS (H-23/80)<sup>1</sup>

Subject: European Development Fund

Is the Commission aware of the criteria, if any, on which the figures for job creation forecasts (table 11 of the 4th Annual Report of the European Regional Development Fund) are based and what value does the Commission place on them when assessing the impact of regional assistance?

28. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-24/80)

Subject : Revival of the European telematics sector

What proposals does the Commission intend to make with a view to reviving the possibility of a concerted European strategy in the telematics sector?

29. Question by Mrs BARBARELLA (H-31/80)

Subject: Renewal of the agricultural advisory committees

As the agricultural advisory committees are shortly to be renewed can the Commission state what criteria it proposes to adopt for the selection of representatives from farmers' associations, cooperatives and the trade unions? Does it feel that these criteria are sufficient to ensure adequate representation of all those involved in agriculture?

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<sup>1</sup> Will not be called if item 32 is kept on the agenda

30. Question by Mrs VAN DEN HEUVEL (H-32/80)

Subject: Age limits for the recruitment of staff

How can the Commission reconcile its position that age limits do not conflict with the principle of equal treatment for both sexes (see Answer to Written Question No. 742/79)<sup>1</sup> with the fact that women often embark on a career at a much later age?

31. Question by Mr STEWART-CLARK (H-34/80)

Subject: Canada

Will the Commission inform the European Parliament of the state of negotiations regarding fishing between the Community and Canada, bearing in mind that it is a matter of public knowledge that the existing agreement has not been satisfactory to either party?

32. Question by Mr PRANCHERE (H-35/80)

Subject : Introduction of a premium for suckling cows

The introduction of a premium for suckling cows has been under discussion for some time. Does the Commission intend to introduce such a premium and can it indicate the likely consequences on future production of beef and veal of which the Community still produces insufficient quantities?

33. Question by Mr COMBE (H-36/80)

Subject : Intervention butter for craft and small and medium-sized undertakings in the bakery and confectionery business

A whole series of Commission regulations ranging from No. 532/69<sup>2</sup> to No. 262/79<sup>3</sup> while introducing successive amendments have always adhered to the policy of allowing processing firms to obtain denatured or other types of surplus butter at reduced prices provided they use more than five tonnes of butter per month. These rules

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 316, 17.12.1979, p. 48

<sup>2</sup> OJ No. L 71, 22.3.1969,

<sup>3</sup> OJ No. L 41, 6.2.1979, p. 1

have thus discriminated between large-scale users and small businesses, which are allowed only denatured butter, a product that does not meet their requirements. In the light of these facts, when will the Commission grant craft and small and medium-sized undertakings in the bakery and confectionery business who are prepared to form buyers' cooperatives or syndicates the same terms as industrial producers?

34. Question by Mr PININFARINA (H-37/80)

Subject: Product liability

Further to Mr Sieglerschmidt's question to the Council and the debate on this matter during question time at the February part-session and with particular reference to the request made by Mr Hord at that time, can the Commission give an assurance that any new version of the directive on product liability will be referred to Parliament for consideration prior to a decision by the Council?

35. Question by Mrs DESMOND (H-38/80)

Subject: Abolition of headage grants in disadvantaged areas in Munster

Is the Commission aware of the hardship caused in certain areas in Munster, by the Irish Government's decision to abolish headage grants for part-time farmers whose off-farm income exceeds £ 3 550 p.a., but whose holdings are not viable, and of the detrimental effects this will have on the development of agriculture in those areas?

36. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-42/80)

Subject: Finance for agriculture and industry

Does the Commission believe that the variations in the form of intervention by governments of Member States in the availability of finance for agriculture and industry and in the interest rate structure to be in the best interests of competition within the Community?

37. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-43/80)

Subject: Data-processing equipment

Could the Commission indicate whether the restrictions on the use of ICL equipment, as announced after the meeting of the C.D.I.C. (Steering Committee on Data-processing at the Commission) of 18 January, are purely temporary and, if so, when they will be lifted. Would it be possible to return to the previous situation including, for example, the use of the Mac system on Tuesdays and Thursdays, without having to purchase additional equipment?

38. Question by Mrs CASTLE (H-44/80)

Subject: Massacre of seals

Following the resolution of the European Parliament of 11 October 1978 in which the European Parliament expressed its concern about the massacre of seals and requested that the Commission of the European Communities intervene, would the Commission please state what action it has taken to ask governments to publish the scientific evidence used to authorize the slaughter of seals and would the Commission please further state what measures it intends to take to ensure that member States ban the importation of seal products into the EEC?

39. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-48/80)

Subject: Invitations to tender for public contracts

To ask the Commission whether they are satisfied with the implementation by Member States of the Community policy requiring publication of invitations to tender for public contract? Since this is binding upon Member States, by what authority is the Commission exempt from this requirement?

40. Question by Mr O'DONNELL (H-50/80)

Subject : Local communities

Has the Commission any proposals to enable local communities to play a more active role in the economic development and social progress of their own localities and regions?

41. Question by Mr MAHER (H-51/80)

Subject : Subsidisation of shipbuilding

Will the Commission clarify the Rules and Regulations applicable to subsidisation of shipbuilding within the Community, either through Community Funds or National Government Funds, either by way of direct grant to the shipbuilder or shipowner or through preferential interest aided funds.

42. Question by Lord DOURO (H-53/80)

Subject : Whaling

Is the Commission prepared to consider a partial or complete ban on the import of whale products into the Community?

43. Question by Miss QUIN (H-55/80)

Subject : Testing levels of fungicide in citrus fruits

Will the Commission, as a matter of urgency, re-examine its directive on preservatives with a view to introducing effective methods for testing the levels of fungicide 2-hydroxybiphenyl in citrus fruits?

44. Question by Mr FORTH (H-64/80)

Subject : Dumping of tyres

What action does the Commission propose to take on the dumping in the Community of tyres manufactured in Eastern Europe?

45. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-72/80)

Subject: Attitude of Euroforum to the question of equality of treatment at work

Issue No. 5/80 of Euroforum contains two cartoons (pages 8 and 9) exhibiting an attitude to the problem of equal treatment of women at work that is at once banal, superficial, facetious, old-fashioned and, indeed, inconsistent with the position adopted by the Commission. While accepting that Euroforum, as is made clear, does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Community Institutions, I consider it urgent and essential for information provided on women to be both scrupulously fair and accurate. Would the Commission not agree, therefore, that - starting with its own information services - efforts should be made to eliminate fatuous and outmoded attitudes to women, which may be considered as a form of discrimination against women?

46. Question by Mr VON WOGAU (H-73/80)

Subject: Bulk of documentation necessary in applying for EAGGF aid

Is the Commission aware that a wine-grower requesting EAGGF aid under Regulation 355/77 must submit an application of some 70 pages in length, amounting practically to a mini-thesis?

Does the Commission agree that in this way small and medium-sized holdings are discouraged from benefitting from such aid, and that the purpose of such measures is therefore not fulfilled? Is the Commission prepared to take the necessary steps to reduce the bulk of such documentation to reasonable proportions?

47. Question by Lord O'HAGAN (H-74/80)

Subject : Fish and Chips

It is widely rumoured that the Commission of the E.E.C. plans to make it impossible for the British to continue to buy Fish and Chips, with the traditional vinegar, wrapped in newspapers. Is this true and if so why? Will the Commission now withdraw all such proposals?

48. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-76/80)

Subject : Proposed Directive on free movement and right of establishment of pharmacists

What progress has been made in the drafting of the proposed directive on free movement and the right of establishment for pharmacists?

49. Question by Mr CLINTON (H-77/80)

Subject : Carpet Industry

Is the Commission aware of the damage being done to the carpet industry and the unemployment being created in Europe by the enormous amount of American carpets being allowed into the European market?

50. Question by Mr LIGIOS (H-80/80)

Subject: Imports of pasta products into France

Is the Commission aware that there is considerable opposition in France to Italian pasta products, the composition of which is determined and expressed on the basis of national methods? What steps does it intend to take to prevent the present controversy from resulting in the introduction by a Member State of quantitative restrictions on imports of pasta products that are of a traditionally high quality, produced in accordance with the relevant regulations and marketed in Italy?

51. Question by Mrs SCRIVENER (H-81/80)

Subject: Community pact for young people seeking their first job

Further to Parliament's request, formulated in specific terms during the initial stages of the 1980 budgetary procedure in an amendment adopted to Article 520 of the draft budget, does the Commission not consider it vitally necessary to provide a Community response to the serious problem of unemployment among young people by carrying out as soon as possible a preparatory study on the creation under the Social Fund of a Community pact for young people seeking their first job based on models already existing in certain Member States (subsidies and tax exemptions for undertakings employing young people)?



52. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-82/80)

Subject: Lengthy customs formalities

Lorry drivers have recently blocked the frontier crossing points between Denmark and the Federal Republic of Germany and between the Federal Republic and Austria (at Kiefersfelden) according to reports, in protest against lengthy and unnecessary customs formalities. What changes in the customs formalities has this action prompted, and will the Commission be able to obviate the need for such action in the future by negotiating more flexible customs procedures with the national authorities?

53. Question by Mrs CLWYD (H-88/80)

Subject : Youth unemployment throughout the European Community

In view of the grave problem of youth unemployment throughout the European Community and the expressed purpose of the European Social Fund to help alleviate that problem, through its aids to promote the employment and training of young people, will the Commission confirm that it is satisfied that the list of priority regions for the application of Article 4 Aids to Young People (the Youth Map) is an accurate indicator of need in respect of youth unemployment and an effective basis for the allocation of aid ?



54. Question by Mrs CHOURAQUI (H-416/79)

Subject: Reform of the international monetary system

Insofar as European exchange mechanisms are still closely linked to the fluctuations of the dollar does the Council plan to take the initiative in proposing a reform of the international monetary system, bearing in mind that the main currencies involved in the world monetary system could now be guaranteed by substantially revalued gold holdings.

55. Question by Mr ROGERS (H-66/80)<sup>1</sup>

Subject: Conscientious objectors

Is the Council aware that the position of conscientious objectors to military service in the Member States of the European Community is by no means uniformly fair and not always in accordance with the standards adopted by Amnesty International, which are partly based on resolutions adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe? Will the Council take a united and positive stand on this subject?

56. Question by Mr LINDE (H-68/80)<sup>2</sup>

Subject: Right of individuals to appeal to the Commission of Human Rights

Will the Council accept the proposals of Amnesty International and other organizations that individuals in all Member States of the European Community should have the right to appeal to the Commission of Human Rights under the European Convention on this subject?

57. Question by Mr MEHAGY (H-461/79)<sup>3</sup>

Subject: Role and powers of the European Parliament

Has the Council discussed the role of the European Parliament and in particular the question of its future powers since the direct elections in June 1979?

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<sup>1</sup> Former oral question with debate (0-143/79) converted into a question for Question Time

<sup>2</sup> Former oral question with debate (0-145/79) converted into a question for Question Time

<sup>3</sup> Will not be called if item 39 is kept on the agenda

58. Question by Mr FERGUSSON (H-27/80)

Subject: Rational use of national budgets

Which major spending ministries in the Member States of the Community does the Council consider most appropriate for study and rationalisation with a view to contriving greater savings and efficiency as a whole in the Community?

59. Question by Mr TYRRELL (H-530/79)

Subject: Financial regulations in the field of transport infrastructure

What are the reasons for delay in making the financial regulation to transport infrastructure referred to in a letter from the Council to the Parliament dated 22 February 1976 and when is it anticipated such a regulation will be made?

60. Question by Mr O'CONNELL (H-1/80)

Subject: Council delays on consumer directives

At the public hearings of the committee on the environment, public health, and consumer protection, the commissioner with responsibility for consumer affairs referred to the lack of 'the necessary drive, the required conviction, and the political will' of the Council with regard to the outstanding legislation under the preliminary consumer action programme.

Would the Council give Parliament a time-table for the implementation of the outstanding measures, including door-to-door sales, misleading advertising, product liability and consumer credit?

61. Question by Mr COLLINS (H-5/80)

Subject: Product liability

In view of the large number of representations being made across Europe by companies and organisations which will be affected by the proposal on product liability, will the Council say what progress has been made on this matter and within what time-scale they expect results of their deliberations to be made known?

62. Question by Mr MUNTINGH (H-7/80)

Subject: Support to common projects for hydrocarbon exploration

In view of the many resolutions adopted by the European Parliament calling for measures to enable the Community to reduce its dependence on imported oil, will the Council state the reasons why it has been unable to adopt the Commission's proposal on 29 November 1974 for a Regulation concerning support to common projects for hydrocarbon exploration?

63. Question by Mr BETTIZA (H-13/80)

Subject : Development of relations between the European  
Community and the Socialist Federal Republic  
of Yugoslavia

What does the Council consider to be the main priorities of the new cooperation agreement between the EEC and Yugoslavia? In particular, does the Council consider that this agreement will make it possible to reduce the Yugoslav trade deficit and that the financial and technical cooperation envisaged is appropriate to the situation of this Mediterranean country which is still in a state of development?

64. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-15/80)

Subject : Development of the European Monetary System

How does the Council envisage the medium-term development of the European Monetary System?

65. Question by Mrs EWING (H-22/80)

Subject: Uniform electoral procedure

What plans have the Council made for consideration of the proposal for a uniform electoral procedure, which is in course of preparation by the European Parliament, so that it can be adopted by the Council and the National Parliaments well in advance of the 1984 direct election?

66. Question by Mrs CRESSON (H-28/80)

Subject: Amendment of Chapter VI of the Euratom Treaty

What action does the Council intend to take on the French proposals for amendment of Chapter VI of the Euratom Treaty relating to the common policy for the supply of ores, source materials and special fissile materials?

67. Question by Mrs KROUWEL-VLAM (H-33/80)

Subject : Conditions governing recruitment of staff to the European Communities

In the light of its Answer to Written Question No. 743/79<sup>1</sup> in which it noted that by definition, an age limit reduces the chances of beginning a career later in life and the fact that this particularly applies to women, does the Council not agree that such limits are in breach of the provisions of Directive 76/207/EEC<sup>2</sup> concerning equal treatment for men and women, whereas the Community in particular should be setting a good example in its own institutions?

68. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-39/80)

Subject: Restrictions on the application of Article 235 of the EEC Treaty

Is it true that, at the request of some Member States, the Committee of Permanent Representatives is currently investigating the possibility of restricting the application of Article 235 of the EEC Treaty with a view to impeding, inter alia, new initiatives to cope with the increasing difficulties caused by the economic crisis?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 49, 27.2.1980, p. 15

<sup>2</sup> OJ No. L 39, 14.2.1976, p. 40

69. Question by Mr BALFE (H-57/80)

Subject : Community budget

Whether in any of the months of January, February or March they have exceeded the provisional twelfth allocated to them under any of the chapter headings of the Council budget and is the Council willing to authorise the provision of an additional twelfth for any of those sub-headings of the Parliament budget which are overspent?

70. Question by Mr DE PASQUALE (H-79/80)

Subject: Agreements on fishing in the Mediterranean

Can the Council state whether negotiations are currently taking place between the EEC and Tunisia, Libya and Malta with a view to concluding agreements on fishing in the Mediterranean. If so, what progress has been made? Certain members and officials of the Commission (Cheysson, Davignon, Villain) have made frequent trips to Tunisia. Have they managed to bring the negotiation of an agreement with that country nearer to completion?

It has been reported that during the last meeting of the Council of Fisheries Ministers (on 9 January 1980) Commissioner Gundelach commented on the progress of these negotiations. Can the Council provide Parliament with information on this matter?

71. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-85/80)

Subject : Delays in supplies of rice seed for Cambodia

Will the Council act to ensure that shipments of rice seed, apparently delayed by red tape at the Thai border, arrive in Cambodia by the beginning of its rice planting season, so that the Cambodians' efforts towards self-sufficiency in food in 1981 will not be totally destroyed?

72. Question by Mrs CLWYD (H-90/80)

Subject : Youth unemployment throughout the European Community

In view of the grave problem of youth unemployment throughout the European Community and the expressed purpose of the European Social Fund to help alleviate that problem. through its (Article 4) aids to promote the employment and training of young people, will the Council confirm that it is satisfied that the list of priority regions for the application of Article 4 Aids to Young People (the Youth Map) is an accurate indicator of need in respect of youth unemployment and an effective basis for the allocation of aid ?



73. Question by Mr ROGERS (H-67/80)<sup>1</sup>

Subject: The death penalty

Are the Foreign Ministers aware of the campaign of Amnesty International in the United Nations and elsewhere for the abolition of the death penalty, and will they take steps to coordinate their policies on this matter with the aim of speaking with a single voice in the United Nations and other international bodies against this practice?

74. Question by Mrs EWING (H-9/80)

Subject: Political refugees from Chile and the Argentine

Bearing in mind the aid given by the European Community to political refugees, will the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation, coordinate their policies towards Latin-American political refugees to ensure that a humane and mutually acceptable policy for the granting of visas for these refugees is established in all member countries?

75. Question by Mr FERGUSSON (H-12/80)

Subject: Afghanistan

Following the reply to my previous question on this subject, H-429/79<sup>2</sup>, will the President-in-Office inform Parliament of the progress of his efforts to bring about a solution to the Afghan crisis in close cooperation with all governments sharing concern for peace and security in the region, in particular the progress of consultations with the Conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers and with the Arab League?

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<sup>1</sup> Former oral question with debate (0-144/79) converted into a question for Question Time

<sup>2</sup> Debates, Report of proceedings, 13.2.1980, p. 230

76. Question by Mr D'ORMESSON (H-20/80)

Subject: Protection of sea-links between Europe and the oil and raw materials producing countries

In the light of the Soviet Union's strategic build-up in the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf, have the Foreign Ministers taken steps to coordinate efforts by the Member States with a view to the best possible protection of sea links between Europe and the oil and raw materials producing countries?

77. Question by Mr SCHWARTZENBERG (H-25/80)

Subject : Relations between the European Community and Israel

Are the Ministers aware of the anomalous situation in which certain Community countries grant quasi-diplomatic privileges or full recognition to the PLO, which nevertheless repeatedly affirms, in its charter and through its President, that its objective is 'to destroy Israel', a country whose existence and security are of the greatest importance to the people of the Community, represented by the European Parliament?

78. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-26/80)

Subject: Use of chemical warfare by the Soviet Union in Afghanistan

In the light of press and television reports of the use by the Soviet Union of chemical warfare in quelling the Afghan people, and in view of the fact that the Soviet Union and Afghanistan ratified the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and on their destruction, will the foreign ministers authorise the President-in-Office to lodge a complaint with the Security Council of the United Nations in order that an investigation might be initiated?

79. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-40/80)

Subject: Amendment of UN Resolution No. 242

How do the Foreign Ministers view the possible amendment of UN Resolution No. 242 to incorporate recognition of the rights of the Palestinian people?

80. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-45/80)

Subject: Elections in Namibia

Is it the policy of the foreign ministers to ensure that elections are held in Namibia as soon as possible which will include a secret ballot and an absence of intimidation?

81. Question by Mr MICHEL (H-52/80)

Subject : Fresh wave of arrests in Chile

In view of the profound concern felt at the developments following the mass arrests carried out by the Chilean police during the celebration of the International Day of the Woman on 8 March in Santiago, and the continual silencing of the trade unions in Chile, what steps do the Foreign Ministers of the nine Member States meeting in political cooperation intend to take with a view to helping those people, numbering about one hundred, who have been imprisoned, exiled or expelled from their country or who are threatened with such arbitrary measures, against which there is no means of legal redress?

82. Question by Mr PROVAN (H-54/80)

Subject : Greece's Application for Entry to the Community

Further to question (H-503/79)<sup>1</sup> and the answer that the Presidency was not in a position to reply, does the President in office not consider that the imprisonment of Greek nationals on conscientious grounds should be taken into consideration on Greece's entry into the Community and that they be asked to state their position on these matters prior to their entry on the 1st January, 1981?

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<sup>1</sup> Debates of the EP, 12.3.1980 (Provisional Edition)

83. Question by Mr O'CONNELL (H-63/80)

Subject : The assassination of Archbishop Romero of El Salvador

The tragic assassination of Archbishop Romero in El Salvador lends new urgency to the call for a community initiative to investigate the continuing violation of human rights in that country. The Foreign Ministers have stated in the past that the situation in regard to human rights in El Salvador is 'of concern to the ministers and developments there are being followed closely'. What measures have the Foreign Ministers taken to express the horror felt by the entire European Community at the murder of Archbishop Romero and will the Foreign Ministers now agree to launch an investigation into the violation of human rights in El Salvador as well as to examine the advisability of Member States retaining diplomatic and trading links with that country?

84. Question by Mr TYRRELL (H-75/80)

Subject : Penal Convention

What are the main provisions of the Penal Convention, on which the Ministers of Justice are now near agreement, and what opportunity do they propose to give to the Parliament and citizens of its Member States to discuss the issues involved before the agreement is signed?

85. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-78/80)

Subject: Cyprus

In the opinion of the President of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation, should the European Community not attempt to bring about a resumption of negotiations on Cyprus in view of its current relations with Greece and Turkey?