

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

16 June 1980

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Oral Questions

Pursuant to Rule 47a of the Rules of Procedure

**for QUESTION TIME
on 16 and 18 June 1980**

1. Question by Lord DOURO (H-95/80)

Subject: VAT on bloodstock

Officials from the Commission have now visited the Republic of Ireland, the United Kingdom and France to investigate the anomalies concerning VAT charged on bloodstock and supplies of training services. Will the Commission now disclose whether or not they believe that the Republic of Ireland or France are in any way contravening the Sixth VAT.

2. Question by Mr BOYES (H-101/80)

Subject: Impact of building of Channel Tunnel on already deprived regions of the U.K.

Has the Commission carried out any studies into the range of effects - social, economic and industrial - that the building of a Channel Tunnel would have upon already deprived regions of the U.K. such as the North East of England and South Wales; is the Commission able to provide information on these effects and are any studies into these effects to be undertaken by the Commission in future?

3. Question by Mr FERGUSSON (H-111/80)

Subject: Outline action programme on arms procurement

Could the Commission now give a firm assurance to the Parliament that an outline action programme on arms procurement will be presented to the Council and published before the end of the mandate of the present Commission, as a first step towards the fulfilment of its promise given to Parliament in June 1978?

4. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-125/80)

Subject: Community expenditure in Scotland

In what ways will Scotland benefit from the envisaged extra Community expenditure in the United Kingdom?

5. Question by Mr COLLA (H-132/80)

Subject: Dual exchange rates in Belgium

Is the Commission aware of the fact that certain European officials systematically and profitably speculate on the dual exchange rate in Belgium, and does it not consider that even if this remains within legal limits it is ethically unacceptable and that appropriate measures should be taken?

6. Question by Mrs VIEHOFF (H-143/80)

Subject: Fire in the Cogema reprocessing plant in the Hague

Is the Commission aware of the fire which broke out on 15 April 1980 in the Cogema reprocessing plant in the La Hague, with the accompanying risk of escaping radioactive material, and of the possible implications for the processing of radioactive material stored in various nuclear reactors in the Community?

7. Question by Mrs EWING (H-187/80) (x)

Subject : Closure of Wiggins Teape papermill

Wiggins Teape, a subsidiary of the multinational American Tobacco, announced at the end of April the closure of its pulpmill at Fort William, Inverness with the loss of some 450 jobs, pursuant to the cancellation of plans, drawn up by Wiggins Teape and consolidated Bathurst to build a £ 100 million newsprint plant on the site of the pulpmill, owing to high UK timber prices and insufficiency of the British government's investment grant.

(x) former oral question without debate (0-20/80),
converted into a question for Question Time

How do UK timber prices compare with Community and Scandinavian prices? Has the Commission received any request from the British government for aid under Article 4 (1) (a) of Regulation 724/75,¹ establishing the ERDF and is the Commission aware of any existing aid agreement between Wiggins Teape and the British government (Wiggins Teape has received nearly £ 9 million in grants and loans since 1963 for its pulpmill and papermill at Fort William) and has that agreement been breached by Wiggins Teape?

8. Question by Mr SCHINZEL (H-210/80) (x)

Subject: Establishment of intercompany training centres in border areas

Most of the border areas in the European Community are structurally weak with a high rate of unemployment and a lack of training facilities.

1. What does the Commission think of setting up intercompany training centres in border areas, providing young people from neighbouring countries with a uniform level of vocational training?
2. What steps have been taken by the Commission to secure recognition for professional diplomas in the Community Member States, and what results have been obtained?
3. Is the Commission willing to support the pilot scheme to establish an intercompany training centre in the border area of three countries, Belgium, the Netherlands, and the Federal Republic of Germany, (the Rhein-Maas region) with diplomas recognized throughout the European Communities?

(x) Former oral question without debate (O-3/80) converted into a question for Question Time

¹ O.J. No. 73, 21.3.1975, pl

9. Question by Mr BERKHOUWER (H-49/80)

Subject : Pollution of the Rhine and objections to the
establishment of a salt industry in Alsace

Has the Commission received any recent information or reports from France to the effect that the establishment of a salt industry in Alsace, which would put an end to the need to discharge salt waste from the potash mines into the Rhine, is being opposed by a cartel of salt-producing undertakings established in France and elsewhere?

10. Question by Mr COMBE (H-71/80)

Subject: Maximum relaxation of border formalities for Community
citizens

In view of the fact that all Community citizens travelling from one Member State to another are subject to lengthy searching and rigorous passport or I.D. checks at the border, and are required to complete a registration form, what, in the Commission's opinion, are the factors which stand in the way of a full relaxation of border formalities for all Community citizens, and what measures does it intend to take to make it easier for them to cross Community borders?

11. Question by Mrs CLWYD (H-89/80)

Subject : Political discrimination on the recruitment of Greeks

Would the Commission agree that it is important for it to recruit staff of diverse opinions and backgrounds ?

Would it confirm or deny a rumour that in its recruitment of officials prior to the accession of Greece to the Community it is discriminating against those who are critical on the EEC or who hold anti-EEC views ?

12. Question by Mr SEEFELD (H-226/80) (x)

Subject: Customs formalities for goods vehicles

What conclusions does the Commission draw from the blockade of the Padborg border crossing from 9 to 12 March and of the Kufstein border crossing from 23 to 26 March 1980?

Does the Commission regard as justified the long-distance drivers' demand that the European Community should provide for greater freedom of movement for goods traffic by speeding up the completion of customs formalities?

Is the Commission in a position to ensure that customs offices observe the same, and where necessary longer, opening hours, at least at the Community's internal frontiers?

Is the Commission in a position to ensure that vehicles which come under the Community transit system or are covered by TIR arrangements are dealt with more quickly than other vehicles at all customs offices in the Community?

Does the Commission agree that the bureaucratic obstacles at Community frontiers are bringing the Community into disrepute?

Will the Commission begin negotiations with the Member States to solve the problems relating to transport and finance which together cause unnecessary complications for an important transport sector and those employed in it?

Is the Commission prepared to take immediate action in the future in similar cases?

(x) Former oral question with debate (O-11/80) converted into a question for Question Time.

13. Question by Mr NEWTON-DUNN (H-98/80)

Subject: Compulsory Fire Precaution standards in hotels

Are the Commission satisfied that compulsory fire precaution standards in hotels are fully satisfactory in all nine Member States?

14. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-116/80)

Subject: Analysis of trends in world hunger

Does the Commission have statistical indicators for swift analysis of trends in world hunger which allow it to consider rapid intervention either through information or action?

15. Question by Mr DE GOEDE (H-118/80)

Subject: Government of Surinam

Is it true that the new government of Surinam intends to suspend a number of the constitutional powers of the Surinamese parliament and if so, what conclusions does the Commission intend to draw as a result?

16. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-128/80)

Subject: Community aid for study on drainage of the Shannon

What Community aid is available, either within the framework of the EAGGF, or otherwise, for carrying out a study on the drainage of the Shannon, in view of the considerable expense and lengthy period of time involved in drawing up such a study, and of its potential towards the development of the Irish economy?

17. Question by Mr SEAL (H-141/80)

Subject : Textile agreements with Turkey

What is the Commission's attitude to the present textile quota agreements with Turkey and will the Commission deny recent reports that it is considering giving preferential treatment to Turkish Textiles as part of a package aimed at preventing a Turkish application for membership of the Community?

18. Question by Mr PROVAN (H-149/80)

Subject: Levy on manioc imports

With the likelihood in the near future of a net surplus in the Community cereal market, will the Commission consider introducing a levy on manioc imports thus saving the European Agricultural Guidance and Grant Fund paying heavily for any imbalance that might arise in the market?

19. Question by Mr LALOR (H-153/80)

Subject: Reduction of pollution caused by oil spills

Will the Commission state what progress is being made with regard to the control and reduction of pollution caused by oil spills at sea, particularly since, at a Council meeting last December, the Commission declared its intention of transmitting such proposals to the Council as soon as possible?

20. Question by Mr ANSART (H-155/80)

Subject: Restructuring of special steels

In the current restructuring of the European iron and steel industry there are particularly serious threats to the production of French special steels. In France there has already been mention of several thousand jobs being lost in this sector.

Can the Commission confirm this new blow to a category of production which is as essential to the French economy as to those of the other Member States and is it aware that the redundancies and the planned dismantling of production capacity will exacerbate the effects of the crisis in the iron and steel industry?

21. Question from Mr ALBERS (H-157/80)

Subject : Steel workers at Hoogovens Ijmuiden

Has the SEDOC system been used to meet the demand for steel workers at Hoogovens Ijmuiden in view of the number of unemployed steel workers in certain regions within the European Community?

22. Question by Mr TYRRELL (H-158/80)

Subject: Butter exports

Did the Commission, in relation to the butter for which tenders for export to Russia were considered on 29 April, propose a minimum selling price lower than the tenders received, and if so, how was the price calculated?

23. Question by Mr HORD (H-159/80)

Subject: Minimum selling prices for butter

On what basis did the Commission propose the minimum selling prices for butter on tenders on 17 and 30 April and, in so far as these differed, what accounted for the difference?

24. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-160/80)

Subject: Arab Telecommunications Satellite Project (ARABSAT)

Following the decision by ASCO, the Arab Satellite Communication Organization, in Rabat, to issue a new tender later this year for the project ARABSAT, what steps is the Commission taking, possibly in conjunction with the European Investment Bank, to ensure that Community firms compete successfully for a project that could have incalculable results for dialogue between the peoples of the Arab world and of Europe, noting the steps that US firms have taken to be removed from the Arab boycott list for the second tender?

25. Question by Mr CURRY (H-163/80)

Subject: Seeds

Gardeners and other users of seeds are particularly concerned that, with the ending of transitional measures relating to the Common Seeds Catalogue in June this year, certain horticulture seed varieties, particularly those of local importance, will no longer be commercially available.

Will the Commission therefore explain why this prohibition must come into force from 1 July this year, or alternatively indicate its willingness to propose an extension of the transition, accompanied by an examination of how such varieties may continue to be commercially available in the future?

26. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-171/80)

Subject: Forestry policy

Does the Commission intend putting forward proposals for the creation of a genuine Community forestry policy? Is it able to estimate the positive impact of such a policy on many sectors of the economy?

27. Question by Mr BUCHOU (H-173/80)

Subject: Working of the group set up to monitor developments on the cereals market

Can the Commission supply information on the working of the international monitoring group which is following the situation on the world cereals market in the wake of the embargo placed by the United States on exports to the USSR?

28. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-175/80)

Subject: Combating pollution in the Mediterranean

Is the Commission aware of any change in the high level of pollution in the Mediterranean and does it intend to propose further measures to combat pollution due to maritime shipping and also the specific problem of coastal pollution?

29. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-176/80)

Subject: Ratification of the Lomé Convention

Can the Commission say what stage ratification of the Lomé Convention has reached in each of the Member States? Will it be possible for the agreement to come into force on the intended date?

30. Question by Mrs CHOURAQUI (H-177/80)

Subject: Consultations on the reduction of annual working time

Can the Commission say what has been achieved in the consultations being held at present with the two sides of industry on the reduction of annual working time? Has progress been made and how will it be given effect at the institutional level?

31. Question by Mrs DESMOND (H-180/80)

Subject: Free Legal Aid

Will the Commission examine the systems of free legal aid existing in each of the Member States of the Community, with a view towards ensuring that all citizens of the Community have equal access to the law, which is only possible under a comprehensive, legally based system of free legal aid?

32. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-181/80)

Subject: 3rd round of talks on the Euratom/U.S. agreements

What was the outcome of this meeting held on 17 and 18 April 1980 in Washington, especially as regards the Americans' negative assessment of the results achieved by the I.N.F.C.E. and their impact on the non-proliferation policy?

33. Question by Mr ADAM (H-182/80)

Subject: Combined heat and power schemes (CHP)

Electricity generating stations rarely operate at efficiencies greater than 35% most of the remaining heat being expelled to the environment. Combined heat and power schemes accept lower returns in the form of electricity, but circulate the waste hot water for use in space heating, roughly doubling the overall efficiency of fuel use.

By what means does the Community at present support such desirable energy saving schemes and does the Commission intend to propose financial measures to encourage CHP use?

34. Question by Mr CALVEZ (H-185/80)

Subject: Community coal policy

In a recent report, the Commission gave a detailed analysis of the present situation and outlook for the coal industry in the Community.

Does the Commission not consider it a matter of urgency to propose an overall plan of action for both Community production and imports, in order to increase coal consumption, and does it not consider that the time has come to make substantial investments in compliance with Articles, 54, 55, 56 and 57 of the ECSC Treaty?

35. Question by Mr SPINELLI (H-186/80)

Subject: Non-fulfilment of customs obligations

As Italy has still failed to meet its customs obligations, in spite of judgment No. 159/78 of the Court of Justice of 25.10.1979 which stated that Article 48(a) and the interpretation generally given by the Italian authorities of Articles 40 and 56 (Testo Unico delle disposizioni legislative in materia doganale - Consolidated Text of statutory provisions on matters relating to customs - adopted by Decree No. 43 of the President of the Republic on 25.1.73) were contrary to the provisions of the Treaty of Rome and seriously detrimental to the process of economic integration in the Community:

CAN THE COMMISSION SAY

what measures and forms of control it intends to adopt to ensure that Italy meets its obligations arising from the judgment of the Court of Justice and what it intends to do to ensure that such Community measures of control are more effective in the future.

36. Question by Mr PRICE (H-188/80)

Subject : European Regional Development Fund

In view of the importance of the citizens of Europe knowing when a project in their locality receives aid from the European Regional Development Fund, will the Commission state in what ways they publicise or require the recipient of a grant to publicise the assistance being given; whether they consider that these provisions are adequate and, if not, what changes they would recommend; and whether they will settle a form of words, such as "This project is partly financed by the European Regional Development Fund" to be displayed on a notice board of a certain minimum size and painted in certain colours as a standard recognisable sign to be erected at the site of such projects?

37. Question by Mrs DIENESCH (H-190/80)

Subject: Transit of Greek goods through Yugoslavia

As Greece is not adjacent to any of the Member States of the EEC and as the agreement between the EEC and Yugoslavia does not make provision for a 'free transit procedure' for Greek goods through Yugoslavia, what proposals does the Commission intend making to ensure that there is a genuine customs union between Greece and the Nine and what stage has been reached in negotiations on the point of entry of Greek products into the Community: Italy or the Federal Republic of Germany?

38. Question by Mrs GAIOTTI DE BIASE (H-191/80)

Subject: Consequences of recent Yugoslav monetary restrictions for Italian road-haulage companies

Is the Commission aware that a recent legislative measure of the Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia has had the effect of blocking payment of transport invoices to Italian road-haulage companies, with the consequent risk of an effective monopolization of road traffic from and to Yugoslavia, and does it consider (in view of the fact that road transport in this area gives employment directly and indirectly to 2,000 people, including some who belong to the Slovene minorities in Italy, and in view of the importance given to road transport services in the cooperation agreement) that the matter raised here could be resolved within the framework of the implementation of the cooperation agreement with Yugoslavia?

39. Question by Mrs CINCIARI RODANO (H-194/80)

Subject: Implementation of Directive 77/486/EEC on the education of children of migrant workers

Can the Commission say if and in what ways it has met its obligation to keep under observation the implementation of Directive 77/486/EEC¹ and what stage implementation of this Directive has reached in the different countries of the Community; what forms of cooperation have been adopted between the host States and the States of origin for implementing the Directive and whether the Commission intends to adopt measures to step up negotiations between Member States and between the latter and non-member States; what percentage of children of migrant workers avoid compulsory school attendance and to what extent they take advantage of the teaching of their mother tongue and the culture of their country of origin; whether the Commission has become aware of differences in the treatment of children of migrants from the Member States and those from non-member States; what guarantees it can give that this Directive will be implemented by the end of 1981 as was intended?

40. Question by Mr O'CONNELL (H-195/80)

Subject: Consumer's consultative committee

The REO reports and opinions of the consumer's consultative committee are not generally available to the public and are surrounded by an aura of secrecy. Are the documents available to members of the European Parliament as of right, or are they only available at the discretion of the Commission; on what criteria is the issuing of these documents based and is the Commission willing to reconsider the restrictions it has placed on the dissemination of documents by making them available to (a) members of the European Parliament (b) the general public without restriction?

¹OJ No. L 199, 6 August 1977, page 32

41. Question by Mr Christopher JACKSON (H-196/80)

Subject: National aids relating to apples

In written question No. 1112/79 (1) the Commission was asked to publish details of national aids relating to apples. In its reply the Commission stated that it did not propose to publish these details "largely because of their length - 18,000 pages in the six Community languages". I was recently informed that the details of national aids were not to be made available for members of the European Parliament. The Commission is aware that the multiplicity of national aids has given rise to suspicion of unfairness in many countries involved. Secrecy is inappropriate and wrong in such circumstances. Will the Commission therefore undertake to make the details of these aids available for immediate inspection by members of the European Parliament?

42. Question by Mrs SALISCH (H-200/80)

Subject: Rules at the Commission on party political activities

What rules apply at the Commission with regard to:

- the release of members of the Commission for election campaigns
- the use for election campaign purposes of information obtained inside the Commission
- ensuring that the administration is able to continue working properly at times when the Commissioners have heavy election commitments?

43. Question by Mr SPENCER (H-204/80)

Subject: Swiss move towards protectionism

Would the Commission agree that the Swiss move to deconsolidate the tariff concessions on chocolate confectionary products is a dangerous and unnecessary step towards protectionism and would it further agree that this is an example of the Swiss seeking to extend the advantages which they obtained under the 1972 Trade Agreement although they themselves have failed to implement fully its' existing provisions?

(1) O.J. No. C 66, 17.3.1980, p. 40

44. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-205/80)

Subject : Customs formalities at borders

What improvements have been made by the customs authorities concerned in order to ease formalities at customs posts on the German-Danish (Padborg) and German-Austrian (Kiefersfelden) borders, as promised by Commissioner Davignon in reply to the question I put during Question Time on 14 April 1980 on slowness in dealing with customs formalities ?

45. Question by Mr JOHNSON (H-207/80)

Subject : Subsidy given Dutch horticulturists

Can the Commission indicate what Dutch horticulturists receive an effective subsidy in respect of energy costs and if so what steps are being taken to end this?

46. Question by Miss BROOKES (H-211/80)

Subject : Revenue Contributions from the European Regional Development Fund and the Social Fund

Would the Commission consider the granting of aid from the European Regional Development Fund and the Social Fund to be given to experimental projects in depressed and deprived areas on the basis of tapering the aid over a period of years?

47. Question by Mr COLLINS (H-212/80)

Subject : Agricultural products - apples

Does the Commission agree that the quality of agricultural products is as important as the quantity and are they aware that, as a result of the import to Britain, Belgium and the Netherlands of large quantities of "Golden Delicious" apples, many traditional varieties of superior quality and flavour may be in danger of being withdrawn from production. Would they therefore agree with the proposal that only Class One apples should be available for import in order to maintain the quality of product available to the consumer and what steps will they take to implement this?

48. Question by Mr HUME (H-213/80)

Subject : Employment conditions for European companies
in South Africa

Does the Commission know if there are any European companies which are infringing the code of employment conditions laid down by the European Commission for European companies operating in South Africa and if so, will the Commission name such companies and state what action the Commission is taking against such companies?

49. Question by Mr BATTERSBY (H-217/80)

Subject: The Community's relations with The People's Republic of China

Why has the Commission not yet established the working parties and advisory groups to encourage small and medium sized firms and State undertakings to associate with Chinese enterprises in fulfilling their commercial objectives, as required by Parliament in its motion for resolution, Doc. 6/79, approved 9th April 1979?

50. Question by Mrs AGNELLI (H-228/80)

Subject: Implementation of Directive 76/160/EEC concerning
the quality of bathing water

Article 13 of this Directive (OJ No. L 31, 5.2.1976) provides that the Member States shall submit a comprehensive report to the Commission on their bathing water and the most significant characteristics thereof. Can the Commission state whether the Member States and, more particularly, the Italian government, have discharged their obligations and, if so, whether the Italian government considered all the parameters listed in the annex to the Directive?

51. Question by Mr PENDERS (H-229/80)

Subject: CSCE (Madrid follow-up conference)

What practical measures have been taken with regard to the Madrid CSCE follow-up conference in November 1980?

52. Question by Mrs CHOURAQUI (H-428/79)

Subject: North-South Dialogue

What specific measures are advocated by the Council with a view to fully reactivating the North-South Dialogue? Is it adopting the proposals put forward by the Brandt Commission?

53. Question by Mrs EWING (H-47/80)

Subject: Road equivalent Tariffs for Offshore Islands in Peripheral Regions

Is the Council prepared within the framework of European common transport policy to participate actively in the introduction and contribute to the subsidization of road equivalent tariffs (RET) in sea transport to and from offshore islands in peripheral regions, e.g. the Shetland Islands and to consider these tariffs as not being in breach of the competition policy of the Community, a suggestion made in the report of Mr. Corrie (E.P. doc. 113/79), adopted by the Parliament?

54. Question by Mr SEAL (H-140/80)

Subject: Compatibility of socialist economic planning with the Treaty of Rome

Does the Council consider that the Treaty of Rome is compatible with socialist economic planning in Member States?

55. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-146/80)

Subject: Article 119 of the EEC/Greece Treaty of Accession

Does the Council consider that Article 119 of the Treaty of Accession gives Greece the legal right to grant third country status to countries associated with the EEC, particularly Maghreb and Mashreq countries, and thus to exonerate itself from its obligation to implement EEC undertakings?

56. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-150/80)

Subject: Reactivation of relations between the EEC and Turkey

As part of the reactivation of the Association with Turkey, has the Council or the EEC-Turkey Association Council discussed the adjustments which Turkey will have to make as a result of Greek entry?

If so, why has Turkey not been permitted to negotiate an adjustment protocol, which is disastrous for Turkey since this means that it will be open to Greece not to implement the EEC Association Treaty and to treat Turkey as a third country?

57. Question by Mr LALOR (H-154/80)

Subject: The need to urge the OPEC States to increase their share of international aid in the energy sector to the developing countries

In 1979 the European Community (including individual donations by each of the Member States) granted £ 348 million (503 million EUA) as international aid in the energy sector to the developing countries. In contrast to the EEC's commitment to the developing countries, OPEC's Special Fund provided a mere £ 31 million.

In view of this huge discrepancy does not the Council believe that it should request the OPEC countries to show greater commitment to the less developed countries by greatly increasing their grants?

58. Question by Mrs DE MARCH (H-156/80)

Subject: Majority vote in the Council

The Commission has noted several times that on numerous occasions the unanimity rule in Council has not been applied. In its general comments on enlargement, for instance, it states 'Majority voting in the Council has been extended pragmatically and a political code of conduct has gradually emerged which is now accepted by all Member States'.

Does the Council believe the Commission's assessment to be realistic and, if so, does it not consider that this violates the Luxembourg agreement?

59. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-162/80)

Subject: Arab Telecommunications Satellite Project (ARABSAT)

What steps is the Council taking to ensure political benefits of closer contact between Arab and European peoples through the involvement of Community firms and Community finance in the implementation of the Arab Telecommunication Satellite Project, now that the Arab Satellite Communications Organization is issuing a new tender later this year?

60. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-169/80)

Subject: Representation of Member States when decisions are taken in the Council of energy ministers

Will the Council specify any difficulties which might inhibit a listing of the presence and other status, e.g., Minister, Junior Minister, Official, present as and when each decision is reached at meetings of the Council of energy ministers (1) ?

61. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-172/80)

Subject: Working of the Rotterdam market

Does the Council intend taking action to end the price anarchy which is again becoming dangerously apparent on the Rotterdam market and could it propose the establishment of constraints on oil prices?

(1) Written Question 1680/79 refers.

62. Question by Mr BUCHOU (H-174/80)

Subject: Financing of agricultural markets

Can the Commission say what the state of progress is in financing interventions on agricultural markets for the year 1980-81 and which products seem to it to be affected by problems of financing as a result of the present budget restrictions?

What measures does it envisage taking to ensure the continuous financing for agricultural produce as a whole?

63. Question by Mr ADAM (H-183/80)

Subject: New Community energy initiative

What is the reaction of the Council to the proposals for a new Community energy initiative issued by CEPCEO (the Community Coal Producers' Organisation) on 24th March 1980 and how far are the views expressed by CEPCEO acceptable to the Council and how soon can positive measures to implement the proposals be expected?

64. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-184/80)

Subject: Directive on misleading and unfair advertising

Considering that advertising has economic power on a vast scale; exercises a political influence on the news media and therefore on the freedom of expression; has an uncontrollable effect on the way of life of modern society; is all too often misleading and unfair for consumers, does the Council not think that it should give speedy approval to the directive on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning misleading and unfair advertising, as this is particularly important in this period of high inflation when a change in consumer patterns is needed?

65. Question by Mrs GAIOTTI DE BIASE (H-192/80)

Subject: Consequences of recent Yugoslav monetary restrictions
for Italian road-haulage companies

Is the Council aware that a recent legislative measure of the Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia has had the effect of blocking payment of transport invoices to Italian road-haulage companies, with the consequent risk of an effective monopolization of road traffic from and to Yugoslavia, and does it consider (in view of the fact that road transport in this area gives employment directly and indirectly to 2,000 people, including some who belong to the Slovene minorities in Italy, and in view of the importance given to road transport services in the cooperation agreement) that the matter raised here could be resolved within the framework of the implementation of the cooperation agreement with Yugoslavia?

66. Question by Mr SIEGLERSCHMIDT (H-203/80)

Subject : Involvement of European Parliament in the appointment
of members of the Court of Justice of the European
Communities

Does the Council feel that its failure to give a pertinent answer to a question addressed to it by a Member of the European Parliament, and indeed of the Legal Affairs Committee, concerning possible involvement of Parliament in the election of judges to the Court of Justice of the European Communities, merely referring the questioner to the existing legal situation, can be reconciled with its repeated statements regarding the great importance it attaches to the activities of Parliament, particularly since it was knowledge of the existing situation which prompted the Member concerned to address the question to the Council in the first place, and is the Council now prepared to give an adequate answer to this oral question (H-138/80) ?

67. Question by Mr ENRIGHT (H-208/80)

Subject : Industrial sectors in decline, other than
Coal and Steel

What discussions have the Council held during the past twelve months on aid for industrial sectors in decline, other than coal and steel; what conclusions have they reached; and what proposals are forthcoming?

68. Question by Mr DIDO (H-215/80)

Subject : Results of Social Affairs Council

Will the Council outline the main issues dealt with successfully at the recent meeting of Social Affairs Ministers?

69. Question by Mr BATTERSBY (H-218/80)

Subject: The Community's relations with The People's Republic of China

What criteria is the Council using to judge the effectiveness of the Community's trade agreement with the People's Republic of China, signed 3rd April 1978?

70. Question by Sir STEWART-CLARK (H-223/80)

Subject: Protection of animals during international transport

Would the Council accept that directive 77/489/EEC¹ on the protection of animals during international transport needs clarification to ensure firstly that responsibility during transport is defined and that those countries exporting particularly horses to the Community are subject to the conditions of the directive?

¹ O.J. No. L 200, 8.8.1977, p. 10

QUESTIONS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE NINE MEMBER STATES OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MEETING IN POLITICAL COOPERATION

71. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-107/80)

Subject: Competence of questions

In view of the number of questions which successive Presidents in Office have ruled to be outside their competence, would the President in Office say which subjects he is competent to comment on?

72. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-161/80)

Subject: Arab Telecommunications Project (ARABSAT)

Will the foreign Ministers raise the opportunity for Community involvement, through Community firms and Community finance, in the implementation of the ARABSAT project, within the framework of the Euro-Arab dialogue?

73. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-165/80)

Subject: Consultation with the United States

Do the Foreign Ministers not consider that it is desirable and necessary to improve consultation with the United States through the appropriate channels, in view of the fact that the Foreign Ministers took a decision concerning Iran on 22 April last, manifestly unaware of the United States' decision to take military action, as a result of which the Secretary of State, Mr Vance, tendered his resignation on 21 April?

74. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-168/80)

Subject: May Day celebrations in Moscow

Is it true that the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation agreed not to attend these celebrations? Will they continue to adopt such an attitude towards all public events in the Soviet capital?

75. Question by Mrs EWING (H-189/80)

Subject: Release of imprisoned Soviet jews

In this time of international tension throughout the world, will the foreign ministers appeal to the Soviet Government to consider a simple but great humanitarian gesture, which would offer fresh hope to men of goodwill everywhere, namely of releasing the remaining Soviet jews in custody after due process of Soviet law, whose crimes were committed during the frustrating delays unavoidably associated with the granting of permission to emigrate so that they may rejoin their families, and urge this as an opportunity of a great act of clemency on the part of a great nation?

76. Question by Lady ELLES (H-209/80)

Subject : Peace in the Middle East

What steps are the Foreign Ministers taking to use the influence of the Community in support of the new Middle East peace initiative by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, guaranteeing the security of the State of Israel in exchange for a Palestinian State?

77. Question by Mr BATTERSBY (H-219/80)

Subject: The Community's relations with the People's Republic of China

What actions have the foreign ministers taken to implement the motion for resolution approved by Parliament 9th April 1979, Doc. 6/79, calling on the foreign ministers meeting in political cooperation to explore all possibilities for the realization of the proposals contained in the motion for resolution?