

European Communities

---

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1980 - 1981

---

15 September 1980

DOCUMENT 1-366/80

## Oral Questions

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

**for QUESTION TIME**

**on 15 and 17 September 1980**



---

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

---

1. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-233/80)

Subject: Transfer of football players

What action is to follow from the Commission's recent discussions with the European Football Association (UEFA) and the Player's Associations on the problems of the transfer of football players between clubs within the Community?

2. Question by Miss HOOPER (H-255/80)

Subject: Mechanism for communicating Parliament proposals to the Council

What is the mechanism for forwarding proposals and amendments passed by the Parliament to the Council, and what steps are taken to ensure that the Council receives these proposals and amendments in good time for meetings at which they are to be considered?

3. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-266/80)

Subject: Discrimination against women in competitions organized by the EEC

Can the Commission explain what criteria are used for recruiting Community officials from reserve lists for competitions, as successful female candidates are often surreptitiously discriminated against, in flagrant violation of the directive on equality?

4. Question by Mrs MARTIN (H-274/80)

Subject: Export of fresh milk to the UK market

What action does the Commission intend to take to put an end to the discriminatory measures which prevent the other eight Member States from exporting fresh milk to the UK market?

5. Question by Mr DONNEZ (H-283/80)

Subject: Restructuring of the iron and steel industry at Bagnoli

Could the Commission indicate why it financed the construction at Bagnoli of a semi-continuous wide strip mill with a capacity of three million tonnes when the Community sheet-steel market is already saturated and the plant at Denain is operating at only 40% of its capacity?

6. Question by Mr SAYN-WITTGENSTEIN-BERLEBURG (H-336/80) (x)

Subject: Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea

- having regard to the efforts made by the Commission to establish in good time and by the normal procedure the Community's position on those aspects of the international law of the sea which fall within its competence, and given their failure;
- regretting the continued inadequate progress made by the Commission in fostering coordination among the Member States of the European Community with regard to the exploitation of the sea, and likewise emphasizing that the extended national sovereign rights to the sea can be safeguarded only if Community law is fully implemented;

---

(x) Former oral question without debate (O-25/80) converted into a question for Question Time

---

- concerned at the lack of efforts by the Commission to keep under constant review the negotiations and agreements of the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, establishing international law, from the point of view of their economic implications and of all aspects having a bearing on the common policies, and to draw conclusions from them for Community policy;

I request the Commission to answer the following questions:

1. What benefit does the Commission intend to derive, for a Community resources policy, from the extension - based on agreements of the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea and already to be regarded as a law of custom in international law - of national sovereign territory to the sea?
2. What is preventing the Commission now from treating the seas of the European Community in the same way as the mainland - in particular as regards the application of the right of establishment not only to the common fisheries policy, but beyond that to the exploration and exploitation of the mineral resources of the continental shelf?

---

7. Question by Mrs EWING (H-21/80) (x)

---

Subject: Plutonium accident tests off Scottish coast

Is the Commission aware that tests are being carried out to ascertain if simulated nuclear fuel containers can be recovered from the sea-bed in case of accident in connection with proposed carriage of plutonium from Caithness to Cumbria and will the Commission give its views of the risks involved to the environment and to public safety?

---

(x) Former oral question without debate (O-103/79) converted into a question for Question Time

8. Question by Mr SEAL (H-142/80)

Subject: Problems of the textile industry resulting from enlargement

Has the Commission made any estimates of the likely effects on the United Kingdom textile industry of the entry of Portugal and Spain into the Community and what safeguard measures does the Commission intend to propose to protect the U.K. textile industry from the likely disruptive effects of textiles from these countries?

9. Question by Mr WARNER (H-320/80) (x)

Subject : 1982 U.N. Assembly on the Elderly

Has the Commission been asked to attend either as participant or as observer? If not, would it not be advisable for the Commission to approach the U.N. authorities?

10. Question by Mr TYRRELL (H-221/80)

Subject : Trade agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany  
and the Soviet Union

What is the legality of the trade agreement between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the light of the Council decision of December 1973 on the Community's competence for trade agreements between Member States and a third state ?

(x) Former oral question without debate (O-27/80) converted into a question for Question Time

11. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-237/80)  
Subject: Recycling of old paper and cardboard

Having recently proposed measures to encourage the recycling of used paper and cardboard, how does the Commission intend to ensure the implementation of these recommendations within its own services?

12. Question by Mrs LE ROUX (H-242/80)  
Subject: Free circulation of milk within the EEC

Does the Commission not consider that the United Kingdom is blocking the import of liquid milk by an unwarranted health regulation which forms an insuperable non-tarif barrier thereby infringing the principle of the free movement of goods within the EEC, and that the rules applying in France to milk for consumption provide sufficient protection for the consumer — does the Commission not consider it a matter of urgency to eliminate this irregularity, and what measures does it intend to take to this end?

13. Question by Mr van AERSEN (H-246/80)

Subject : Chair in transfrontier law studies at the Twente Technical University

Is the Commission prepared to cooperate with the Netherlands and the Federal Republic of Germany in creating a chair in transfrontier law studies at the Twente Technical University as a model for research at European level?

14. Question by Mr BOYES (H-252/80)

Subject: Employment opportunities for women within the  
Commission

Will the Commission state the grade of the highest placed woman within the Commission/Council/Parliament? Does the Commission think this is a satisfactory situation and is the Commission convinced that women are given equal opportunity with men within the framework of the present staff selection/advancement programme?

15. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-260/80)

Subject: Direct broadcasting in the Community

What steps is the Commission taking to ensure that Member States are linked into the French and German national programmes for direct broadcasting spacecraft and the L-SAT programme of the European Space Agency, so that European space interests are not divided on the world scene and in the world market?

16. Question by Mr Christopher JACKSON (H-358/80) (x)

Subject: Application of Community regulations relating  
to inspection or control of agricultural or  
fishing products

When Community regulations relating to inspection or control of agricultural or fishing products are being applied by Member States, does the Commission have a duty to check

1. that such regulations are being properly applied and
2. that the application is fair and equal as between the different Member States?

---

(x) Former oral question without debate (O-33/80) converted into a question for Question Time



17. Question Mrs LIZIN (H-284/80)

Subject: Aid to the Belgian Iron and Steel Industry

Can the Commission say how the loans granted under Article 54 to the Belgian iron and steel industry, totalling 11,000 million have been allocated to the various undertakings, and can it give the reasons for this apportionment?

18. Question by Mr MICHEL (H-289/80)

Subject: Inadequacy of Community regulations concerning the siting of thermal or nuclear power stations in border areas

In view of the provisions of Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty in conjunction with the European Parliament's resolution (Doc. 145/77) on the proposal from the Commission of the European Communities to the Council (Doc. 506/76) for a regulation concerning the introduction of a Community consultation procedure in respect of power stations likely to affect the territory of another Member State, and in view of the requirements set out by the European Parliament in the own-initiative report (Doc. 392/75) on the conditions for a Community policy on the siting of nuclear power stations, taking account of their acceptability for the population, together with the statement by Commissioner Brunner to the European Parliament on 16 March 1979 in answer to the oral question by Mr VANDEWIELE, Mr BERTRAND, Mr DEWULF, Mr NOË and others (Doc. 657/78), can the Commission of the European Communities explain why it is no longer in any way involved in the siting and monitoring of nuclear and other power stations in border areas within the Community?

19. Question by Miss QUIN (H-293/80)

Subject : Regional Development Fund and Social Fund

Can the Commission confirm reports that there have been insufficient applications for suitable schemes from Member States to warrant a significant increase in commitments under the ERDF and Social Fund ?

20. Question by Mr BALFE (H-295/80)

Subject : Food aid to Somalia

In the Autumn of 1979 it was decided to grant food aid to Somalia. It has recently been reported in Britain that this food aid has not yet been distributed.

In view of the continuing starvation and deprivation in this country, can the Commission make an urgent statement on the current position, and give an assurance that this food aid will be speedily distributed ?

21. Question by Mr DAVERN (H-298/80)

Subject : Export refunds for Irish beef

Can the Commission state what progress was made at the EEC's Beef Management meeting of 20 June 1980 which was due to discuss the arrangements for exporting beef to the US under GATT rules and in particular the low level of export refunds applied on shipments to the US ?

22. Question by Mr BOCKLET (H-302/80)

Subject: Compulsory origin marking of textiles and clothing

Does the Commission agree that French Regulation No. 79-750 of 29 August 1979 on the introduction of compulsory origin marking for certain textile and clothing products and the implementing administrative provisions of 3 June 1980 represent a major obstacle to the free movement of goods, thereby infringing Article 30 of the EEC Treaty? What steps does the Commission intend to take to secure the withdrawal of this requirement by the French Government?

23. Question by Mr GAUTIER (H-304/80)

Subject: Industrial use of micro-organisms which have been changed by genetic engineering

The provisions currently applicable to work on recombinant DNA in the Community Member States specify a maximum container volume of 10 litres. Progress in this discipline has been such that the large-scale application in industry or agriculture of micro-organisms which have undergone genetic engineering appears imminent. What steps does the Commission intend to take to ensure that safety regulations in industry and agriculture prevent any risk to human health and the environment, and to block investments in Member States with the least stringent safety requirements?

24. Question by Mr BATTERSBY (H-305/80)

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

A report in the Financial Times of 27 June 1980 indicated that French and British oil companies, in which both Governments have a stake, have concluded agreements with China's Petroleum Corporation on offshore oil exploration but with different terms. What consultations, if any, has the Commission undertaken with the Government of China, within the meaning of Article 5 of the Trade Agreement, in order to agree standard terms for contracts between Chinese enterprises and Community firms, in various industrial sectors, in order to obviate such competition, which might be to the advantage of the Community's competitors elsewhere ?

25. Question by Mr COTTRELL (H-306/80)

Subject : Tachographs

Difficulties are arising in the United Kingdom with regard to implementation of the tachograph regulations as applied to owners of horse-boxes reserved entirely for private use. The cost of installing the tachograph outweighs the leisure benefit of maintaining the vehicle and therefore seriously threatens the leisure enjoyment of - for example - families who keep a horse or pony. Where, as in this case, no question of hire or reward is involved and where no person is retained or employed to drive the vehicle, will the Commission recommend to the Council an exemption from the tachograph regulations?

26. Question by Mr FLANAGAN (H-314/80)

Subject : EEC Growth Rate

In view of the deteriorating economic outlook for the second half of 1980, does the Commission still believe that its forecast of an average growth rate of 2% (1) is still possible?

27. Question by Mr LALOR (H-315/80)

Subject : Venice meeting of Leaders of Western industrial world

Will the Commission give an account of its role at the Venice meeting of leaders of the Western industrial world and how it represented the needs of the smaller nations of the EEC, particularly Ireland?

---

(1) Annual Economic Report 1979-80

28. Question by Mr FANTON (H-316/80)

Subject: Stimulating new investment

In view of the inadequate rate of investment in all the countries of the Community, what does the Commission intend to do to stimulate new investment which is essential to deal with unemployment and avoid jeopardizing the future of our economies?

29. Question by Mr VON WOGAU (H-338/80) (x)

Subject: Intra-Community frontier traffic

Is the Commission aware that on 3 and 4 July 1980 traffic between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of France was seriously disrupted for about 50 hours at the Strasbourg/Kehl border crossing?

What action can the Commission take to prevent such disruptions of intra-Community frontier traffic?

How does the Commission view the suggestion that it should set up a special department to permanently monitor intra-Community frontier traffic, at least at the main border crossings?

30. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-326/80)

Subject: Meetings of the parliamentary committees

Since it would be easier and make for greater efficiency if Members of the European Parliament held their committee meetings at the same place as part-sessions, would the Commission not agree that it would be far more sensible to arrange for the 13 Commissioners to attend committee meetings in Strasbourg instead of requiring Members of Parliament to shuttle constantly back and forth between Strasbourg and Brussels?

---

(x) Former oral question without debate (O-36/80) converted into a question for Question Time

31. Question by Mr BUCHOU (H-327/80)

Subject: Negotiations on imports of manioc into the Community

In order to make quite certain that there is no increase in imports of manioc from Thailand and any other supplier countries, does the Commission intend to apply more strictly the voluntary restraint agreement with Thailand and to take a firm stand within GATT on the need to unbind the 6% duty currently applicable to Community imports of manioc?

32. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-328/80)

Subject: Conclusions of the INFCE

Since the Commission took part in the work of the INFCE, can it provide details of the main consequences of the conclusions of this Conference for the development of the Community's nuclear power industry, especially as regards relations with countries supplying uranium?

33. Question by Mr HORD (H-330/80)

Subject : Sales to Iran

Will the Commission confirm that sales of surplus Community agricultural commodities have been made in 1979 and 1980 to Iran and if so would the Commission indicate the commodities concerned, the quantities involved, the dates of the transactions and the amount of the E.E.C. subsidy given?

34. Question by Sir Brandon RHYS WILLIAMS (H-339/80)

Subject : Exchange controls and capital movements

When will the Commission hold its next regular examination of the authorisations granted to Member States to maintain Exchange Controls?

35. Question by Mrs SCHLEICHER (H-341/80)

Subject: Protection of the Franconian 'Bocksbeutel'

Is the Commission prepared to protect the right to use the 'Bocksbeutel' bottle of the Franconian wine-growing region at Community ?

36. Question by Mr SCHMID (H-343/80)

Subject: Reactor safety in the Community

Why is the report which the Commission has instructed a group of independent experts to compile on reactor safety in the Community only likely to be published in the autumn of 1980, i.e. one year after the planned date?

37. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-344/80)

Subject: EC-COMECON talks

Does the Commission think it appropriate to reappraise the talks with the COMECON countries now that, according to the final communiqué issued after the 34th meeting of the COMECON Executive Committee, Afghanistan has become an observer in COMECON?

38. Question by Mr MARTINET (H-350/80)

Subject: US anti-dumping proceedings

What is the present position of the US anti-dumping proceedings in the steel sector?

39. Question by Mr COLLINS (H-351/80)

Subject : Nuclear waste

Could the Commission provide information as to whether it has taken part in discussions with relevant authorities regarding the disposal of nuclear waste on or under the seabed and does the Commission plan to take action as a result of the discussions at the First European Conference on Radio Active Waste Management and Disposal?

40. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-357/80)

Subject : EEC Draft Directive for Commercial Agents

In view of the important part played within the European economy by Commercial Agents and the wide diversity of national legislation on this subject, what progress is being achieved to establish a Community Directive?

41. Question by Lord O'HAGAN (H-359/80)

Subject: Illegal state aids

What action will the Commission now take against Member States which continue illegal state aids?

42. Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-360/80)

Subject: Scotch whisky

Which Member Governments have altered their fiscal or other policies to accord with the recent decisions of the European Court?



43. Question by Mr SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-363 80)

Subject: Import quotas on tufted carpet

Will the Commission now impose import quotas on tufted carpet imported from Third Countries in particular from North America, on the grounds of severe distortion of the Home Market. Sales of U.S. tufted carpet have risen by 300% in 1978-80 amounting to 6 million square metres and subsidisation of the North American feed stock of crude oil leading to unfair competition in the EEC market?

44. Question by Miss FORSTER (H-364/80)

Subject : Aid for the Man-Made Fibres Sector

Under the Council Regulation No. 2914/79 of 20th December 1979 the Commission had to submit a report to the Parliament and the Council on the application of this Regulation and also covering the aspect of reduction of production capacity. The Regulation stated that the Commission should report before the 1st July 1980. No report has been received by the Parliament by this date. Can the Commission explain the reason for this omission.

45. Question by Mrs FUILLET (H-368/80)

Subject: Implementation of the Commission's activity programme for 1980 - consumers

What steps has the Commission taken to implement the measures contained in its annual programme for 1980 with regard to the protection of the economic interests, health and safety of consumers?

46. Question by Lord BETHELL (H-369/80)

Subject : Imported spirits

What progress has the Commission made in implementing the European Court of Justice's decision of February 1980 that various Danish, Irish, Italian and French discriminatory taxes on imported spirits were illegal under the Treaty of Rome?

47. Question by Mr PININFARINA (H-370/80)

Subject: Conditions under which a person may be permitted to make a customs declaration

Consideration is currently being given to a proposal for a regulation defining the conditions under which a person may be permitted to make a customs declaration. With a view to eliminating unacceptable differences between the relevant provisions of the Member States, would the Commission not agree that it is necessary to propose that the regulation in question should provide unreservedly that no professional qualification is required of an employee as a condition under which he may be permitted to make a customs declaration for and on behalf of his employer?

48. Question by Mrs DESMOND (H-371/80)

Subject : Development of Cork Airport

In view of the importance of Cork Airport to the economic development of the south of Ireland, will the Commission state what means are at its disposal towards the promotion and development of this airport and to what extent the Irish authorities have availed themselves of such aid?

49. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-373/80)

Subject : Corruption by Indonesian Officials

What steps have the Commission taken to investigate the consistent reports from East Timor of corruption by the Indonesian military of humanitarian aid supplied by the E.E.C. and by its Member Governments to the people of East Timor?

50. Question by Mr DEBRE (H-378/80)

Subject: Community measures for the car industry

Does not the Commission consider that it runs the risk of making the same mistake with regard to the car industry as it made with the iron and steel industry by failing to react immediately to the magnitude of international competition; what specific reason is there to prevent the introduction of a protective customs tariff?

51. Question by Mr BEAZLEY (H-379/80)

Subject : Harmonisation of energy costs in horticulture

Would the Commission indicate the outcome of its representations to the Dutch Government to complete the harmonisation of energy costs in horticulture earlier than that Government's declared aim of October 1981?

52. Question by Mr PISANI (H-380/80)

Subject: Lomé Convention and international commodity agreements

In view of the extreme importance of trade between the European Economic Community and the ACP in foodstuffs such as cocoa, could the Commission state how the provisions of the Lomé Convention (STABEX) tie up with international commodity agreements, and how they are likely to do so in the future?

53. Question by Mr PÖTTERING (H-381/80)

Subject: Statement by the person accompanying a visiting party  
of 50 officials from the Federal Republic of Germany

How does the Commission view the following statement by the person  
accompanying a visiting party of 50 officials from the Federal  
Republic of Germany:

'Our coach arrived at the border around 10 a.m. on Monday, 16 June  
1980, and was due to reach the offices of the City of Strasbourg  
administration about 10.30 a.m. Unfortunately, we were still at the  
border at 10.45 a.m. The driver had had to refuel in Bruchsal  
and as of that very morning duty had to be paid on quantities of  
diesel fuel over 75 litres.

We saw the driver scurry from door to door of the customs building  
and finally disappear in the direction of Strasbourg where, as he  
explained later, he had to buy French francs in order to pay the  
customs duty. An impressive demonstration of European cooperation,  
which was precisely what we had come to see on our fact-finding  
visit! The Strasbourg city officials who met us were unaware of this  
procedure. They did, however, say that the same thing happened on  
the German side of the border. French lorries and coaches also had  
to pay charges at the border, possibly, they thought, for the use  
of German roads.'

What does the Commission intend to do to prevent the recurrence  
of such incidents, which conflict with the policy of European  
unification.

54. Question by Mr NEWTON DUNN (H-382/80)

Subject: Fishing

Are all nine Member States now sending up-to-date and full information  
concerning monthly fish landings to the Commission and if not, which  
States are defaulting?

55. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-384/80)

Subject: Creation of a demilitarized zone between Kampuchea and Thailand

In view of the adoption by the Foreign Ministers of the three countries of Indochina (Kampuchea, Laos, Vietnam) following a meeting in Vientiane on 18 July 1980 of a plan to create 'a demilitarized zone' on the border between Kampuchea and Thailand, does the Commission of the European Communities intend to modify the position expressed by the Commissioner for Development in Strasbourg on 11 July 1980 during the discussion of the draft resolution (I-301/80) of 8 July 1980 advocating the creation of a neutral zone on the border between Kampuchea and Thailand?

56. Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-387/80)

Subject: Community guidelines for the entire public sectors of the individual Member States

A Commission Communication to the Council of 5 March 1980 (COM(80) 101 final) on the improvement of the coordination of economic policies states that the Member States have agreed to extend the field of application of budgetary guidelines on an experimental basis, so as to cover 'the entire public sector'. It is also proposed in that document that the implications of the labour market, taxation, and social rules and regulations should be jointly considered. Will the Commission state the short- and long-term objectives of these plans, what progress has been made on them and when they are intended to take effect?

57. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-390/80)

Subject: Loan to Italsider to finance the Bagnoli  
steel complex

Will the Commission confirm or deny reports that a large Community loan (50% of total investment) to finance an extension to the Bagnoli complex is imminent, stating why this loan is being granted despite the many reservations that have been expressed about a project that will create overcapacity in a sector already heavily in surplus?

58. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-391/80)

Subject : Continuation of Community measures relating to the  
transition of young people from education to working  
life

What proposals will the Commission make towards the continuation and further development, after 31 December 1980, of its programme arising from the Council Resolution of 13 December 1976 (1) concerning measures to be taken to improve the preparation of young people for work and to facilitate their transition from education to working life?

59. Question by Mrs CASTLE (H-393/80)

Subject: European Regional Development Fund

To ask the Commission whether under Article 3 of the ERDF Regulation the fact that an area in a Member State is receiving regional aid from its own government only in the form of a grant towards the clearance of derelict land will not disbar that area from receiving help towards the cost of infrastructure works necessary for industrial development under the quota and non-quota sections of the ERDF respectively?

---

(1) OJ C 308 - 30.12.1976

60. Question by Mr ANTONIOZZI (H-394/80) (x)

Subject: Respect of human rights in Poland

With reference to the situation in Poland, will the Commission propose economic measures to help the Polish people in a particularly difficult period which should elicit the solidarity and concern of all Europeans, especially if progress is to be made towards the just affirmation of human rights in the spirit of Helsinki?

61. Question by Mr BETTIZA (H-396/80)

Subject: State of ratification of the EEC-YUGOSLAVIA  
Cooperation Agreement

Will the Commission indicate the state of ratification in the nine Member States of the EEC-Yugoslavia Cooperation Agreement signed in April 1980 in Belgrade, and does it think it will be possible for the agreement to come into force by 1 January 1981?

62. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-397/80)

Subject: Pricing of Petrochemical Feedstocks - U.S.A.

What discussions did the Commissioner for Industrial Affairs have on his recent trip to the U.S.A. regarding the pricing of petrochemical feedstocks and what steps are being taken to eliminate unfair competition in this industry?

(x) Will not be called if item 158 is kept on the agenda





---

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

---

63. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-222/80)

Subject: Election of the President of the Council of Ministers  
by universal suffrage

Would the Council consider, during its current Presidency, the possibility of the President of the Council of Ministers being elected by universal suffrage of the people of Europe for a term of four years and with powers equivalent to a Member State so that the Community can benefit from the political leadership that such a person would encapsulate?

64. Question by Mr JONKER (H-334/80)

Subject: Appointment of the new Commission

Is the Council prepared to support the views expressed by the European Parliament in the REY report on relations between the European Parliament and the Commission with a view to the appointment of a new Commission?

65. Question by Miss HOOPER (H-256/80)

Subject: Communication of Parliament proposals to the Council

What steps are taken by the Council to ensure that the proposals under consideration at Council meetings contain the amendments and recommendations of Parliament?

66. Question by Mrs SCRIVENER (H-280/80)

Subject: Meeting of the Council of Environment Ministers

On 30 June the Environment Ministers of the Nine examined a report and various proposals drawn up by the Commission on problems relating to the environment.

Was the Council able to reach agreement on a set of clear priorities and on measures to combat pollution and to finance the Community environmental protection policy?

67. Question by Mr SAYN-WITTGENSTEIN-BERLEBURG (H-337/80) (x)

Subject: Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea

- given that further negotiations on the law of the sea are to take place, in particular at the forthcoming session of the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea in July and August in Geneva;
- drawing attention to the continuing urgent need to coordinate the positions of the Community partners on amendments to the existing negotiating text of a future UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, in order to define a position which takes into account the interests of all the Member States of the European Community;
- whereas extra time would allow all the Member States of the European Community to take concerted action on all matters concerning the law of the sea and its

---

(x) Former oral question with debate (O-26/80) converted into a question for Question Time

economic aspects at the international negotiating table, with an eye to the EEC partners adopting a more determined approach to the outer limit of the continental shelf, protection of the marine environment and deep-sea mining (in particular the competence of the International Seabed Authority as regards resources policy);

- regretting the lack of agreement, despite a number of undertakings by participants in the conference, on the question of granting to organs of the European Community the right - which under Community law falls within the competence of the Commission - to accede to the Convention;

having regard

- to the potential benefit for the majority of the Member States of the Community of committing their existing technology and financial resources in the field of deep-sea mining, despite the lack of access to these resources hitherto for those without sea zones of their own;
- and, in this respect, to the advantages of reaching agreement on a regional basis on interim laws to safeguard resources prior to any arrangement under the new system;

I request the Council to answer the following questions:

1. What conclusions has the Council drawn from the meetings of the European Council in Venice and the world economic summit of the leading OECD countries as regards the approach to the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea?
2. Does the Council agree that it is not appropriate at the present stage of the negotiations to support a formalization of the so far informal negotiating text, as this makes progress towards further important talks unnecessarily difficult?
3. What steps has the Council taken or does it intend to take to coordinate at Community level, and if necessary with the United States, interim rules for deep-sea mining currently contemplated by, among others, the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany?

68. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-272/80)

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?

---

69. Question by Mr SEAL (H-193/80)

Subject: Commercial cooperation agreement with India

Will the Council, having finally after over a year issued a negotiation mandate on the new commercial cooperation agreement with India, say specifically how the report on this agreement, approved by this Parliament, has been taken into account in preparing this mandate?

70. Question by Mr WARNER (H-321/80) (x)

Subject : 1982 U.N. Assembly on the Elderly

In view of the importance of securing identical or converging policies for the aged within the member states of the Community would the Council consider discussing and perhaps laying down guidelines for an approach to be adopted by representatives of the nine attending this conference ?

---

(x) Former oral question without debate (O-28/80) converted into question for Question Time

71. Question by Sir STEWART-CLARK (H-224/80)

Subject: The micro electronics industry

Bearing in mind the need for a coordinated Community action programme in the micro electronics industry and taking into account the industrial and social consequences of new and accelerating technological developments, what action does the Council intend to take, particularly following publication of Commission document COM/79/650 final entitled "European society faced with the challenge of new information technologies - a Community response"?

72. Question by Mrs LE ROUX (H-243/80)

Subject: Boarding of lobster fishing vessels

In recent months the British Navy has boarded several Breton lobster fishing vessels causing them to lose several days' work and imposing heavy fines on the owners.

Does the Council not consider this matter to merit early consideration, and in view of the ICES recommendations, which are based on a number of scientific studies, carried out by official bodies, has it not delayed possible amendments to the regulations on mesh sizes? Does the Council intend to consult scientific and fishing experts before reviewing these regulations?

73. Question by Miss QUIN (H-294/80)

Subject : Principle of additionality with regard to the ERDF

Has the Council discussed recently the application of the principle of additionality by Member States with regard to the European Regional Development Fund, and have there been any recent changes in the attitude of Member governments towards the administration and use of the European Funds ?

74. Question by Mr ADAM (H-303/80)

Subject : Coal investments of multinational companies

One of the major objectives of Community energy policy is reduced dependence on imported oil with subsequent increasing reliance on imported coal. Considering the growing and extensive investment by international companies in coal production outside the Community, has the Council examined this trend, which could pose a threat to the Community's long-term security of supplies, in that these companies may be in a position, quite soon, to establish an international coal cartel?

75. Question by Mr FANTON (H-308/80)

Subject: Promotion of the wood industry in the Community

Does the Council intend to grant financial support to the industries producing manufactured and processed products from wood, so as to encourage the development of the infrastructure in this sector, which needs a wider market in order to expand?

76. Question by Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO-CERRETTI (H-310/80)

Subject: Adoption of a regulation on the management of financial and technical aid to non-associated developing countries

In the light of the past opinions of the European Parliament and the importance attached to aid to non-associated developing countries in the major debate on hunger in the world (see the VERGEER report on 'Technical and financial cooperation with the developing countries with a view to the development of agricultural regions and the foodstuffs sector', PE 64.575, 1980), can the Council state what progress has been made as regards the adoption of a regulation on the management of financial and technical aid to non-associated developing countries as a means of increasing the effectiveness of our action in this area and of giving the Commission full responsibility for administering this aid?

77. Question by Mr LALOR (H-311/80)

Subject : Convening meeting of EEC, OPEC, Industrialized Countries,  
State Trading Countries and Developing Countries

Will the Council, as a matter of urgency, agree to convene a special meeting of EEC, OPEC, industrialized countries, State-Trading countries and developing countries with a view to ensuring that there is greater co-ordination in channeling resources from the developed countries by way of aid for the energy sector to the underdeveloped countries and ensuring that OPEC greatly increases its commitment to developing countries from its meagre £ 31 million?

78. Question by Miss DE VALERA (H-312/80)

Subject : Youth employment

Will the Council elaborate on the "short-term structural measures" which were re-affirmed as a priority regarding the employment situation for young people at the June European Council meeting in Venice?

79. Question by Mr CRONIN (H-313/80)

Subject : Amending Regional Fund definition

While welcoming the amendment to the Regional Fund of the definition of eligible infrastructures to include infrastructures "which contribute to the development of the region or area in which they are located" will the Council include such social infrastructures as "hospitals, schools and technical colleges"?

80. Question by Mr PRANCHERE (H-317/80)

Subject: Sheepmeat

Sheepmeat prices have fallen in France over the last few weeks. This fall poses a serious threat to the incomes of French sheep farmers. Does the Council not agree that it is essential to take the necessary steps to provide effective protection for sheep farmers by unbinding customs duties and guaranteeing them a price geared to production costs?

81. Question by Mr BATTERSBY (H-318/80)

Subject : Future relations between the Community and  
Member States of COMECON

What advantages does the Council see in incorporating reference to the commitments of each COMECON state and the Community in respect of Basket II of the Final Act of the Helsinki Accord in future agreements between the Community and each member state of COMECON, and with COMECON itself?

82. Question by Mr DIDO' (H-319/80)

Subject: Adoption of the 'SEVESO' directive

On 30 June the Council of Environment Ministers met to consider the proposal for a directive on major accident hazards. Can the Council explain why adoption of this directive was postponed and state whether it intends to support the basic principles underlying the Commission's proposal, namely information of workers and the public and an appropriate assessment of the hazards presented by industrial plants?



83. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-322/80)

Subject : Forthcoming peace initiatives by the Council  
in the Middle East

What precisely would be the political terms on which the Council, in its bid to further the cause of peace in the Middle East, would be prepared to establish contacts with representatives of the self-styled Palestine Liberation Organization?

84. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-324/80)

Subject : Special measures to combat unemployment

Does the Council intend to introduce special measures with a view to checking unemployment, especially among young people, at this difficult time when the summer holidays are over?

85. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-325/80)

Subject: Imports of motor cars from Japan

In order to allay the fears of the European motor car industry, does the Council intend to introduce effective measures to stop excessive car imports from Japan?

86. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-331/80)

Subject : Institutional improvements with a view to the  
enlargement of the Community

In December 1969 the Heads of State instructed the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to consider how progress could be achieved in the area of political unification with a view to the first enlargement of the Community. Some months ago the Heads of State instructed a three-man team to draw up a report of the same nature with a view to the second enlargement of the Community. Would the Council say what action has been taken to bring about alterations to improve institutional procedures and whether other initiatives may be expected from the Council in addition to the report of the Three Wise Men?

87. Question by Mr GIUMMARRA (H-332/80)

Subject : Formalities for air travellers

Does the Council not consider that it would be desirable to end a waste of time and money by arranging for the abolition of the 'landing card' which citizens have to fill out and show after every journey by air even if the points of departure and arrival are both within the Community?

88. Question by Mr van AERSSEN (H-333/80)

Subject : Conflict of responsibilities

What steps does the President-in-Office of the Council intend to take to avoid any conflict of responsibilities resulting from his tenure of the Council Presidency and his appointment as President of the Commission in the light of the views expressed by the European Parliament in the REY report?

89. Question by Mr ANTONIOZZI (H-251/80)

Subject: Forestry policy

Would the Council indicate whether it is prepared to implement - within the framework of the common agricultural policy and on the basis of suitable measures at both Community and regional level - a forestry policy that is commensurate with present requirements and that possibly also provides for the creation of a special revolving fund linked to the Community's financial institutions?

90. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-335/80)

Subject : Increasing difficulties in the European motor vehicle industry

In view of the increasing difficulties in the European motor vehicle industry, does not the Council consider that measures should already have been taken to support this sector which is subject to excessive Japanese competition? If it is not already too late, what urgent measures does the Council propose to take?

91. Question by Sir Brandon RHYS WILLIAMS (H-340/80)

Subject : Common capital market

Is the Council satisfied with its progress towards the creation of the common capital market as laid down in the Treaty?

92. Question by Mr BOCKLET (H-342/80)

Subject: Protection of the Franconian 'Bocksbeutel'

Is the Council prepared to protect the right to use the 'Bocksbeutel' bottle of the Franconian wine-growing region at Community level?

93. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-345/80)

Subject: EC-COMECON talks

Does the Council think it appropriate to reappraise the talks with the COMECON countries now that, according to the final communiqué issued after the 34th meeting of the COMECON Executive Committee, Afghanistan has become an observer in COMECON?

94. Question by Mr BALFOUR (H-346/80)

Subject : "Financing the Community Budget - The Way Ahead"

At which meetings has the Council considered the Commission's Communication to the Council and Parliament entitled "Financing the Community Budget - The Way Ahead"?

95. Question by Mr PININFARINA (H-347/80)

Subject: Systems of self-discipline in advertizing and in the matter of comparative advertizing

In the context of the proposal for a Community directive on unfair and misleading advertizing, can the Council indicate its position on the acceptance of the proposed improvements put forward by UPA and other advertizing associations with particular reference to the desirability of explicit and formal recognition of the existence and validity of the systems of self-discipline in advertizing in force in many European countries and to the deletion of Article 4 relating to comparative advertizing?

96. Question by Mr COLLINS (H-352/80)

Subject: Nuclear waste

Would the Council provide details of research into the disposal of nuclear waste on or under the seabed being carried out by Member States either nationally or jointly with other countries?

97. Question by Mrs EWING (H-354/80)

Subject : Subsidies to Oil Rig Construction Sites

Will the Council give the assurance that oil rig construction sites do not receive subsidies, open or hidden such as favourable interest rates thus in breach of the fair competition principle?

98. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-356/80)

Subject : World textile trade after 1980

To ask the Council when it will reach a decision in principle to instruct the Commission to open negotiations for a framework for world textile trade after 1980, the date when the present international Agreement - MFA - expires, and what will the terms of this remit be?

99. Question by Mr BALFE (H-365/80)

Subject : Questions about the functioning of Parliament

Under what is known as the "Gentleman's Agreement" Parliament and Council would not normally question each other's expenditure. One by-product of this is that it is impossible for Members of the Parliament to ask public questions about the running of Parliament and the expenditure incurred. Is the Council prepared to use its good offices to prevail upon the authorities controlling Parliament to allow Members to table Questions about the functioning of Parliament?

100. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-374/80)

Subject : Parliamentary report on Chile

Can the Council tell me what response there has been by Member Governments and by the Government of Chile to the report on Chile carried overwhelmingly by the European Parliament?

101. Question by Mrs ROUDY (H-385/80)

Subject: Consumer action programme

In discussing the second consumer action programme, is the Council prepared to confirm its agreement with the broad principles for action set out in its first programme of 15 April 1975?

102. Question by Mr NEWTON DUNN (H-388/80)

Subject: Harmonisation of energy costs for horticulture

Who or what is preventing the immediate harmonisation of energy costs for horticulture throughout the Community?



---

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

---

103. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-271 '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?

104. Question by Mrs EWING (H-292/80)

Subject : Discriminatory wage rates paid to Asian seamen  
on British ships

Will the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation comment on the failure of the British Government to implement the recommendation of the report on the Employment of Non-Domiciled Seafarers (ENDS) which set out to end the discriminatory wage rates paid to Asian seamen ?

105. Question by Mr Christopher JACKSON (H-296/80)

Subject : The situation in Somalia

In view of the deteriorating situation in Somalia are the Foreign Ministers proposing to take concerted action ?

106. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-323/80)

Subject : Peace initiatives in the Middle East

Following the declaration made at the Venice Summit, could the Foreign Ministers give the clearest possible indication of the precise political terms on which, in the Council's view, the self-styled Palestine Liberation Organization could be involved in the peace initiatives proposed in the Middle East?

107. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-355/80)

Subject : Ministerial meeting on political cooperation  
of 3 July in Luxembourg

In view of the fact that military matters and in particular the possibility of negotiations on the limitation of strategic nuclear weapons in Europe formed the main subject of discussion at their meeting of 3 July on the SCHMIDT-BREZHNEV talks in Moscow, can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation confirm that in future military matters are to be discussed in the context of political cooperation?

108. Question by Mr NEWTON DUNN (H-361/80)

Subject: EEC proposals for peace in the Middle East

Will the foreign ministers, acting in cooperation, consider pressing for the Palestinian peoples to be represented properly at negotiations by a body which has been democratically elected from among all the Palestinian peoples, either registered and living in Israeli administered territory or registered and living in surrounding Arab countries?

109. Question by Mr BALFE (H-366/80)

Subject : Diplomatic Immunity

During 1979 and for the first five months of 1980 the following totals of parking tickets were cancelled by the London Police because of diplomatic immunity being claimed by the offenders :

Belgium	280
Denmark	58
France	2,885
Germany (Federal Republic)	217
Ireland	161
Italy	654
Luxembourg	20
Netherlands	47
Total	4,322

Recalling that Diplomatic Immunity was instituted to protect foreign nationals from malicious prosecution and bearing in mind that diplomats in London are abusing this law by evading fines, will the Foreign Ministers take steps to end this abuse of diplomatic immunity?



110. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-372/80)

Subject : Indonesian occupation of East Timor

Given that the Indonesian Government has refused to comply with United Nations General Assembly and Security Council Resolutions calling for the withdrawal of its troops from East Timor, in order that a genuine act of self-determination can take place in the territory, why do the Member States of the E.E.C. collectively abstain in any U.N. General Assembly vote calling for a cessation of Indonesia's attempted annexation of East Timor, as a result of which at least 150,000 people, approximately one-quarter of the population, have been killed?

---

111. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-386/80)

Subject: Mr THORN's visit to the Middle East

Will the Foreign Ministers give their general appraisal of the outcome of the above visit and of the conclusions to be drawn from it, having regard in particular to the European attitude at the United Nations and European reaction to the Israeli decision on Jerusalem?

