

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



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ORAL QUESTIONS

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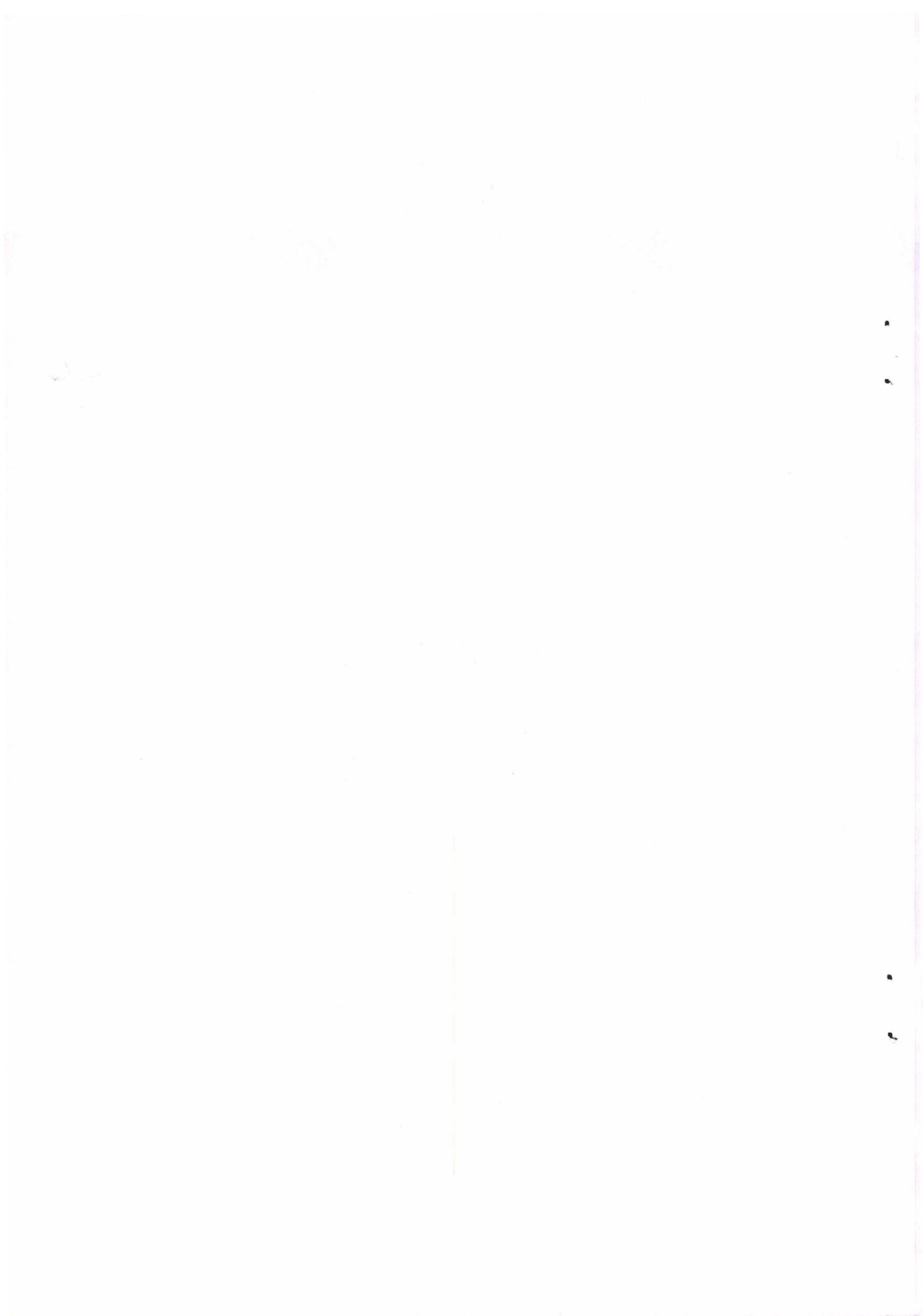
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* Consultation procedure requiring a single reading
** I Cooperation procedure (first reading)

** II Cooperation procedure (second reading) requiring the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament
*** Parliamentary assent requiring the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament



QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

1. Question by Mr ANDREWS (H-0347/93)

Subject: Emergency employment initiatives

In view of the deteriorating employment situation in the European Community, will the Council outline what new emergency initiatives it is prepared to support to offer young people as well as the long-term unemployed new hope in the job market?

11.3.1993

EN

2. Question by Mr FITZGERALD (H-0341/93)

Subject: Combating poverty and social exclusion

Will the Council undertake to make every effort possible to ensure that initiatives to combat poverty and social exclusion feature as a regular item on the agenda of all summit meetings and will it request the different directorates of the Commission to regularly review and discuss their role in combating poverty and social exclusion?

11.3.1993

EN

3. Question by Mr LANE (H-0332/93)

Subject: UNICE's 10-point checklist for employment

Employer and industry federations across Europe are presenting governments with a 10-point checklist for employment drawn up by UNICE. The measures include the need to restore confidence, guarantee stability by moving towards EMU, the restoration of competitiveness, flexible labour laws, improving labour skills and stimulating SMEs and entrepreneurship. Has the Council considered UNICE's 10-point checklist and how can the Community contribute to its success?

11.3.1993

EN

4. Question by Mr MEGAHY (H-0307/93)

Subject: Maastricht Treaty

Chancellor Kohl has indicated that if Denmark and the UK have not ratified the Maastricht treaty by July/August the other ten states will go ahead without them.

Can the Council indicate what procedures exist for expelling Denmark and the UK from the European Community? If Denmark and the UK were not to ratify in time, but could not be expelled from the EC what arrangements does the Council envisage for the co-existence of the EC of twelve states with a European Union of ten states? Would this need a completely parallel set of institutions?

5.3.1993

EN

5. Question by Mrs SANDBÆK (H-0457/93)

Subject: Edinburgh and transparency

Given the Danish Foreign Ministry's view that the decisions on openness in the EC taken at the European Council meeting in Edinburgh are an integral part of the entire set of agreements concerning Denmark's position on the Treaty of Maastricht, despite the fact that these amendments were adopted in accordance with the Treaty of Rome, will a possible rejection of the Edinburgh agreement in Denmark's referendum on 18 May lead, in the Council's opinion, to less openness in the EC?

2.4.1993

DA

6. Question by Mr David MARTIN (H-0414/93)

Subject: Extra seats for the European Parliament in the 1994 elections

The European Council agreed in Edinburgh to increase the size of the European Parliament. Is the President-in-Office aware at the lack of progress in implementing this decision in the UK? Can the President-in-Office say what stage the 12 Member States are at in establishing their new seats and whether legislation is required in the 12 in order to bring this about? And, finally, can the President-in-Office say who prepares the necessary legal texts for adoption, the Council Secretariat or the Commission?

29.3.1993

EN

7. Question by Mr BONDE (H-446/93)

Subject: Objectives of the Union and defence policy

Will the Council state which parts of the objectives of the Union contained in the Maastricht Treaty are acceptable to Denmark, and in particular whether the Danish reservation concerning the Western European Union includes a veto on the inclusion of defence matters in the Community cooperation at the intergovernmental conference in 1996?

1.4.1993

DA

8. Question by Mr CRAMPTON (H-0302/93)

Subject: Neutrality policies of potential EC members

CFSP does not propose to limit the actions of existing Member States with regard to any military action that they consider necessary in their national interests.

Does the Council propose that potential new members of the EC should be asked to limit their neutrality policies which they see as in their national interests?

3.3.1993

EN

9. Question by Mrs Caroline JACKSON (H-0431/93)

Subject: Publication of Council voting record

Following the answer given at the March part-session to my question, can the President-in-Office now state which Council will be the first Council to have its voting record published, or has the Danish Presidency still made no precise proposals in this matter?

31.3.1993

EN

10. Question by Mrs McINTOSH (H-308/93)

Subject: Legal base of EC legislation

Will the Council confirm that it will try and ensure a degree of consistency in the Commission in selecting the appropriate legal base for its draft legislation, bearing in mind that on a number of occasions, in the transport sector in particular, the legal base chosen had the effect of excluding the European Parliament from the full consultation procedure?

5.3.1993

EN

11. Question by Mr BALFE (H-0284/93)

Subject: European Year of the Elderly

Whilst welcoming the initiatives made by the Council during the European Year of the Elderly, will the Council give consideration to gathering together data to ascertain whether it would be possible to move towards agreeing a European Decency Threshold for financial support for pensioners within the European Community and if so will they instruct the Commission to undertake the necessary work on the basis of their findings?

25.2.1993

EN

12. Question by Mr VAN OTRIVE (H-0286/93)

Subject: Council Resolution of 13 November 1991 (OJ No. C 328/91) concerning the financial interests of the Communities

The resolution of the Council of Ministers of Justice and of the Representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within Council, of 13 November 1991 concerning the protection of the financial interests of the Communities refers to proposals for 'a form of voluntary cooperation among interested Member States for setting up an easily and generally accessible documentation network for scientific information relating to cross-border crime' and 'improved contacts on a European scale in respect of projects for scientific research into such forms of cross-border crime'.

What proposals are these, and how were they produced? Which Member States are interested? What results have this 'network' and the 'research' yielded?

25.2.1993

NL

13. Question by Mr PRONK (H-0294/93)

Subject: Free movement of persons

Why is it that passengers arriving at Copenhagen airport from other EC countries have their passports checked twice, once on leaving the aircraft and again on leaving the airport?

Is the Council prepared to put an end to the system of additional checks?

3.3.1993

NL

14. Question by Mrs RØNN (H-0371/93)

Subject: Passport control at the Community's internal borders

Is it consistent with the opening of the internal market on 1 January 1993 that Denmark is continuing its detailed examination of citizens' passports at the borders?

Is it reasonable or legal to impose fines on citizens if, trusting in the concept of free movement of EC citizens, they cross the border without a passport, but can nevertheless produce their driving licence, medical card or such similar document as identification?

17.3.1993

DA

15. Question by Mr KOSTOPOULOS (H-0314/93)

Subject: Water shortage in Mediterranean countries

Almost all Mediterranean countries, and in particular the population of the Attica Basin, are faced with an alarming shortage of water. According to UN-sponsored research, this water shortage is directly due to adverse climatic changes, which, within the geographical framework of the ecosystem, will dramatically accelerate in 20 to 30 years' time. In order to combat this alarming phenomenon, will the Council say whether it intends to take any relevant measures to promote renewable sources of energy and provide Community funding in the immediate future for a plan for sustainable growth in the Attica Basin and in other Mediterranean regions?

8.3.1993

GR

16. Question by Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-0319/93)

Subject: Job losses in the UK steel industry

In the light of the massive improvement in the level of productivity in steel making in the UK over the last decade, resulting in significant shedding of labour in the industry, how can the Community possibly justify proposing further job losses in the UK steel industry?

10.3.1993

EN

17. Question by Mr POMPIDOU (H-0328/93)

Subject: New nuclear reactors to be built in Russia

According to the Russian Minister for Energy, Viktor Michailov, Russia is planning to build 23 new nuclear reactors on its territory by the year 2000, with an installed capacity of 16500 MWe.

Will the Council ask the Russian authorities for more information on the nature of this project? What type of reactors will be built? For civil or military purposes?

Finally, what role will be played by the IAEA in monitoring these installations?

11.3.1993

FR

18. Question by Mr KILLILEA (H-0335/93)

Subject: Study on costs of surveillance and enforcement in Irish 200-mile zone

Can the Council indicate when it expects the special study on the costs borne by Ireland with respect to surveillance and enforcement in the Irish 200-mile zone to be ready?

11.3.1993

EN

19. Question by Mr FITZSIMONS (H-0338/93)

Subject: Vocational training and higher education

As part of the Commission's legislative programme for 1993, it is proposed to foster cooperation between the Community and the USA by launching a Community scheme in the field of vocational training and higher education. Will the Council ensure that such a scheme gives priority attention to the needs of trainees from Ireland where unemployment is particularly acute?

11.3.1993

EN

20. Question by Mr LALOR (H-0344/93)

Subject: Report on the financial markets

At the European Council in Birmingham last October, Economic and Finance Ministers, assisted by the Monetary Committee, with the involvement of the Commission, were invited to carry work forward with the Central Bank Governors on the recent financial turbulence, in the light of developments in capital markets and in the European and World Monetary Systems. When is this urgent work, once and for all, going to be completed?

11.3.1993

EN

21. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-0353/93)

Subject: Protection of alcoholic beverages

At its meeting of 9 March 1993 the Council discussed the agreement between the European Community and the USA on the mutual recognition and protection of alcoholic beverages. The agreement which the Commission has already negotiated with the US authorities provides for the following measures: (a) continued protection for products already recognized by the USA in agreements with the Member States of origin (Scotch Whisky, Irish Whiskey, Cognac, Armagnac, Calvados), (b) the inclusion of brandy and sherry in the list of protected beverages, and (c) protection for the American products Bourbon whisky and Tennessee Whisky. The Commission has inexplicably omitted to include Greek Ouzo and Italian Grappa in the list of protected alcoholic beverages. Does the Council intend, before taking a final decision at its meeting of 5 and 6 April, to ask for the agreement with the USA to be renegotiated so that it covers these two traditional beverages?

11.3.1993

GR

22. Question by Mr BIRD (H-0361/93)

Subject: Opinion on Malta's application to join the European Community

Will the Council please explain the continuing delay in the presentation of an opinion on the possible accession of Malta to the European Community? A great many Members of the European Parliament regard this delay as unacceptable and very unfair to the people of Malta. If the Council feels that Malta should not be allowed to join the European Community, it would be only right and proper for it to say so immediately.

16.3.1993

EN

23. Question by Mr RIBEIRO (H-0366/93)

Subject: Statement by the President of the Court of Auditors to ECOFIN on 15 March 1993

At the ECOFIN meeting of 15 March the President of the Court of Auditors, according to press reports, made a statement in which he repeated, with particular vehemence, the criticisms contained in the annual report concerning the Commission's management of Community resources.

Since this agenda item (if it was one) did not feature in the press release on the ECOFIN meeting, can the Council say, for the sake of transparency, whether it took any decisions following the above statement (and, if so, which ones), and what the position was of the Ministers of the five Member States which, on being monitored at the end of 1991 in connection with Community aid to agriculture, were found not to have effective internal control systems?

17.3.1993

PT

24. Question by Miss RAWLINGS (H-0367/93)

Subject: Value of land management

Does the Council agree that landowners already make a positive contribution to long-term land stewardship, and will it confirm that, as CAP support moves from market intervention to direct payments to individuals, landowners' legitimate interests must be accommodated within long-term projects pursued under the agri-environmental measures, and landowners' expertise in this area of activity must not be spurned?

17.3.1993

EN

25. Question by Mr MENDEZ DE VIGO (H-0381/93)

Subject: Amendment of the 1993 reference calendar in the tomato sector

Has the Council considered amending the 1993 reference calendar so as to prevent the losses suffered by the Community tomato sector, particularly in the Canary Islands?

22.3.1993

ES

26. Question by Mrs FERRER (H-0396/93)

Subject: Commission proposal to the Council concerning the European tannery sector

In response to certain countries' commercial practices which are jeopardizing the European skins and hides sector, the Commission has submitted to the Council a proposal introducing Community quotas applicable to China which has apparently been awaiting adoption since June 1992.

In view of the current difficulties of the European tanning industry, can the Council say when it intends to adopt the above proposal, or what the problems or difficulties are which prevent it from so doing?

24.3.1993

ES

27. Question by Mr NICHOLSON (H-0409/93)

Subject: Dumping of fish on Community market

In view of the collapse in the prices of fish in the Member States, what further action does the Council propose to prevent the dumping of fish on the Community market?

29.3.1993

EN

28. Question by Mr ROMEOS (H-0422/93)

Subject: Ban on the transport of toxic waste

According to information supplied by Greenpeace the United Kingdom and Germany are opposing the proposals by the Danish presidency for a complete ban on the movement of toxic waste to Eastern Europe, Asia and other parts of the developing world.

How does the Danish presidency intend to secure both a final decision on this matter in Council, and the full implementation by all the Member States of the Basel Convention for a complete ban on the movement of toxic waste?

30.3.1993

GR

29. Question by Mr CORNELISSEN (H-0425/93)

Subject: Long delays and extortion at East European border posts

Is the Council aware of extremely long delays to goods traffic, and also to passenger traffic, and of theft, threats and extortion committed against drivers at various East European border posts?

Will the Council register a strong protest, at the highest level, with the governments of the countries concerned about these unacceptable practices and discuss what the European Community can do to help solve the problem, either by making EC customs officers available or in other ways?

31.3.1993

NL

30. Question by Mr PORTO (H-0433/93)

Subject: EEC-MERCOSUL relations

The need to strengthen cooperation with Latin America has been recognized in recent years: not only with individual countries but also with the regional organizations to which they belong.

In this context, the planned cooperation with MERCOSUL is very significant as it accounts for 45% of the population of Latin America, and more than half its GDP. In May 1992, during the Portuguese presidency, a meeting at ministerial level was held and the Commission signed an interinstitutional agreement.

What other significant activities are now planned for the Danish presidency?

31.3.1993

PT

31. Question by Mr GASÓLIBA I BÖHM (H-0440/93)

Subject: Spanish Government decision on UHF wavelengths for the Balearic Autonomous Region

The Spanish Government's Directorate-General for Telecommunications has assigned the wavelengths currently used for relaying three Catalan-language channels in the Balearic Autonomous Region to Retevision. The relay stations were funded by the Region within the framework of its linguistic standardization policy, as it does not possess a television service of its own.

The change of wavelength would mean serious and unnecessary financial hardship for the Balearic Autonomous Region; the Region's UHF spectrum already possesses two free channels which could be used to broadcast Retevision. The Spanish Government's Directorate General for Telecommunications bases its decision on arguments of a technical nature.

Does the Council not believe that the Directorate-General for Telecommunications is infringing Article 52 and 59 of the EEC and Maastricht Treaties, recognizing the importance of regional cultures and the need to respect their diversity, and that this decision is, moreover, completely arbitrary and should therefore be reconsidered and, if appropriate, rescinded?

1.4.1993

ES

32. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-0456/93)

Subject: Measures to preserve and modernize Greek shipyards

Shipbuilding in Greece is in steady decline. The country with the largest merchant fleet in the Community and thousands of kilometres of coast which form an external Community frontier is in danger of being left without a shipbuilding industry. The misguided implementation of the Seventh Directive requires the closure of shipyards or their transfer to the private sector, with intolerable consequences for employment in the region concerned, and a reduction in their capacity. The attempts to privatize the Skaramangas shipyards and the related decisions of the Commission are the most recent example.

Will the Council reexamine the Community's position on the shipbuilding industry and in particular take political action to preserve and modernize Greek shipyards and increase employment in the sector?

2.4.1993

EL

33. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-0460/93)

Subject: Racist ill-treatment and attitudes among law-enforcement officers in Western Europe against ethnic minorities

Amnesty International has recently published reports of specific racist torture and ill-treatment in Western Europe by law-enforcement officers against ethnic minorities. In Ibiza, Spain, two Arab tourists approached Civil Guard officers, neither tourist could speak Spanish adequately. The police officers violently assaulted both men with truncheons, causing multiple bruising to all parts of their bodies. Racist attacks are increasing and racist attitudes among police officers lead to violations of human rights, leaving those most vulnerable to racist attacks without adequate protection. Governments implicitly condone racist attacks in society by failure to punish police officers. What action will the Council of Ministers take to ensure that their governments implement AI's recommendations to prevent such racism and violence?

5.4.1993

EN

34. Question by Mr CUSHNAHAN (H-0463/93)

Subject: Rural development - LEADER initiative

Does the Council recognize the important role of the Leader initiative in the promotion of rural development in the Community?

Would the Council agree, however, that the budget of the current Leader initiative is inadequate to cover all of the interested groups and that this initiative should be renewed with an increased budget?

Will the Council instruct the Commission to bring forward proposals for a renewed rural development initiative?

5.4.1993

EN

35. Question by Mr GOLLNISCH (H-0471/93)

Subject: EC-Japan agreements on the car industry - 1 April 1993

The EC-Japan agreement of July 1991 on imports of motor vehicles could be obtained only in the form of an exchange of letters. The April 1993 agreement is available only in the form of a press release. At least, that is the only information currently available to a Member of the European Parliament who is also a member of the delegation for relations with Japan.

- Is it not astonishing that decisions of vital importance to European industry are taken so informally?
- What binding legal effects could such an 'agreement' have?
- What information will Parliament receive on this subject?
- What role is it assigned in the conclusion of this agreement?
- What quid pro quos have been obtained from Japan in the field of trade?

8.4.1993

FR

36. Question by Mrs van PUTTEN (H-0472/93)

Subject: Failure to extend the 'Stabex system for ALA countries'

Why has the Council failed to reach a decision, as proposed by the Commission, on extending the 'Stabex system for ALA countries' which expired in December 1991? How does the Council explain the large number of requests for compensation from the ACP countries and the lack of requests from the least-developed ALA countries? Does the Council not share the view that the system provides a useful instrument within a broadly based approach to development cooperation policy? Does the Council not also consider that the lack of a follow-up system runs counter to its efforts to achieve parity in policy for ACP and ALA countries?

8.4.1993

NL

37. Question by Mr Alex SMITH (H-0172/93/rev.)

Subject: Transport of plutonium

What consideration was given in Council meetings in 1992 to France's decision to send 1.7 tonnes of plutonium to Japan, given its policy of requiring a recipient state outside the Community to undertake to inform the Community of its short-term plutonium requirements and capacity for re-use in nuclear reactors; and what plans does the Council have in 1993 for considering applications from the United Kingdom to export plutonium from both Sellafield and Dounreay reprocessing facilities?

4.2.1993

EN

38. Question by Mr McMAHON (H-0188/93)

Subject: European Works Council

Can the Danish Presidency inform Parliament when the proposals for a European Works Council will be adopted by the Social Affairs Council and would the Council not agree that social events surrounding Hoover and Nestlé have given the adoption of this proposal some urgency?

10.2.1993

EN

39. Question by Mrs ODDY (H-0211/93)

Subject: Legal aid in immigration asylum and visa cases

What plans does the Council have to implement cooperation on home affairs and judicial cooperation?

In particular, when there is coordinated policy on immigration, asylum and visa policy what plans does the Council have to harmonize access to legal aid?

16.2.1993

EN

40. Question by Mrs BANOTTI (H-0217/93)

Subject: Equal rights for widows/widowers (Directive 79/7)

Could the President-in-Office inform me whether the Danish Presidency is planning to make the implementation of Directive 79/7¹ a priority of its Presidency? Many organizations, including the Irish Widowers' and Separated Fathers' Association, have been waiting a long time for the Council at long last to adopt this proposal which has been pending before Council since 1987. If there is a problem in Council, could the President-in-Office inform me which Member State governments are holding up this proposal?

18.2.1993

EN

41. Question by Mr NEWTON DUNN (H-0257/93)

Subject: Unpublished derogations

Are there any unpublished derogations to the Red Meat Directive (91/497/EEC)²?

24.2.1993

EN

¹ OJ No. L 6, 10.1. 1979, p. 24

² OJ No. L 268, 24.9.1991, p. 69



QUESTIONS TO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION

42. Question by Mr NIANIAS (H-0450/93)

Subject: Crimes committed in Bosnia-Herzegovina

In the past, the Ministers meeting in EPC have declared and let it be understood that the Serbs alone were responsible for the crimes committed in Bosnia-Herzegovina. There is evidence of a widespread propaganda campaign supporting this view in the Community institutions.

Can the Ministers meeting in EPC state clearly and explicitly whether they continue to support this view or whether they believe that crimes have been committed by all three parties to the conflict - Croats, Muslims and Serbs?

1.4.1993

GR

43. Question by Mr IMBENI (H-0443/93/rev.)

Subject: Aid for the town of Tuzla

The Bosnian town of Tuzla (population : 134 000) is currently housing 280 000 refugees, mostly women, old people and children, whose situation is desperate. At present, humanitarian aid could only be supplied via the neighbouring military airport, which is now operational under the protection of British soldiers, the damage caused by Serbian mines having recently been repaired. However, the aircraft carrying the aid have not yet been given authorization to land. What steps is EPC taking to resolve this serious problem as quickly as possible?

1.4.1993

IT

44. Question by Mr SIMEONI (H-0467/93)

Subject: Call for the re-opening of Tuzla Airport under the protection of UNPROFOR

The Bosnian town of Tuzla has been under siege for more than a year now from Karadzic's militia and the Belgrade army. It has been able to maintain peace between the various nationalities thanks to the efforts of a town council run by a coalition of civic and democratic forces. The arrival of refugees has swelled the population of the town and its suburbs to some 800 000, and essential supplies are threatened. That being the case, why are UNPROFOR and the member countries which have contingents in it refusing to ensure that Tuzla Airport is re-opened, although that airport offers greater guarantees of safety than the one in Sarajevo?

6.4.1993

FR

45. Question by Mr KILLILEA (H-0336/93)

Subject: EC/US relations

While relations between the United States and the European Community are reported to have been marked by a substantial strengthening of the dialogue between them in 1992, what prospects does EPC foresee for enhanced coordination in the coming year on issues such as the Middle East, the former Yugoslavia and issues relating to the United Nations?

11.3.1993

EN

46. Question by Mr SPERONI (H-0380/93/rev.)

Subject: Community backing for Russian President Yeltsin

Why, in statements by Mr Petersen, has EPC demonstrated support for recent moves by Russian President Yeltsin and endorsed constitutionally dubious measures before the competent institutional bodies of the Russian State have given a ruling on them?

22.3.1993

IT

47. Question by Mr CUSHNAHAN (H-0464/93)

Subject: The situation in Russia

Have the Foreign Ministers, meeting in political cooperation, discussed the recent political turmoil in Russia?

How do the Foreign Ministers intend to assist President Yeltsin in restoring political stability?

5.4.1993

EN

48. Question by Mr DESSYLAS (H-0386/93)

Subject: The 415 deported Palestinians and EEC-Israel relations

What specific measures have the Twelve taken to improve relations between the EEC and Israel (meetings, agreements, etc.) and on what grounds while the 415 Palestinians are still in exile and Israel continues flagrantly to violate and show utter contempt for UN Security Council resolutions and every principle of international law?

22.3.1993

EL

49. Question by Mr ARBELOA MURU (H-0141/93/rev.)

Subject: The EC as a sponsor of the Peace Conference

How did the EPC react to comments by sources in the Middle East to the effect that the European Community ought to appoint a 'leading figure' assisted by a permanent secretariat, to join Russia and the USA as a third 'sponsor' for the Middle East Peace Conference?

29.1.1993

ES

50. Question by Mr BONDE (H-0447/93)

Subject: The Common Foreign Policy and majority decisions

In what issue-areas have proposals been made among the Foreign Ministers for decision-making on actions by majority voting?

1.4.1993

DA

51. Question by Mr ANDREWS (H-0348/93)

Subject: Somalia

Will EPC provide a detailed assessment of the up-to-date situation in Somalia and the role of the European Community in helping to alleviate famine and restore hope and will it undertake a further visit to Somalia to demonstrate its continued support for that country?

11.3.1993

EN

52. Question by Mr FITZGERALD (H-0342/93)

Subject: Death of Irish aid worker, Valerie Place, in Somalia

In view of the tragic death of Irish aid worker, Valerie Place, in Somalia in a random attack, does EPC consider that the European Community and the United States can develop a new approach to safeguarding foreign aid workers in Somalia?

11.3.1993

EN

53. Question by Mrs ODDY (H-0278/93)

Subject: Human rights in Sri Lanka

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation aware that Amnesty International has just published 'An Assessment of the Human Rights situation in Sri Lanka'?

What steps do the Foreign Ministers intend to take in the light of Amnesty's conclusions that grave violations of human rights continue in the east and elsewhere prisoners continue to be tortured and ill-treated?

25.2.1993

EN

54. Question by Mrs van DIJK (H-0279/93)

Subject: Violation of freedom of the press in Uzbekistan

A Dutch correspondent working for one of the main Dutch daily newspapers was recently deported by the Uzbek authorities. The reason given was that he had met representatives of the main opposition parties, 'Erk' and 'Birlik'.

Is EPC aware of this event? Bearing in mind that EC aid to Uzbekistan is based on the premise that democratic principles will be respected by the recipient country, is EPC prepared to draw the Uzbek authorities' attention to their responsibility to guarantee freedom of the press in their country?

25.2.1993

NL

55. Question by Mr BALFE (H-0285/93)

Subject: Malawi

What attention has EPC given to recent events in Malawi and would it make a statement on the prospects for democracy there?

25.2.1993

EN

56. Question by Mrs CRAMON DAIBER (H-0295/93)

Subject: Syria

On Thursday 25 February, the Syrian Foreign Minister met with the Belgian Foreign Minister as part of the 'preparation' for the Belgian Presidency.

Could the President-in-Office, in the framework of the normal cooperation procedures within the Troika, say what guarantees Mr Claes received from his Syrian counterpart on the necessary improvements to the human rights situation and the reestablishment of the freedom to travel of the Jewish community in Syria?

If not, why does EPC insist on having the fourth financial protocol approved by the House?

2.3.1993

DE

57. Question by Mrs CRAWLEY (H-0321/93)

Subject: Malik Al-Asad

Would the EPC put pressure on the Syrian authorities to make known to them the whereabouts of Malik Al-Asad, and would it seek assurances from the Syrian authorities that Malik will be allowed visits by family members and lawyers?

10.3.1993

EN

58. Question by Mr CRAMPTON (H-0301/93)

Subject: Categories of membership of the European Union

At the Subcommittee on Security and Disarmament recently, an official of the German Ministry of Defence said that he saw no real difference between the categories of membership of the West European Union - full members, associate members and observers.

Can the Minister comment on the institutional implications of this in the light of the status of the West European Union as an 'integral part of European Union' in the Maastricht Treaty?

3.3.1993

EN

59. Question by Mr LALOR (H-0345/93)

Subject: EC relations with Indo-China

Will EPC say how it has responded to the call by Parliament in its resolution of 12 June 1992³ on relations between the Community and Indo-China (Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia) for the Community to play an active role in the political and economic development of those countries?

11.3.1993

EN

³ OJ C 176 of 13.7.1992 p. 228

60. Question by Mr BANDRES MOLET (H-0357/93)

Subject: Detention of EC citizens in Morocco

Approximately 150 EC citizens are currently being held in prisons in Morocco, accused of drug-trafficking offences, mainly involving hashish. In the majority of cases, according to independent Moroccan lawyers, the defendants themselves declared to the customs authorities that the hashish they had in their possession was for their own use, and the amounts seized were less than 50 grammes in weight. The aim of the action taken by the Moroccan authorities is in many cases that of confiscation, since the defendants are deprived of all their possessions.

Is European Political Cooperation aware of this situation? If so, what action can be taken to improve the situation of these EC citizens whilst in detention and, if possible, to secure their release?

15.3.1993

ES

61. Question by Mr David MARTIN (H-0392/93)

Subject: BURMA - sanctions

Will the President-in-Office consider recommending to EPC the implementation of strong diplomatic, economic, military and financial sanctions on Burma's illegitimate government?

24.3.1993

EN

62. Question by Mr PIERROS (H-0403/93)

Subject: Protection of human rights in Albania

In view of the importance the Community and the Member States attach to human rights and given the sporadic measures taken in Albania to bring the country in line with the new conditions obtaining in Europe and the CSCE framework, do the Twelve intend to make representations to the Albanian authorities to comply with the provisions of the Paris Charter and the conditions the Community sets for the conclusion of agreements with third countries by ensuring that human rights are fully protected in the context of a new legislative framework?

25.3.1993

EL

63. Question by Mr LAGAKOS (H-0441/93)

Subject: Human Rights in Albania

Is EPC aware that the Albanian Government has prepared a draft law on religion, which, by containing provisions limiting the rights of the religious communities in that country, violates human rights, according to the Helsinki Watch Organization, and is in contravention of its commitments as a member of the CSCE.

In view of the fact that one of the conditions governing assistance under the PHARE programme is observance of human rights, and Albania is a beneficiary of this programme, what action has been taken to dissuade the Albanian authorities from enacting legislation limiting the rights of the religious communities in that country?

1.4.1993

EL

64. Question by Mr KOSTOPOULOS (H-1183/92)

Subject: The rights of the Orthodox Church in Albania

The Albanian Government is taking unprecedented steps to gag the Orthodox Church on its territory. A bill being pushed through the Albanian Parliament will in practice suppress religious worship by the Orthodox members of the Greek minority, by banning the use of the Greek language for their services and at the same time deposing the Orthodox Archbishop Yannoulatos and requiring him to be replaced by an Albanian cleric. Will the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation take immediate action to protect the rights of the Orthodox Church in Albania and in more general terms to defend the freedom of religion of the Greek Orthodox minority?

16.11.1992

EL

65. Question by Mr ROBLES PIQUER (H-0413/93)

Subject: Asia-Pacific cooperation (APEC system)

Recent statements by Japanese leaders, analysed by Western commentators, have focused on Japan's desire to step up economic cooperation with Asia and the countries of the Pacific rim under a system known by the English acronym APEC.

APEC involves 15 countries, including the United States and Japan. It is said that this system will be a cause of concern to the European countries in particular. Are the Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation aware of this and what are their views on the matter?

29.3.1993

ES

66. Question by Mr BIRD (H-0421/93)

Subject: Human rights in the State of Punjab, India

What is EPC's view on the human rights situation in the Indian State of Punjab?

Does EPC believe that an independent organization such as Amnesty International, or representatives of the United Nations, should be invited by the Indian Government to the State of Punjab to monitor human rights?

Are the European Community's aid and trade arrangements with India linked to human rights in the State of Punjab, and indeed other parts of the country?

30.3.1993

EN

67. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-0455/93)

Subject: Measures for a peaceful solution to the Kurdish problem

The situation in south-east Turkey continues to be explosive and to threaten peace in the region. The Kurds who live in the areas which are under a state of emergency are suffering military repression, the destruction of villages and the forced removal of populations, while there have been hundreds of civilian casualties of the clashes and mopping-up operations. The recent statements by the Kurdish forces about a ceasefire create fresh opportunities for a peaceful solution to the Kurdish problem.

Will European Political Cooperation produce initiatives to end the persecution of the Kurds and resolve the Kurdish problem legally, and will it raise the matter at the forthcoming meeting of the EEC-Turkey Association Council?

2.4.1993

EL

68. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-0039/93/rev.)

Subject: Measures taken by Turkey against Kurdish Members of Parliament

Is EPC aware of the measures taken in Turkey against MPs of Kurdish origin, which include a request for the waiver of immunity of 18 MPs being considered by the Constitutional Court?

Will EPC be taking the necessary steps to raise the issue with the Turkish Government in the context of the scheduled consultations with Turkey?

8.1.1993

EL

69. Question by Mrs SANDBÆK (H-0458/93)

Subject: Involvement of other European countries in Europe's development

Will the Foreign Ministers say how the EFTA countries and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe have been involved in foreign policy coordination, and can the Foreign Ministers say what new initiatives and plans are in the pipeline for pan-European cooperation extending to all the nations of Europe?

2.4.1993

DA

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION

70. Question by Mr David MARTIN (H-0391/93)

Subject: Treaty on European Union

What action has the Commission taken to ensure that once the Treaty on European Union is ratified by all Member States, Article 8b paragraph 2 can be implemented by the deadline of 31 December 1993?

24.3.1993

EN

71. Question by Mr MEGAHY (H-0306/93)

Subject: Maastricht Treaty

Chancellor Kohl has indicated that if Denmark and the UK have not ratified the Maastricht treaty by July/August the other ten states will go ahead without them.

Can the Commission indicate what procedures exist for expelling Denmark and the UK from the European Community? If Denmark and the UK were not to ratify in time, but could not be expelled from the EC, what arrangements does the Commission envisage for the co-existence of the EC of twelve states with a European Union of ten states? Would this need a completely parallel set of institutions?

5.3.1993

EN

72. Question by Mrs SANDBAEK (H-0404/93/rev.)

Subject: Conclusions of the Presidency at Edinburgh and the Protocol on Social Policy

Does the following passage quoted from the conclusions of the Presidency at Edinburgh of 11-12 December 1992, Annex 1 to Part A, II, third paragraph (iii), permit the implementation under the law of directives solely by management and labour, as laid down in Article 2(4) of the Agreement on Social Policy annexed to the Protocol on Social Policy to the Maastricht Treaty, when management and labour are not entitled to make agreements having an erga omnes effect, or will further legislation be necessary?

'... care should be taken to respect well established national arrangements and the organization and working of Member States' legal systems. Where appropriate and subject to the need for proper enforcement, Community measures should provide Member States with alternative ways to achieve the objectives of the measures.'

(Conclusions of the Presidency, Edinburgh 11-12 December 1992, Annex 1 to Part A, II, third paragraph (iii)).

25.3.1993

EN

73. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-0236/93)

Subject: Economic growth strategy for the Community

The Edinburgh Summit called upon the Commission to develop a strategy for growth throughout the Community, yet unemployment levels in all the European Community Member States has reached alarming proportions, and hope for recovery does not appear to be a part of the near future. Will the Commission make a statement as to its progress in implementing a Community economic growth strategy? By what specific means does it intend to introduce such a strategy?

19.2.1993

EN

74. Question by Mr FITZGERALD (H-0340/93)

Subject: Social disadvantages

What new initiatives does the Commission consider could be taken as a legitimate area of Community action to tackle the serious problems within the most disadvantaged Member States of decaying inner city areas, homelessness and housing as well as increasing social problems and tensions in high unemployment housing estates and under-developed rural areas?

11.3.1993

EN

75. Question by Mr Brian SIMPSON (H-0182/93)

Subject: Child labour

Can the Commission indicate what it intends to do to ensure that all Member States, but in particular Portugal, put an end to the practice of child labour which is being carried out in appalling conditions on low wages and which clearly breaches EC regulations?

9.2.1993

EN

76. Question by Mr McMAHON (H-0187/93)

Subject: Social Europe

In his interview with the Financial Times on 29th January 1993 Commissioner Flynn stated that the social dimension had been 'highjacked by the Trade Unions'. Is this the considered view of the college and if so is it not at variance with reported speeches by President Delors on Monday, February 1st to the Council and Thursday, 4th February at a Brussels Conference?

10.2.1993

EN

77. Question by Mrs RØNN (H-0370/93)

Subject: Passport control at the Community's internal borders

It is consistent with the opening of the internal market on 1 January 1993 that Denmark is continuing to insist on the detailed examination of citizens' passports at the borders?

Does the Commission find it acceptable that Denmark should fine citizens who, believing the EC's internal borders now to be open, cross the border without a passport, but can nevertheless produce their driving licence, medical card or such similar document as identification?

If not, can the Commission state what action it proposes to take with respect to Denmark.

17.3.1993

DA

78. Question by Mr BONDE (H-0445/93)

Subject: Citizenship of the Union and direct applicability

Are the provisions of the Maastricht Treaty on citizenship of the Union, and in particular Article 8a directly applicable. What rights accrue hereby to citizens of the Union, and do all directly-applicable rights also apply to citizens of the Union on the territory of the Kingdom of Denmark', or does the Edinburgh agreement restrict the rights of citizens of the Union to receive social benefits on a 'non-discriminatory' basis for example, should the case arise?

1.4.1993

DA

79. Question by Mrs McINTOSH (H-0115/93)

Subject: Passport checks at internal Community frontiers

Will the Commission investigate why airports in the Community are still imposing frontier checks in the form of passport controls on passengers arriving from another EC Member State?

28.1.1993

EN

80. Question by Mr ANASTASSOPOULOS (H-0372/93/rev.)

Subject: Criteria for selecting Commission Vice-Presidents

Further to its recent decision, can the Commission say what criteria were used for appointing six of its members as Vice-Presidents? What criteria were used in extending members of the Commission's term of office as Vice-Presidents to 8 years while no member from Greece, Portugal or Ireland was deemed worthy of holding this office, with the exception of a short-lived promotion of an Irish Commissioner? To what extent does the Commission believe such practices contribute to geographical balance between North and South and equal participation by the twelve Member States in the European Community?

18.3.1993

EL

81. Question by Mr CASSIDY (H-0206/93)

Subject: Official Journal 'C' series

As part of the Commission's drive for transparency following the Edinburgh European Council Meeting, will the Commission arrange to publish in the 'C' series of the OJ the Explanatory Statement, the Financial Implications and the Impact Assessment Form for all proposals for Council Directives?

15.2.1993

EN

82. Question by Mr DESMOND (H-0298/93)

Subject: AIDS

The Commission has referred to the 'resources available' as a cause for the substantial delays in a Commission proposal for a directive (11 February 1991, WQ No. 2406/90⁴). Is the Commission content with this, and does it not agree that funding should not be a barrier to EC initiatives?

Will it take the necessary steps to ensure that the availability of condoms with approved standards of quality and price is supported by the Community in partnership with Member States?

With regard to fast and effective HIV testing, there has been little EC action. Does the negligible response of the Commission demonstrate an indifference to the plight of AIDS sufferers, the HIV-positive and those yet to contract HIV? In view of this will the Commission seek to ensure HIV screening becomes common practice throughout the EC as a matter of public health?

Will the Commission give precise details of its plans to combat AIDS and renew its efforts to ensure real progress is made in promoting true public awareness of AIDS, explaining how the virus is transmitted, how to avoid exposure and equally how those currently carrying the disease are to be treated, both medically and socially?

3.3.1993

EN

⁴ OJ No. C 286, 4.11.1991, p. 1

83. Question by ARBELOA MURU (H-0225/93)

Subject: EC presence in Somalia

If it is indeed regrettable that the EC should be absent from the decision-making process which until now has been led by the United States of America, as two European Commissioners have stated, how should the gap be filled, by a military contribution perhaps or by an increase in aid to a country which is signatory to the Lomé Convention?

18.2.1993

ES

84. Question by Mrs ROTH (H-0296/93)

Subject: Syria

What firm commitments did Commissioner van den Broek get from the Syrian Foreign Minister when they met on 25 February concerning improvement of the human rights situation in that country, including the freedom to travel of the Jewish community, and is the Commission prepared to withdraw its proposal on the fourth financial protocol until those commitments have materialized?

3.3.1993

DE

85. Question by Mrs CRAMON DAIBER (H-0453/93)

Subject: Syria

After meeting the Foreign Minister of Syria on February 25 Commissioner Van den Broek announced that the subject of human rights in Syria and more particularly the freedom to travel abroad of the Jewish community was discussed, is the Commission aware of significant numbers of Jewish people being allowed to leave the country?

If this is not the case, how does the Commission judge the commitments made by this Minister during his visit and what effect will this have on the Fourth Protocol?

2.4.1993

DE

86. Question by Mr FITZSIMONS (H-0337/93)

Subject: Romania

Will the Commission give details of its current aid programme for Romania and indicate, in particular, the situation regarding children in Romanian orphanages and how Romanian families are managing to cope with the continuing difficult economic, social and political conditions?

11.3.1993

EN

87. Question by Mr STAMOULIS (H-0282/93)

Subject: Opinion by the Commission on the accession of Cyprus to the European Community

A reliable source - the BBC - recently announced that the publication of the Commission's opinion on the accession of the Republic of Cyprus to the European Community is being deliberately delayed. The same source attributes this delay to political pressure applied by Turkey and the United States to which the Commission seems to have yielded, despite the fact that its economic services take a positive view of accession.

Will the Commission say whether these reports of political pressure applied by third countries (Turkey and the USA) are true, and if so, how does it justify its inertia and its contempt for the repeated resolutions adopted by the European Parliament calling for the immediate withdrawal of the Turkish forces of occupation from northern Cyprus?

25.2.1993

GR

88. Question by Mr BIRD (H-0360/93)

Subject: Opinion on Malta's application to join the European Community

Will the Commission please explain the continuing delay in the presentation of an opinion on the possible accession of Malta to the European Community? A great many Members of the European Parliament regard this delay as unacceptable and very unfair to the people of Malta. If the Commission feels that Malta should not be allowed to join the European Community, it would be only right and proper for it to say so immediately.

16.3.1993

EN

89. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-0260/93)

Subject: Sale of the AGET-IRAKLIS company

It is alleged that the Greek company AGET-IRAKLIS through its association with the Ferruzzi Group is involved in the corruption scandal currently rocking the political parties in Italy.

Given that these revelations have caused a similar scandal in Greece, that the sale of AGET-IRAKLIS was viewed in Greece as not being entirely aboveboard or fully in compliance with the rules on competition and that the problem of the half-sale of Chalkis cement has not yet been resolved, will the Commission say whether it intends to re-open the file on the sale of AGET-IRAKLIS and whether it is in a position to provide information if requested to do so by the Greek Parliament's Committee on Economic Affairs which is investigating this matter?

25.2.1993

GR

90. Question by Mrs BRAUN-MOSER (H-0280/93)

Subject: Taxi concessions in the future

In view of the requirement pursuant to Article 85 that all distortions of competition be eliminated by 1993, can taxi concessions continue?

Or is it possible that they can be authorized pursuant to Article 85(3) in the interests of protecting public order?

25.2.1993

DE

91. Question by Mrs BANOTTI (H-0281/93)

Subject: Cost of air access to peripheral countries

In the light of the uneconomic nature of air services to the peripheral countries of the Community, why cannot structural and cohesion funds be used to reduce the costs for airlines servicing these markets? For example, the UK en route charges, which must be incurred by all airlines servicing Ireland, are the highest in Europe, thus adding additional infrastructural costs for both access and exports.

25.2.1993

EN

92. Question by Mr BALFE (H-0283/93)

Subject: Channel Tunnel

Is the Commission in receipt at the moment of any application for financial or other assistance from British Rail or from any other groups in connection with the various railway projects connected with the Channel Tunnel Link?

25.2.1993

EN

93. Question by Mr VAN OUTRIVE (H-0287/93)

Subject: Implementation of the provisions of paragraphs 8-11 of the Council resolution of 13 November 1991 (OJ No. C 328, 17.12.1991) concerning protection of the financial interests of the Community

The abovementioned resolution requests the Commission to submit, no later than the first half of 1993, the results of a comparative study of the legal and administrative provisions of the Member States for punishing fraudulent practices.

Can the Commission forward this study to me?

In what way is this study integrated in a general policy against defrauding the Communities, and what action has been taken, or is under consideration, to harmonize where appropriate the legal and administrative provisions of the Member States?

25.2.1993

NL

94. Question by Mr CORNELISSEN (H-0290/93)

Subject: EIB decision to allocate ECU 1 billion to investment projects

Is it true that on 23 April 1993 the European Investment Bank decided to support investment projects to the tune of ECU 1 billion, not one of them located in the Netherlands?

What was the Commission's contribution to this decision?

Can the Commission ensure that, out of the remaining ECU 4 billion to be distributed as part of the financial mechanism to stimulate the European economy, EIB funding will also be provided for appropriate projects in the Netherlands?

1.3.1993

NL

95. Question by Mrs FERRER (H-0291/93)

Subject: Designation of La Jonquera as a land BIP

In line with the various Commission decisions establishing the Border Inspection Posts (BIPs) short-listed to carry out veterinary checks on products from non-member countries, the Spanish BIPs are authorized to carry out such checks only on goods arriving by sea, land checks being completely ruled out.

However, manufactured goods containing ingredients of animal origin - such as ice-cream, biscuits, pizzas, etc. - which enter Spain by land are being diverted to the Barcelona BIP even though the latter is only responsible for goods arriving by air or sea.

As La Jonquera has an Administrative Unit which is technically competent to carry out these tasks in a completely professional way and as this would also enable some jobs to be saved and thus mitigate the effects of border abolition, does the Commission not consider that the current practice involves administrative discrimination, since the Barcelona BIP is not authorized to carry out land checks? And if so, does the Commission not believe that La Jonquera should be designated as a BIP responsible for land checks?

1.3.1993

ES

96. Question by Mrs RUIZ-GIMENEZ AGUILAR (H-0292/93)

Subject: Ecological plan for the EC's coastal areas

Following the recent accidents at sea in two Community countries involving major ecological and economic losses and in accordance with the Resolution adopted on 25 February 1992 by the Council of the Environment Ministers, calling on the Commission to propose an overall Community strategy for the comprehensive management of coastal areas by creating an organized framework for the environment and sustainable development, could the Commission provide information on the scope of that strategy, the main criteria on which it is based and the economic resources proposed for its implementation?

1.3.1993

ES

97. Question by Mrs ANDRE (H-0293/93)

Subject: Training programme for Community developers

At the initiative of the European Parliament, Article B3-110 of the Community Budget for 1993 provides for a training programme for Community developers intended to give managers and technicians in Objectives 1, 2 and 5b priority regions training and information on EC activities and programmes.

Can the Commission say how regional and local employees will be able to take part in this programme in practice?

2.3.1993

FR

98. Question by Mrs Caroline JACKSON (H-0300/93)

Subject: Dietary foods, vitamins and mineral supplements

Since considerable confusion persists over the possibility of EC legislation on dietary foods, vitamins and mineral supplements, can the Commission confirm that it has now definitely abandoned the idea of making proposals for common EC standards on these products?

3.3.1993

EN

99. Question by Mrs PACK (H-0303/93)

Subject: National bans on the circulation of newspapers and magazines from other Member States

Does the Commission share the view of the French Health Ministry that a ban on tobacco advertising in the press, in force in France since the beginning of 1993, also applies to newspapers and magazines published in other countries and imported into France?

Does the Commission consider national bans on the circulation of publications originating in other Member States as posing a threat to the internal market and to press freedom in Europe?

Is it prepared to act against such bans, and if so how?

4.3.1993

DE

100. Question by Mr GUILLAUME (H-0304/93)

Subject: Pressure being exerted on the Commission by the Belgian Government

Is it true that the new Commission has been subjected to political pressure from the Belgian Government, which is intent on making European civil servants liable to Belgian tax, even though to do so manifestly flouts Article 13 of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities, which Belgium has signed?

Does the Commission not consider it inadmissible that a 'host country' which has been systematically hounding the European civil service for some time should propose to undermine the status of European civil servants purely in order to reduce its currently astronomical national budget deficit, to which it can find no adequate solutions?

Notwithstanding the undeniable fact that it has never shown itself to be a model of zealousness when it comes to upholding the status and interests of European civil servants in the face of the Belgian authorities or the Council, will the Commission make a firm and decisive response to these unacceptable pressures once they have become more explicit?

5.3.1993

FR

101. Question by Mr van der WAAL (H-0305/93)

Subject: State subsidies to Air France

According to recent reports in the press, Air France is receiving a capital injection of FF 1.5 billion from the Caisse de Dépôts et Consignations, a financial institution owned by the French State. The Caisse de Dépôts is the sole subscriber to a convertible debenture loan of FF 750 million and a subordinated 'perpetual' loan with share warrants of FF 750 million.

The capital injection from the Caisse de Dépôts brings to no less than FF 8.5 billion the total transfer from the public sector to Air France in the past 18 months.

Does not the Commission agree that this is unquestionably an illegal state subsidy?

5.3.1993

NL

102. Question by Mr KOSTOPOULOS (H-0315/93)

Subject: Time-charging for Greek Telecommunications Company subscribers equipped with digital telephones

On 1 March the Greek Telecommunications Company intends to introduce time-charging - an anti-Community and illegal measure - for the 14% of subscribers equipped with digital telephones. The administration of the company has decided to charge telephone calls made on digital telephones by units of 5 minutes for calls between 9 a.m. and 10 p.m., by units of 10 minutes for calls between 10 p.m. and 9 a.m. Charges for facilities and special services offered to subscribers with digital telephones are also being reduced by 50%. In view of the above, what action does the Commission intend to take to protect Telecommunications Company subscribers equipped with digital telephones?

9.3.1993

EL

103. Question by Mrs ELMALAN (H-0317/93)

Subject: Distribution of apples withdrawn from the market

Substantial quantities of apples have been withdrawn from the market to help stabilize prices.

Under the existing rules, withdrawn stocks may be supplied to humanitarian organizations, which redistribute them to the Community's neediest people.

Distribution poses a problem because fresh apples are difficult to transport, handle, and store. To enable distribution to proceed more smoothly, and to provide a more useful form of aid for the most underprivileged sections of society, humanitarian organizations such as food banks are accordingly proposing that apples withdrawn from the market be processed by preserving in syrup ('compote').

Will the Commission give consideration to the request from the humanitarian organizations?

9.3.1993

FR

104. Question by Mrs CRAWLEY (H-0320/93)

Subject: Aid to Tibet

What guidelines are in place for ensuring that aid to Tibet helps Tibetan nationals to preserve their own identity rather than assisting occupying forces in their occupation? Would the Commission, in assessing projects for financial assistance, ensure that projects further Tibet's peaceful, non-violent aims, that they benefit Tibetan people rather than Chinese military personnel and government officials, that priority is given to education, training, public health, and preserving the Tibetan culture? Can the Commission guarantee that all on-going projects are appropriately and fully monitored?

10.3.1993

EN

105. Question by Mrs GREEN (H-0322/93)

Subject: European Regional Development Fund and London

How will the Commission assess reasoned requests from Member States for Objective Two status for zones affected by industrial decline and which do not strictly meet the eligibility criteria?

11.3.1993

EN

106. Question by Mr ELLIOTT (H-0323/93)

Subject: European Development Fund and London

How does the Commission intend to meet the needs of urban areas such as parts of Greater London, where unemployment is more than twice the Community average, under the reform of Objective Two of the Structural Funds?

11.3.1993

EN

107. Question by Mr NEWENS (H-0324/93)

Subject: European Regional Development Fund and London

Will the Commission ensure the proposed revisions of ESF do not lead to a disinvestment of EC structural funds from London, which now has 50% of the 50 British parliamentary constituencies with the highest rates of unemployment?

11.3.1993

EN

108. Question by Mrs POLLACK (H-0325/93)

Subject: European Regional Development Fund and London

By what means could a special case be made for London for inclusion in the Commission proposals for the reformed Objective Two of the EC structural funds?

11.3.1993

EN

109. Question by Mrs TONGUE (H-0326/93)

Subject: The European Development Fund and London

Will the Commission comment on its analysis of the effectiveness of the ERDF pilot schemes in London over the last two years, and how this has informed their plans for the reform of the Structural Funds?

11.3.1993

EN

110. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-0327/93)

Subject: European Regional Development Fund and London

Has the Commission considered the consequences of the proposed reform of the European Social Fund and its new emphasis on industrial decline upon Greater London, where only 17% of jobs are industrial but which has the fastest rising unemployment in the EC and the highest concentration of long-term unemployed in the EC?

11.3.1993

EN

111. Question by Mr POMPIDOU (H-0329/93)

Subject: New nuclear reactors to be built in Russia

According to the Russian Minister for Energy, Viktor Michailov, Russia is planning to build 23 new nuclear reactors on its territory by the year 2000, with an installed capacity of 16500 MWe.

Will the Commission ask the Russian authorities for more information on the nature of this project? What type of reactors will be built? For civil or military purposes?

Finally, what role will be played by the IAEA in monitoring these installations?

11.3.1993

FR

112. Question by Mr LANE (H-0331/93)

Subject: European Health and Safety Year

What actions does the Commission propose to take in 1993 and in subsequent years as a follow-up to the successful 1992 Health and Safety Year?

11.3.1993

EN

113. Question by Mr LALOR (H-0343/93)

Subject: Community action plan to assist tourism

On 4 June 1992, the Council approved a Community action plan to assist tourism, separate from infrastructure investment, by supporting a series of measures designed, among others, to improve knowledge of the industry, to improve information, to promote cultural tourism and European tourism among third countries, particularly the United States and Japan. Is this action plan, due to be implemented on 1 January 1993, now in operation and what are its prospects and pitfalls?

11.3.1993

EN

114. Question by Mr ANDREWS (H-0346/93)

Subject: Retransmission of RTE television services in the UK

What action has the Commission taken to facilitate the retransmission of RTE television services on UK cable services, as proposed by UK cable operators?

Does the Commission accept that such relays, which would provide a valuable service to the Irish community resident in the UK, are in accord with the Commission's policy on transfrontier broadcasting and as such should be facilitated?

11.3.1993

EN

115. Question by Mr LATAILLADE (H-0349/93)

Subject: The great crisis in the fishing industry

Following the entry into force recently of minimum import prices for cod, coalfish, hake, haddock and monkfish, is the Commission yet able to indicate the trends apparent on the markets after these decisions?

If it transpired that the measures on minimum prices adopted on 25 February 1993 were insufficient, would the Commission, still on the basis of Article 24 of Regulation 3759/92 of 17 December 1992⁵, consider adopting more restrictive measures, such as a temporary ban on imports from third countries in accordance with the GATT safeguard clause?

11.3.1993

FR

116. Question by Mr NICHOLSON (H-0408/93)

Subject: Drop in prices paid to Community fishermen and control of fish imports

Does the Commission have any new proposals to put before Council to resolve the problem caused by the serious drop in prices paid to Community fishermen and, in particular, what measures did the Commission recommend to control the import of fish into the Community?

29.3.1993

EN

117. Question by Mr da CUNHA OLIVEIRA (H-0218/93)

Subject: Research centres in the fisheries sector

The Commission's DG for Fisheries has recently published and distributed an excellent directory of the fisheries research centres existing in the Member States.

In the case of Portugal, nine research centres are mentioned; there is, however, no reference to the University of the Azores or its Department of Oceanography and Fisheries in Horta, on the island of Faial.

Can the Commission explain the reasons for this omission?

18.2.1993

PT

⁵ OJ L No. 388, 31.12.92, p. 1

118. Question by Mr PASTY (H-0350/93)

Subject: The timber crisis in Europe

A crisis without precedent in the past forty years is currently raging in the timber industry and particularly in the French sawmill industry, resulting in the closure of sawmills - a very sensitive sector in eastern France - falling prices, redundancies and a build-up of stocks caused by oversupply. This situation is blamed on massive imports from the Scandinavian countries and Eastern Europe, boosted by the currency devaluations in some Scandinavian countries.

Does the Commission intend to put forward appropriate urgent protective measures to monitor the flow of cheap timber imports into the EEC, the prices of which, including delivery, are lower than Community producers' cost prices, and prevent the timber industry from breaking up still further throughout the European Community?

11.3.1993

ES

119. Question by Mrs GARCIA ARIAS (H-0352/93)

Subject: Security of energy supplies

The Commissioner responsible has announced that he is planning to continue applying the 'criterion' whereby public aid to Member States equivalent to 20% of electricity produced from indigenous sources is authorized as a contribution to the security of energy supplies.

Can the Commission explain whether it regards a simple Commission Communication to the Council (SEC) as a satisfactory legal basis, whether the 20% criterion will be compulsory in all Member States and, if so, whether it plans to make the percentage more flexible so that all countries can secure their energy supplies in line with their specific energy requirements?

11.3.1993

ES

120. Question by Mr BLAK (H-0354/93)

Subject: Breach of civil rights in sport

Does the Commission consider it to be a breach of a young person's civil rights if that person is banned from playing a sport by that sport's governing body simply because he played one game of another sport?

If so, would the Commission ensure that the discriminating sports body receives no support, financially or otherwise, until it follows basic sporting principles by allowing players to participate?

12.3.1993

DA

121. Question by Mrs DURY (H-0355/93)

Subject: PHARE democratization programme

What projects have been submitted under the PHARE democratization programme?

Given that the criteria set out in the call for projects were extremely vague, which criteria have been applied in selecting projects and which projects have been accepted?

15.3.1993

FR

122. Question by Mr BANDRES MOLET (H-0356/93)

Subject: Restrictions on the freedom of movement

Spanish laws relating to military service prevent young Spaniards who are eligible for such service (i.e. with deferment for the purposes of study, contributing to the cost of supporting a family, etc.) from going to live abroad, including in EC Member States.

Does the Commission not consider that such a ban would seriously restrict the free movement of workers enshrined in Article 43 of the Treaty of Rome?

15.3.1993

ES

123. Question by Mr PAPAYANNAKIS (H-0358/93)

Subject: Diversion of the River Acheloos

Mr Tsipaklo, the Undersecretary of State at the National Finance Ministry, has announced that an agreement has been initialled between the Greek State and the TAYEURO consortium concerning the diversion of the River Acheloos. In view of the fact that:

- eight Greek MEPs have submitted a question in the Greek Parliament casting serious doubt on the economic benefits of this diversion project which will have extremely grave adverse environmental consequences,
- political and social representatives have expressed their opposition to this project both in Greece and before the EC institutions,
- Mr McMillan's 'chef de cabinet' has refused to say whether the Commission intends to publish the confidential economic study concerning the planned diversion which sources in Brussels have described as 'negative',
- in a letter to the National Finance Ministry, the Greek Electricity Board has urged that the contract should not be signed because less radical options are available,

will the Commission say whether it intends to reveal to the European Parliament the conclusions of the study on this project drawn up by independent experts and announce its final position on the implementation and funding thereof?

15.3.1993

EL

124. Question by Mr BOWE (H-0359/93)

Subject: 'Flags of convenience' ships

What action has the Commission taken on the question of 'Flags of Convenience' ships and the inherent dangers of the lowering of safety standards, which have been illustrated recently by a number of disasters or near-disasters at sea?

15.3.1993

EN

125. Question by Mr ROUMELIOTIS (H-0362/93)

Subject: Violation of rules on competition by the Greek Telecommunications Company

It has been alleged by consumers' associations and the press that by instituting two different methods for charging telephone calls - charging by time units for professional people equipped with digital telephones and the old system for those equipped with conventional telephones - the Greek Telecommunications Company is violating the rules on fair competition, since it is charging its customers different rates for the same services.

This problem is particularly acute for professional people such as lawyers, doctors etc. who are very dependent on the telephone for their professional work.

How does the Commission view these allegations?

16.3.1993

EL

126. Question by Mrs ERNST de la GRAETE (H-0365/93/rev.)

Subject: Involvement of MEPs in committees set up to monitor programmes funded by the European Community

Having regard to the importance of the assessment and monitoring phase of programmes supported by the structural funds,

Having regard to the substantial increase in the budget for the structural funds over the period 1994-1999,

Does the Commission not consider that, as part of the review of the reform, provision should be made for those Members who wish to do so to join the monitoring committees in the various regions in an advisory capacity?

17.3.1993

FR

127. Question by Mrs RAWLINGS (H-0368/93/rev.)

Subject: European Heritage campuses

The contribution made to heritage conservation by young volunteers is extremely valuable. Since 1990, the Commission has supported European Heritage campuses through the organization APARE. Could it assess the work of APARE in relation to this programme and assess the Commission's contribution to the preservation of the European Heritage?

17.3.1993

EN

128. Question by Mr FALQUI (H-0369/93)

Subject: The Italian Government's reply to the Commission's request for information on the conclusion of the 'Enimont affair'

In its reply to my question of 26 January 1993⁶, the Commission finally notified Parliament of the reasons why it decided not to proceed further in its inquiry into state aid for the acquisition by the ENI state-owned corporation of Montedison shares in the Enimont joint venture. In view of the reasons given by the Italian Government, I should like to ask the Commission, firstly, whether it considers that the discrepancy between the quoted price and the actual price paid is really justifiable, within the meaning of Article 92 of the Treaty, in terms of the boost for ENI's activities which might result from majority control given that, the day after the majority acquisition, ENI announced in its business plan the closure of 6 of the 12 plants acquired by Montedison and, secondly, whether it considers such justification equally valid in the case of a private individual operating in 'normal market conditions'?

17.3.1993

IT

129. Question by Mr McCUBBIN (H-0373/93)

Subject: The use of organophosphorous in sheep-dip

Is the Commission aware of recent reports claiming that organophosphorous compounds used in sheep-dip may be responsible for sheep farmers being affected by nausea, headaches, blurred vision, muscle spasms and, in more severe cases, convulsions, coma and death? In view of these problems, has it any plans to withdraw organophosphorous compounds as a hazardous agent or to legislate on its use in the workplace?

18.3.1993

EN

⁶ H-0096/93, Annex to the verbatim report of proceedings of 10 March 1993

130. Question by Mr DEPREZ (H-0374/93)

Subject: Decree by the Flemish Executive on the transmission of radio and television programmes on cable networks and the authorization of private television companies

In its answer to my Oral Question H-0261/93⁷, the Commission states that it is 'not aware of a general condition, contained in a Flemish Decree, which would restrict the relaying of channels originating in other Member States on the cable networks in Flanders to Flemish-language channels'.

Nonetheless, the Commission itself has brought an action against Belgium (Case C-211/91) with the aim of establishing that 'by banning the transmission on a distribution network of programmes by broadcasting companies of other Member States if the programmes are not in the language or one of the languages of the Member State in which the broadcasting service is established', as regards the legislation applicable in the Flemish community, 'the Kingdom of Belgium has failed to fulfil its obligations under Articles 52, 59, 60 and 221'. In its judgment of 16 December 1992 the Court found that the Commission was right.

In the knowledge that this ban was imposed under Articles 3 and 4 of the Decree of 28 January 1987 by the Flemish community, does the Commission's answer mean that these arrangements have been changed since then, or that it forgot about the action which it brought itself?

19.3.1993

FR

131. Question by Mr IVERSEN (H-0375/93)

Subject: Siting of a German rubbish dump close to the Danish border

At Question Time during Parliament's March 1992 part-session I asked a question (H-0169/92)⁸ to the Commission concerning the location of a German rubbish dump at Harrislee, 25 metres from the Danish border.

In its answer, the Commission stated that it was not familiar with the situation but it would request information from the German authorities and keep me informed.

To date I have heard nothing from the Commission.

Would the Commission therefore state what action it has taken in the above matter and kindly answer my question (H-0169/92), which is now more than a year old.

19.3.1993

DA

⁷ Verbatim report of proceedings, Annex, 10.3.1993

⁸ Debates of the European Parliament No. 3-416, p. 169

132. Question by Mr VALVERDE LÓPEZ (H-0377/93)

Subject: Programme of CAP accompanying measures submitted by the Spanish Government

Under the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy the Member States had to submit, at the end of 1992, specific programmes of CAP accompanying measures.

What is the total investment planned by the Spanish Government in the following three areas: environmental protection, early retirement for farmers and afforestation programmes?

22.3.1993

ES

133. Question by Mr WIJSENBEEK (H-0378/93)

Subject: Ban on transporting live pigs pursuant to Decision No. 93/128/EEC of 26 February 1993

The veterinary services in the Netherlands have not detected a single case of swine vesicular disease since 25 November 1992. Why, then, has the decision banning the Netherlands and Italy from transporting live pigs to other Member States until 1 April 1993 not been lifted - particularly as it has a very dubious, non-objective basis, it refers to no specific periods and there was only one notifiable case in January, which did not come to light until late February?

22.3.1993

NE

134. Question by Mr MAHER (H-0379/93)

Subject: Suckler cow premium

Can the Commission say how much extra beef will be produced in the Community resulting from the proposal stipulating that only pure beef animals can qualify in future for the suckler cow premium?

22.3.1993

EN

135. Question by Mr MENDEZ DE VIGO (H-0382/93)

Subject: Community tomato prices

What action is the Commission going to take to prevent downward distortion of Community tomato prices as a result of increased imports of tomatoes from Morocco?

22.3.1993

ES

136. Question by Mr DONNELLY (H-0383/93)

Subject: ECSC Article 56 Conversion Loans

Does the Commission accept that the difficulties experienced by SMEs in the United Kingdom in creating jobs to comply with the terms of ECSC Article 56 Conversion Loans are the direct result of the continuing economic slump in that Member State?

22.3.1993

EN

137. Question by Mr VERHAGEN (H-0388/93)

Subject: ERDF subsidy to modernize Bierset airport (Liège)

In the light of increasing cross-border cooperation, what plans does the Commission have to systematize and coordinate the granting of ERDF subsidies so that such subsidies are not used to finance competing investments, as in the case with Bierset airport and Maastricht airport?

23.3.1993

NL

138. Question by Mrs AINARDI (H-0394/93)

Subject: Worsening situation in the kiwi fruit sector

Over the past few years, many French farmers have been contributing to the policies aimed at diversification by growing kiwi fruit. They have constantly improved the quality of their produce and have set up cooperatives to represent their interests. They have been hit in recent months by a sharp drop in prices brought about by competition in the form of produce from other Member States, sold at dumping prices, and of unregulated imports from third countries such as Chile and New Zealand.

Will the Commission ensure compliance with Community preference, if need be by invoking the safeguard clause, and propose measures with a view to restoring order to the market, maintaining product quality, and safeguarding growers' income?

24.3.1993

FR

139. Question by Mr LANDA MENDIBE (H-0400/93)

Subject: The 'superport' in Bilbao (Basque country)

On 3 March 1992 I addressed a written question to the Commission (No. 0724/92) with request for a written reply on the Bilbao 'superport'.

The Commission has not yet replied to my question, even though the Spanish Government has applied for the new port project to be funded by the 'provisional cohesion instrument'.

Is the Commission aware of the alleged infringements committed at the time of carrying out the environmental impact assessment? Does it intend to look into the matter?

Has the Commission carried out studies, or does it have access to studies by the Spanish Government or other parties, on the development of maritime transport which provide justification for the project?

24.3.1993

ES

140. Question by Mr McCARTIN (H-0406/93)

Subject: Imports to Ireland of second hand cars

Can the Commission state whether it is aware of the registration tax imposed on second-hand cars in Ireland purchased in other Community states and imported into Ireland? Could the Commission agree that this tax at 25.7% is the old excise duty in another form and is therefore in violation of Community law? Could the Commission further comment on the fact that this 25.7% is imposed not on the real value of the car on the European Community market but on an artificial value based on prices within a protected Irish market?

26.3.1993

EN

141. Question by Mr APOLINARIO (H-0407/93)

Subject: Emergency aid to tackle the drought in Portugal and Spain

Emergency measures are needed to help farmers affected by the prolonged drought in some regions of the Community, particularly in Spain and Portugal and especially in certain parts of Alentejo and the Beiras.

Can the Commission indicate:

whether it is sufficiently aware of this problem?

how much of the aid granted to Portugal in 1992 was used?

the dates on which it was actually transferred to Portugal?

Will the Commission accept requests from Spain and Portugal for further emergency measures to tackle the drought during the current year?

What specific aid is earmarked for Portugal?

26.3.1993

PT

142. Question by Lord INGLEWOOD (H-0410/93)

Subject: Additional milk quotas

Bearing in mind the recent award of additional dairy quotas in Italy, Spain and Portugal, will the Commission be proposing to award additional quotas in those parts of the Community where there is a local shortage of milk for processing? Jobs have been lost and are at risk at creameries in my constituency because the milk is not available to be turned into cheese, for which there is a market demand, and would the Commission not agree that, in this instance, milk quotas are destroying jobs and denying the consumer a product he/she wants to buy?

29.3.1993

EN

143. Question by Mr HUGHES (H-0412/93)

Subject: Implementation of the Health and Safety Directives

How many Member States have fully implemented the Health and Safety Directives due to come into effect on 1 January 1993? What action does the Commission intend to take so as to ensure the earliest possible implementation and enforcement of this legislation?

29.3.1993

EN

144. Question by Mr PIERROS (H-0415/93)

Subject: Aid for earthquake victims in Pyrgos in the Prefecture of Ilia

Over the last few weeks the region of Pyrgos in Ilia has been severely affected by earthquakes: buildings have collapsed, many homes have been badly damaged and a number of people have been injured. The earthquakes are becoming more violent and economic activity in the region has come to a standstill. Does the Commission intend to grant economic and technical aid to this region and, if so, by which procedure?

29.3.1993

GR

145. Question by Mr de VRIES (H-0419/93)

Subject: Licensing of telecommunications technology

On 18 March, the European Telecommunications Institute (ETSI) took a highly contentious decision, which is opposed by many European and non-European firms. It established a technology licensing regime which appears to differ from internationally accepted norms. It also reserved the right to reduce royalty rates.

Does this decision respect the European Community's international obligations?

30.3.1993

NL

146. Question by Mr AMENDOLA (H-0423/93)

Subject: Extension of the deadline for all the priorities for 1993 covered by the LIFE programme

In a letter dated 24 March 1993 four Members of the European Parliament asked Commissioner Paleokrassas to extend the deadline of 31 March 1993 for the submission of projects included under the priorities for 1993 covered by the LIFE programme, on the grounds that the Commission had mismanaged the preparatory phase of the proposals.

Can the Commission say whether it intends to take or has already taken steps to comply with the request?

30.3.1993

IT

147. Question by Mr PERREAU DE PINNINCK DOMENECH (H-0424/93)

Subject: Subsidies for energy or agro-foodstuffs projects in Andalusia

Has the European Community since 1988 granted financial aid or subsidies of any kind under the various Community programmes or funds for any energy-related or agro-foodstuffs project to any of the following undertakings or bodies:

- the Institute for Diversification and Energy-Saving (IDAE)?
- Cynara Industrial Mancha S.A.?
- Sociedad Agricola Campo Baldio S.A. (located in Puebla de Guzmán, Huelva province)?
- the Institute for Industrial Development of the Andalusian Regional Government?

30.3.1993

ES

148. Question by Mr PORTO (H-0432/93)

Subject: EEC-MERCOSUL relations

The need to strengthen cooperation with Latin America has been recognized in recent years: not only with individual countries but also with the regional organizations to which they belong.

In this context, the planned cooperation with MERCOSUL is very significant as it accounts for 45% of the population of Latin America, and more than half its GDP. In May 1992, during the Portuguese presidency, a meeting at ministerial level was held and the Commission signed an interinstitutional agreement.

What other significant activities has the Commission carried out since then and what is it intending to do now?

31.3.1993

PT

149. Question by Mr PAGOROPOULOS (H-0437/93)

Subject: Use of asbestos

The Greek Government recently decided to allow asbestos sheets to be used in bakery ovens, thereby reversing a previous decision banning asbestos, on the grounds that the relevant Community directives had not been followed. Will the Commission say whether it is aware of this matter and what measures it intends to take to ensure that public health is protected?

1.4.1993

GR

150. Question by Mr TSIMAS (H-0438/93)

Subject: Pressure of immigration in the Community and Greece

Given the large influx of immigrants into the Community from the countries of central and eastern Europe - hundreds of thousands have already entered - , in view of the fact that Greece, a country geographically separated from the rest of the Community, already harbours some 250 000 recent illegal immigrants from Turkey, Iran, the Philippines, Pakistan, Egypt and Iraq as well as over 250 000 more who have just arrived from the former Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Romania and Albania and given also that a further half a million Greeks (residing in the CIS countries) are expected to settle in Greece, will the Commission say when it finally intends to take measures to relieve this massive immigration build-up and tackle the social and economic consequences for the Community? Does it intend to implement specific programmes to deal with this phenomenon? In particular, what action will be taken at Community level to tackle the problem of illegal immigration in the light of the Community's commitment to the free movement of persons from 1 January 1993?

1.4.1993

GR

151. Question by Mr GASÓLIBA I BÖHM (H-0439/93)

Subject: Spanish Government decision on UHF wavelengths for the Balearic Autonomous Region

The Spanish Government's Directorate-General for Telecommunications has assigned the wavelengths currently used for relaying three Catalan-language channels in the Balearic Autonomous Region to Retevisión. The relay stations were funded by the Region within the framework of its linguistic standardization policy, as it does not possess a television service of its own.

The change of wavelength would mean serious and unnecessary financial hardship for the Balearic Autonomous Region; the Region's UHF spectrum already possesses two free channels which could be used to broadcast Retevisión. The Spanish Government's Directorate General for Telecommunications bases its decision on arguments of a technical nature.

Does the Commission not believe that the Directorate-General for Telecommunications is infringing Article 52 and 59 of the EEC and Maastricht Treaties, recognizing the importance of regional cultures and the need to respect their diversity, and that this decision is, moreover, completely arbitrary and should therefore be reconsidered and, if appropriate, rescinded?

1.4.1993

ES

152. Question by Mr IMBENI (H-0442/93)

Subject: Berlaymont

According to the Agence Europe issue of 4 March 1993, it has been suggested that a 1 000-metre high-rise block should be built on the present site of the Berlaymont building, whose future is still totally uncertain. Is the Commission aware of this absurd project, which would have a disruptive and intolerable effect on any city or urban area?

1.4.1993

IT

153. Question by Mr FORD (H-0444/93)

Subject: Practicalities of delays in Social Fund payments

Can the Commission give details of payment delays for the Social Funds, by objective areas, over the past three operational years, and state whether it is prepared to pay bank charges generated by these delays?

1.4.1993

EN

154. Question by Mr NIANIAS (H-0448/93)

Subject: Human rights in Turkey

Human rights violations are continuing in Turkey, for instance, arbitrary arrest and imprisonment, torture, assassinations and executions.

Does the Commission intend to take firm and decisive action to persuade the Turkish Government at least to curb these practices which recall not only the genocide of the Kurds, but also the 1915 government-organized genocide of the Armenians and Greeks?

1.4.1993

EL

155. Question by Mrs READ (H-0451/93)

Subject: Support for R & D

In the light of the 5000 job losses announced by Rolls Royce in the UK, what steps are being proposed to support research and development in the European aircraft engine manufacturing industry and in particular research on composite materials vital to the next generation of engines?

1.4.1993

EN

156. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-0454/93)

Subject: Urgent measures for tackling the water shortage

As a consequence of the acute problem posed in the Athens basin by the decline in water resources and by the risk of drought, which are a threat to public health, there is an urgent need for measures to tackle the problem and provide drinking water which complies with Community directives.

What steps will the Commission take to enforce Community standards on the quality of drinking water and of water in general, ensure the proper management of reserves and the general strategic protection of natural resources, locate new wells and protect and develop forests, and will it submit to the Council specific proposals concerning the special case of the Athens region?

2.4.1993

EL

157. Question by Mrs BURON (H-0459/93)

Subject: Downturn in the farm machinery industry

Has the Commission gauged the combined adverse impact which reform of the common agricultural policy and the flow of goods from Eastern Europe are having on sectors related to agriculture, one example being the farm machinery industry?

Recent figures show that the industry has shed half of its total work-force in some countries, and the process has lately been accelerating.

Given that the trend appears to be irreversible and, above all, identical in all the Member States, does not the Commission believe that specific measures, along the lines of RENAVAL, for example, should be introduced in order to provide support at a time of change in this industrial sector?

2.4.1993

FR

158. Question by Mr BLANEY (H-0461/93)

Subject: Secret holds on fishing vessels

What are the results of the Commission's promised enquiry into allegations that new fishing vessels being built with Community subsidies have secret holds intended to hide illegal catches?

5.4.1993

EN

159. Question by Mr CUSHNAHAN (H-0462/93)

Subject: State aid for Aer Lingus

Has the Commission received any formal or informal approaches from the Irish Government regarding Commission approval of a restructuring aid package for the Aer Lingus airline?

What is the Commission's opinion on this issue?

5.4.1993

EN

160. Question by Mr CRAMPTON (H-0466/93)

Subject: INTERREG 2

In answer to a previous question on this matter (H-0317/92, OJ 08/04/92)¹ Commissioner Millan told me that the Commission had considered a number of requests to include coastal areas linked by sea routes to coastal areas in other Member States, but decided that INTERREG should be restricted to land borders only (except in the case of rivers and the Channel Tunnel).

Given the palpable and widely acknowledged success of the INTERREG initiative and the announcement in December 1992 that there will be a second INTERREG programme, does the Commission intend to give serious consideration to including coastal areas such as those bordering the North Sea in a future INTERREG programme?

Or will the inclusion of wet borders - as Commissioner Millan seemed to suggest in his earlier response - be limited to those distances which can be traversed by Olympic class swimmers?

6.4.1993

EN

¹ Debates of the EP No. 3-417

161. Question by Mr PRICE (H-0468/93)

Subject: Survival of small dry cleaning firms following action to limit damage to the ozone layer

Will the Commission propose a compensation scheme for small dry cleaning firms who have purchased equipment using only CFC-113 and whose business may be liable to closure as a result of Council Regulation No. 3952/92¹. Does the Commission consider that, in order to achieve fairness between different economic sectors, the principle of giving compensation when major policy changes occur, which so often characterizes the Community's approach to farmers, should apply equally to dry cleaners? Can any existing EC fund or budget line potentially benefit such small dry cleaning firms?

6.4.1993

EN

162. Question by Mr GOLLNISCH (H-0470/93)

Subject: EC-Japan agreements on the car industry - 1 April 1993

The EC-Japan agreement of July 1991 on imports of motor vehicles could be obtained only in the form of an exchange of letters. The April 1993 agreement is available only in the form of a press release. At least, that is the only information currently available to a Member of the European Parliament who is also a member of the delegation for relations with Japan.

- Is it not astonishing that decisions of vital importance to European industry are taken so informally?
- What binding legal effects could such an 'agreement' have?
- What information will Parliament receive on this subject?
- What role is it assigned in the conclusion of this agreement?
- What quid pro quos have been obtained from Japan in the field of trade?

8.4.1993

FR

¹ OJ No. L 405, 31.12.1992, p. 41

163. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-0114/93)

Subject: Cross-frontier fraud and other abuses in the Single Market

Although the Commission enjoys draconian powers to fine - without recourse to the courts - industrialists deemed to operate cartels, it so far refuses to clamp down on the illegal practices indicated in my Written Questions Nos. 3202/91¹ and 1268/92².

While businesses and individuals in Member States remain vulnerable to fraudulent activity of the type mentioned, and while there are no common safety standards for hotels, despite the urgent recommendations of MEPs, why is the Commission so reluctant to introduce appropriate legislation?

28.1.1993

EN

164. Question by Mr BETTINI (H-0120/93)

Subject: Itoiz dam in Navarre (Spanish State)

Will the Commission state its reasons for still not having replied to the complaint lodged by the mayors of several villages, the General Assembly of the Aézkoa Valley and the Itoiz Coordinating Association in Navarre about the 'Itoiz' dam and its infringement of Directive 85/337/³?

28.1.1993

IT

165. Question by Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-0155/93)

Subject: Municipal waste disposal

What new proposals does the Commission intend to submit for the regulation of landfill and incineration as methods of municipal waste disposal?

2.2.1993

EN

¹ OJ No. C 209, 15.8.1992, p.38

² OJ No. C 345, 30.12.1992, p.16

³ OJ No. L 175, 5.7.1985, p. 40

166. Question by Mr SANTOS LÓPEZ (H-0160/93)

Subject: Agricultural structural aid to Spain

In July 1992 the Commission gave its reply (E 1872/91)⁴ to an appeal made in July 1991 concerning the suspension of structural aid in Spain as provided for by Royal Decree 808/87. The Commission considered the deferment of such aid admissible for a limited period in the event of budgetary difficulties. Today, in February 1993, there are still farmers who have not received any assistance.

Does the Commission consider that this limited period still applies, due to 'difficulties of exceptional gravity'?

What measures will the Commission take to ensure that the Spanish Government complies with EEC law and pays the farmers?

2.2.1993

ES

167. Question by Mrs LLORCA VILAPLANA (H-0179/93)

Subject: Introduction of a European postage stamp

In view of the progress of all the various measures encouraging the development of Community life at a practical level, has the Commission considered the immediate introduction of a postage stamp which can be used in all EC countries?

9.2.1993

ES

168. Question by Mr KILLILEA (H-0181/93)

Subject: Implementation of EC's eco-label scheme

Does the Commission intend to take action against those Member States which have failed to designate the national bodies which are to operate the Eco-label award scheme, given that the deadline for implementation of the Regulation passed at the end of 1992?

9.2.1993

EN

⁴ OJ No. C 309, 26.11.1992, p. 5

169. Question by Mr HARRISON (H-0207/93)

Subject: Job losses in the UK dry cleaning industry

The hurried decision of December 1992 to accelerate the phasing out by the EC of the production and use of fluorocarbon 113, in advance of the revised Montreal Protocol, is impacting seriously on the 1700 small and medium dry cleaning businesses in the UK. With production now to be reduced to 15% by the end of 1993, it is obvious that medical outlets will take priority and it is inevitable that many of these small businesses will be forced to close, being unable in time of recession to meet the high cost of re-equipping, resulting in the loss of up to 4 500 jobs.

Will the Commission make provision for assistance to small and medium enterprises in this sector toward the cost of re-equipping to comply with the new EC regulations, and will it make provision for assistance toward retraining those rendered unemployed?

15.2.1993

EN

170. Question by Mrs ODDY (H-0210/93)

Subject: Leyland Daf

What steps has the Commission taken to assist Leyland Daf since the Commission made its statement to Parliament on 11 February 1993?

16.2.1993

EN

171. Question by Mr SIMEONI (H-0248/93)

Subject: Ban on shipments of oil through sensitive and dangerous areas such as the Bocche di Bonifacio

At its part-sessions in September 1992 and January 1993 the European Parliament called for a ban on shipments of oil through sensitive and dangerous areas such as the Bocche di Bonifacio.

The Commission has not yet put forward a proposal for Community bans and restrictions to protect sensitive areas. Could it not, however, call on the Italian Government to sign the agreement currently being discussed with the French Government to close the Bocche di Bonifacio as part of the protection of the Mediterranean, which is an important, urgent and unavoidable issue?

24.2.1993

FR

172. Question by Mr NEWTON DUNN (H-0258/93)

Subject: Insurance during work experience

British school-pupils who take part in work experience with British businesses are covered for insurance by a declaration of Indemnity which is signed by the British business. French school-pupils who come to Britain for work experience are similarly covered by the British businesses' declarations of indemnity.

But no reciprocal arrangement exists for British school-pupils who travel to France for work experience. French businesses are not able to give a certificate of indemnity. I do not know what the arrangements are for insurance during work experience in the other member states.

Surely equal conditions of opportunity for work experience ought to exist for all Community pupils. Will the Commission make the necessary proposals?

24.2.1993

EN