

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



s e s s i o n d o c u m e n t s

ENGLISH EDITION

8 March 1993

B3-0144/93

ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rule 60

for QUESTION TIME

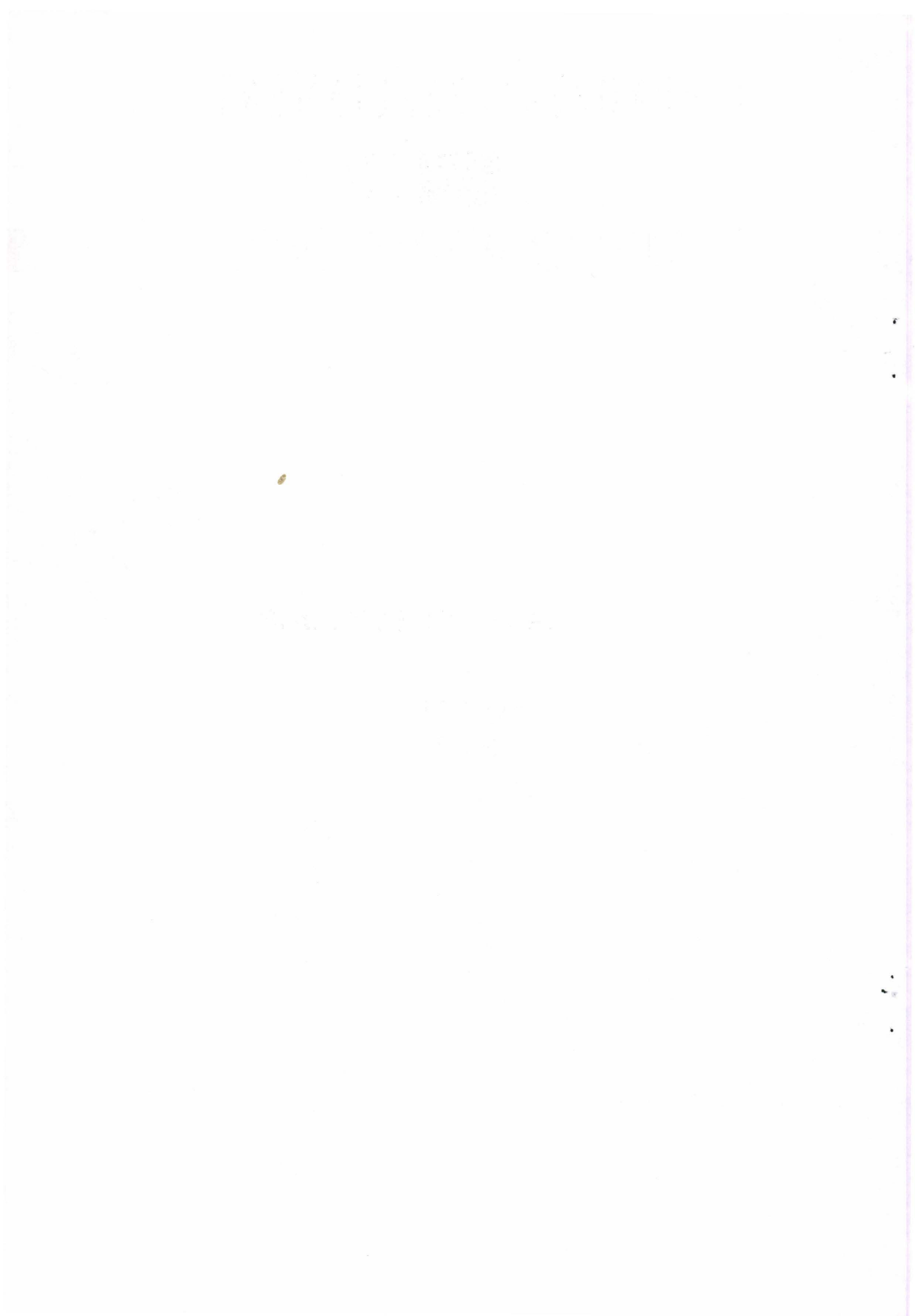
on 10 MARCH 1993

DOC_EN\QH\223\223067

PE 162.530

* 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 Mrs ODDY (H-0135/93)

Subject: World Conference on Human Rights

What plans does the Council have for representation at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna from 14 to 25 June?

What practical steps will it be advocating to improve human rights in the world?

28.01.1993

EN

2. Question by Mr CUSHNAHAN (H-0268/93)

Subject: Unemployment in the Community

In view of the recently released unemployment statistics which show the Community rate rising to 9.5% and the rate in Ireland to 17.8% and Spain 18%, would the Council agree that concerted action by the Commission and Member States is needed to tackle this crisis?

Will the Council ask the Commission to submit proposals for an urgent Community action plan to reduce unemployment?

25.02.1993

EN

3. Question by Mr PIERROS (H-0266/93)

Subject: The Community's response to the latest crisis in the steel industry

The European steel industry has been hit by a new crisis. Community production is expected to fall and thousands of jobs are in jeopardy in a sector which has been in constant decline since the 50s. In some Member States, such as Greece, Portugal and Ireland, the particular characteristics of the industry (production by small and medium-sized companies, a single production line, etc.), and the greater structural problems in their economies call for special and more flexible solutions.

What measures will the Council take in response to this latest crisis, in particular with regard to imports from Central and Eastern Europe, and how will it deal with the special problems of certain Member States?

25.02.1993

EL

4. Question by Mr McMAHON (H-0138/93)

Subject: Social Affairs Council

Can the Council please inform Parliament as to the outcome of the informal Social Affairs Council held on 27 and 28 January 1993?

28.01.1993

EN

5. Question by Mr Alex SMITH (H-0170/93)

Subject: Frequency of meetings of Social Affairs Council

Why was only one Social Affairs Council held during the United Kingdom Presidency of the Council?

04.02.1993

EN

6. Question by Mrs SANDBÆK (H-0254/93)

Subject: Ratification and integration

Chancellor Kohl has stated¹ that Danish and UK opposition cannot halt the move towards Union, and that the other 10 or 11 countries will merely continue along that path.

Does the Treaty of Rome make provision for the other 10 or 11 countries to proceed with integration if for instance Denmark and the United Kingdom do not ratify the Maastricht Treaty? If not, are there other Community political or legal possibilities for proceeding with integration without the agreement of individual Member States?

24.02.1993

DA

¹ During his visit to India. Quoted from Det Fri Aktuelt, 24 February 1993

7. Question by Mrs Caroline JACKSON (H-0209/93)

Subject: Need for 'Openness' with Council minutes

In line with its avowed intention of making the work of the Council more open to Europe's citizens, will the Presidency now undertake to publish the minutes of Council meetings, since these often contain statements about and interpretations of the legislation by the Commission and individual Member States which in fact limit and/or modify the scope of the legislation as adopted and published in the Official Journal? In view of the imminent Danish referendum, does the Presidency not agree that it would be wise to make clear to the Danish people - and to all Europe's citizens - that European Community law as published in the Official Journal is not necessarily complete without the statements in the Council Minutes which the Danish Presidency could now make available to them?

16.02.1993

EN

8. Question by Mr BONDE (H-0154/93)

Subject: Transparency in COREPER, advisory committees and management committees

Can the Council confirm that in future all records of voting and reports of debates in COREPER, advisory committees and management committees will be made available to elected representatives in the European Parliament and national parliaments?

02.02.1993

DA

9. Question by Mr NEWTON DUNN (H-0253/93)

Subject: Unelected civil servants making EC laws

When the full details were decided - about precisely which foods would be protected - by the Food Quality Directive, which allows food products traditionally made in specific areas to register their name to protect against imitation, how many ministers were present in the Council of Ministers? Are the reports true that not a single minister was present, and that the details were filled in by junior national civil servants - so that EC law was actually written by unelected civil servants both inexperienced in law-making and totally unanswerable to the electorate?

24.02.1993

EN

10. Question by Mr ARBELOA MURU (H-0226/93)

Subject: Progress on the Schengen Agreement

Is the Schengen Information System, a database of personal data, now technically ready for operation? How many of the original signatories to the Schengen Agreement have ratified the implementing convention?

18.02.1993

ES

11. Question by Mrs RAWLINGS (H-0238/93)

Subject: European youth card

In a 'Fresh boost for culture in the EC' - COM(87) 603 final - the Commission said it attached "great symbolic importance to the early introduction of a 'young people's pass'". The Council on 6 October 1989 (89/277/05) 'agreed upon the need to coordinate national experiments which might eventually lead to a European youth card.' How is the Commission following up its own words and the Council's conclusions in view of the fact that Denmark and Germany have no such provisions and the Council of Europe is working on a European Cooperation Convention on such matters?

23.02.1993

EN

12. Question by Mr DESMOND (H-0204/93)

Subject: Establishment of an Anti-Drug Centre

Will the Council explain why the Commission is excluded from the proceedings of the TREVI Group on the establishment of a European Drugs Information Unit? Does the Council agree that the contribution of the Commission to the work of the group would be valuable?

Given the European Drugs Monitoring Centre was to be set up by 30 June 1992 (Maastricht European Council), is the Council in a position to give a definitive timetable for adopting the draft proposal?

With agreement finally having been reached on setting up the European Police Force (Europol) (Mrs Papandreou in response to W/Q No. 3061/91²), does the Council agree that the status of the Commission as mere 'observer' should be enhanced if Europol is to be any more than a loose cooperative among the national narcotic drug departments of Member States?

11.02.1993

EN

² OJ No. C 180, 16.7.1992, p. 27

13. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-0134/93)

Subject: Measures to deal with water shortages

The shortage of water has created serious problems in Athens, where public water supplies are severely limited and it will shortly be necessary to introduce rationing. Other regions in southern Europe are facing similar problems.

What measures does the Council intend to take to guarantee the water supply in areas which are suffering acute difficulties, in particular in Athens, to check the quality of drinking water and to provide immediate financial support for short and medium-term projects concerned with this problem?

28.01.1993

EL

14. Question by Mr COONEY (H-0139/93)

Subject: Beef farming

Does the Council believe that the pattern of beef farming in Ireland can be changed so as to reduce the average carcass weight from the current level of 357 kgs to the level of 340 kgs decreed by the Council as the level for intervention buying and, if so, how?

29.01.1993

EN

15. Question by Mr POMPIDOU (H-0144/93)

Subject: Determining the sex of human embryos

The recent scandal surrounding the London Gender Clinic, where two doctors are openly making commercial use of biological techniques in order to determine the sex of the foetus, demonstrates the dangers resulting from the absence of any Community law on biomedical ethics and the imprecision of national laws.

Under English law it is legally permissible to determine the sex of a human embryo, though only where there is a risk of the child's being afflicted by a congenital disease.

In the light of these practices, which give cause for concern and are likely to proliferate, does the Council intend to make representations to the Member State concerned to ensure that any genetic engineering is done in accordance with ethical principles?

01.02.1993

FR

16. Question by Mr David MARTIN (H-0150/93)

Subject: Windfall profits from the devaluation of sterling

Following the devaluation of sterling last September/October, the United Kingdom has gained a windfall in its EC programmes. Could the President-in-Office give assurances that the full value of any windfall will be passed on to European Social Fund spending programmes?

01.02.1993

EN

17. Question by Mrs BANOTTI (H-0153/93)

Subject: Statute of European Schools

Could the President-in-Office inform me what progress the Council has made in negotiating a new statute for the European Schools and what is the present position regarding the budget for the schools in 1993 following the second reading of the budget by Parliament in December 1992?

02.02.1993

EN

18. Question by Mrs LARIVE (H-0159/93)

Subject: Council of the European Communities

Does the Council agree that the availability of large quantities of uranium, enriched uranium and plutonium (as a result of the dismantling of nuclear weapons) from the CIS poses a threat to world security?

What positive steps does the Council intend to take to avert these dangers through the creation of an open EC market large enough to absorb these products from the CIS?

02.02.1993

NL

19. Question by Mrs GARCIA ARIAS (H-0162/93)

Subject: Future public aid for the coal industry

The proposal for an ECSC decision on the future of public aid to the coal industry will undoubtedly affect the global energy and security policy of the three coal supplier/producer countries, the Federal Republic of Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom, though such public aid cannot be said to affect intra-Community trade in coal.

Is the Council considering making a statement on whether this proposal is totally or partially consistent, with the principle of subsidiarity, bearing in mind that the Community is not responsible for energy policy?

03.02.1993

ES

20. Question by Mrs IZQUIERDO ROJO (H-0169/93)

Subject: Greater cooperation between Europe and the countries of the Mediterranean basin

As regards the work programme of the Danish Presidency during the first half of 1993, the President of the Council has expressed his wish to see greater cooperation with the countries of the Mediterranean. It will be necessary to indicate more specifically what action the Council intends to take to support this aim.

What measures are currently being planned by the Council of Ministers to provide an effective impetus to cooperation with the countries of the Mediterranean?

04.02.1993

ES

21. Question by Mrs McINTOSH (H-0173/93)

Subject: EC measures to improve maritime safety

Following the recent oil tanker disaster involving the Braer off the Shetland Islands and the Maersk tanker off Malaya, what immediate action does the Danish Presidency propose to take to improve maritime safety?

In particular, is the Presidency intending to improve the implementation of existing international conventions in EC territorial waters and ports and ways in which to track, by radar systems, movements of ships in EC waters?

05.02.1993

EN

22. Question by Mr AMENDOLA (H-0235/93)

Subject: Ban on the movement of oil tankers in sensitive and dangerous areas such as the Straits of Bonifacio

At its part-sessions in September and December 1992 and January 1993 the European Parliament called for a ban on the movement of oil tankers in sensitive and dangerous areas such as the Straits of Bonifacio. The French government has accepted Parliament's request, but the Italian government has not.

As such a Community measure was not envisaged at the last Transport-Environment Council, does the Council not consider that it should discuss a Community proposal for a ban on the movement of oil tankers in sensitive areas at its next meeting, and call on the Italian government to comply with the agreement with France on the closure of the Straits of Bonifacio as a measure to protect the Mediterranean?

19.02.1993

IT

23. Question by Mr SIMEONI (H-0249/93)

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 Council of Transport and Environment Ministers has not yet laid down 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?

24.02.1993

FR

24. Question by Mr DESSYLAS (H-0175/93)

Subject: Immediate release of two trade unionists belonging to the Urban Transport Undertaking (EAS)

Two trade unionists belonging to the Urban Transport Undertaking, Tasos Panagopoulos and Napoleon Kostis, have been held in custody in Korydallos prison for five and two months respectively having been arrested on trumped-up charges because they vigorously opposed the privatization and dissolution of the EAS. They are being held in the same cell as a policeman charged with drugs trafficking!

What immediate measures does the Council intend to take vis-à-vis the Greek authorities to persuade them to have these men released forthwith and to put an end to the criminalization of trade union activities?

9.02.1993

EL

25. Question by Mr GIL-ROBLES GIL-DELGADO (H-0190/93)

Subject: Harmonization of VAT and the unfair tax burden on French ambulancemen

France has incorporated into its national law the provisions of the 18th VAT Directive, Article 13A of which grants exemption in the case of transport services for sick or injured persons in vehicles specially designed for the purpose, with effect from 1 January 1990. As a result, ambulancemen must pay VAT on all capital goods and fuel and other supplies, which are not subject to any reduction, at the rate of 18.60%, without being able to reduce these payments by offsetting the VAT on the transport services, which is no longer applicable. This deterioration in the tax position of ambulancemen has been exacerbated by the introduction of an income tax calculated on the basis of those of employees and business executives and managers, which also came into effect on 1 January 1990.

Does the Council intend to take measures to ensure that the harmonization of VAT is not used by Member States, in this instance the French Republic, as an excuse to create new taxes?

10.02.1993

ES

26. Question by Mr FROMENT-MEURICE (H-0192/93)

Subject: Harmonization of VAT and the unfair tax burden on French ambulancemen

France has incorporated into its national law the provisions of the 18th VAT Directive, Article 13A of which grants exemption in the case of transport services for sick or injured persons in vehicles specially designed for the purpose, with effect from 1 January 1990. As a result, ambulancemen must pay VAT on all capital goods and fuel and other supplies, which are not subject to any reduction, at the rate of 18.60%, without being able to reduce these payments by offsetting the VAT on the transport services, which is no longer applicable. This deterioration in the tax position of ambulancemen has been exacerbated by the introduction of an income tax calculated on the basis of those of employees and business executives and managers, which also came into effect on 1 January 1990.

Does the Council not consider that these measures run counter both to the spirit of tax harmonization and to the objectives of the Single Act?

10.02.1993

FR

27. Question by Mr BANDRÉS MOLET (H-0194/93)

Subject: The protection of species in the Mediterranean

The Commission has submitted a proposal for a Council regulation harmonizing various technical measures in Mediterranean fisheries (93/C 5/07), COM(92) 533 final, published on 9 January 1993, designed to safeguard species in the Mediterranean.

Experts and scientists consulted stress the importance of this measure for the preservation of marine species such as the monk seal, dolphins, whales, tortoises and others which are, in many cases, the victims of inappropriate fishing techniques.

What is the Council's position on the Commission's proposal?

Given that the world's main colony of monk seals, amounting to 100 specimens, is to be found on the Saharan coast, does the Council not believe that the future regulation should apply to the waters of the South Atlantic below the 38th parallel?

10.02.1993

ES

28. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-0205/93)

Subject: Increase in Greek tobacco quota

At the meeting of the Council of Ministers for Agriculture held in December 1992, the Commission pledged that it would submit a report as soon as possible on Greece's request for an increase in the tobacco production quota.

Sowing for the new season has now begun but the report has not yet been submitted and there is a mood of extreme discontent among producers. When does the Council intend to discuss this matter so that tobacco producers can take account of the new circumstances which the Council's decision will create?

15.02.1993

GR

29. Question by Mr MELANDRI (H-0214/93)

Subject: The TACIS programme in Mongolia

In reviewing the regulation implementing the TACIS programme, the Commission has proposed to the Council that Mongolia be included among the beneficiary countries. When does the Council intend to approve this amendment, which is aimed at helping to solve Mongolia's economic problems, and is it true that two Member States are opposed to extending the TACIS programme to Mongolia?

17.02.1993

IT

30. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-0221/93)

Subject: Established posts for the handicapped

Is it true that in the budget procedure for 1993 the Council undertook to earmark 25 of approximately 240 new established posts in the Community for the handicapped and to adjust the qualifications required accordingly, and has it upheld that commitment?

18.02.1993

DE

31. Question by Sir Jack STEWART-CLARK (H-0239/93)

Subject: Arms exports

What steps is the Council taking to coordinate European Community policy in the exports of armaments and dual use technology? Does the Council envisage having an agreed list of weapons and of recipient countries to which exports can be made?

23.02.1993

EN

32. Question by Mr MAHER (H-0274/93)

Subject: VAT on second-hand cars

What is the state of progress in respect of the taxation of second-hand cars in cross-border trade within the Single Market?

When can we expect a Council decision on this matter?

25.02.1993

EN

33. Question by Mr BETTINI (H-0275/93)

Subject: The rights of children in the Community

On 5 January 1993, the Aarhus Statsamt ruled that Stella Marlene Poli Bitsch, an under-age Italian citizen, the daughter of Bruno Poli (an Italian citizen) and Susanne Bitsch Lauritsen (a Danish citizen), was not allowed to see her father.

There is a danger that any legal relationship between the child in question and her natural father will be severed, since her mother's new husband has applied to adopt her and her father will therefore forfeit all rights over her.

Does the Council not consider that this amounts to an infringement of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (New York, 20 November 1989), the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Rome, 14 April 1950), the Luxembourg Convention (Council of Europe, 20 May 1980) and the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (The Hague, 25 October 1980), to all of which Denmark is a signatory?

Can the Council state whether the provisions of Danish law relating to the guardianship of minors have been correctly applied?

25.02.1993

IT

34. Question by Mr CRAMPTON (H-0110/93)

Subject: European Investment Fund

The final declaration of the European Council at Edinburgh states that:

'The ECOFIN and the EIB are to give urgent and sympathetic consideration to the establishment as quickly as possible of a European Investment Fund.'

I understand that the aim of the European Investment Fund is to provide guarantees to infrastructure projects of Community interest financed by the private sector and thus to facilitate the funding of smaller businesses.

I also understand that legal proposals for the establishment of the European Investment Fund were to have been tabled during January 1993.

Could the Council tell me when it expects the EIF to be fully operational?

27.01.1993

EN

QUESTIONS TO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION

35. Question by Mrs LLORCA VILAPLANA (H-0070/93/rev.)

Subject: Rape of women in Bosnia

If a court is eventually set up to judge war criminals for all the events that have taken and are taking place in the former Yugoslavia, does EPC believe that all those who have committed acts of violence on women should be tried and considered as war criminals, so that financial penalties can be imposed on them to help maintain the children born as a result of their actions and compensate the rape victims?

19.01.1993

ES

36. Question by Mrs GARCIA ARIAS (H-0163/93)

Subject: Rape of women in Bosnia

Indications show that more and more Muslim women in Bosnia may well be raped. What measures has the Community decided to take to protect these women and help them psychologically and socially? Does EPC consider that political asylum should be granted in the EC to those women who might be rejected or persecuted in their own localities?

03.02.1993

ES

37. Question by Mr de MONTESQUIOU FEZENSAC (H-0199/93)

Subject: Kuwaiti prisoners of war and missing persons in Iraq

Does European Political Cooperation have exact figures for the numbers of Kuwaitis reported missing and those still held as prisoners of war in Iraq?

Could it say what contacts it has with non-governmental organizations such as the International Red Cross which are committed to obtaining the release of these prisoners?

Could it indicate what progress has been achieved with regard to the sending of a United Nations commission of inquiry to Iraq, called for by the European Parliament in its resolution of 21 January 1993 on the situation in Iraq?

Could it say what other measures might be taken to achieve the same goals?

10.02.1993

FR

38. Question by Mr SANTOS LOPEZ (H-0064/93)

Subject: Human rights violations in Israel

What steps does the Community intend to take against the constant violations of human rights and of UN resolutions by the State of Israel, particularly in view of the disregard for human dignity demonstrated by the mass deportation of Palestinian citizens?

Does it not consider that all aid and preferential treatment towards Israel through its relations with the Community should be suspended?

15.01.1993

ES

39. Question by Mr DESSYLAS (H-0088/93)

Subject: The 415 deported and exiled Palestinians, international law and UN Security Council resolutions

The tragic situation of the 415 Palestinian exiles, who are living under inhuman conditions in no-man's-land in South Lebanon and Israel's refusal to allow them to return home constitute a savage violation of fundamental human rights, the 4th Geneva Convention, the principles of international law and UN Security Council resolutions. These events demonstrate how hypocritical and selective the 'New Order' powers are in invoking and implementing UN resolutions (compare Iraq, Serbia, etc.).

What steps will the 12 Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC take against Israel to secure the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions? Will they freeze the EC-Israel Financial Protocol, impose economic sanctions and sever economic and diplomatic relations with Israel?

25.01.1993

EL

40. Question by Mr BONDE (H-0103/93)

Subject: Discussions of security policy

Will the Foreign Ministers state how discussions of security policy matters are actually to be organized if Denmark is not to take part in discussions of military aspects?

26.01.1993

DA

41. Question by Mrs POLLACK (H-0150/93)

Subject: Winter aid for displaced persons

According to Oxfam, lack of response from the International Community to the UN appeal launched in the Autumn of 1992 has led to a serious shortfall in money available for emergency assistance in former Yugoslavia, Albania, Iraq and Afghanistan. Will EPC urge the governments of the Member States to make additional funding available to assist the UN Appeal to cover immediate basic needs for displaced people in these countries over the winter?

12.01.1993

EN

42. Question by Mr David MARTIN (0151/93)

Subject: Plans to increase European Community cold-weather funding for refugees in Afghanistan, Iraq, Albania and the former Yugoslavia

Is EPC aware that over 3 million people in Eastern Europe and in Asia are homeless and at risk from the cold and lack of food? Is the President-in-Office prepared to implement a considerable increase in the contribution from the European Community to relieve the plight of the refugees in Afghanistan, Iraq, Albania and the former Yugoslavia?

01.02.1993

EN

43. Question by Mrs van PUTTEN (H-0267/93/rev.)

Subject: Trial of Xanana Gusmao in East Timor

At the Maastricht Summit EPC adopted a statement to the effect that all developments in the investigation of the massacre in East Timor would be monitored by the EC.

Does EPC take the view that EC representation at the trial of Xanana Gusmao, the leader of the East Timor Resistance Movement, would be desirable and that the Commission should examine whether the trial is being conducted in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international law?

25.02.1993

NL

44. Question by Mr van der WAAL (H-0223/93)

Subject: The situation in Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh

On 21 January 1993 Parliament adopted a resolution (B3-0049/93) on Armenia which described the relentless blockade carried out by Azerbaijan as a violation of international law and insisted that it be lifted forthwith. In mid-February, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees expressed the fear that the Armenian enclave of Nagorno Karabakh was only a month away from mass starvation.

What action has EPC taken on Parliament's resolution with a view to putting an end to the intolerable situation, including food shortages, facing the people living in Armenia and the Armenian enclave of Nagorno Karabakh?

18.02.1993

NL

45. Question by Mr PAGOROPOULOS (H-0246/92)

Subject: Armenia

A full economic blockade has been imposed, in breach of international law, against Armenia mainly by Azerbaijan but also by Turkey, paralysing economic and social life and threatening the Armenian people with a new form of genocide.

Armenian organizations have repeatedly submitted petitions to European Political Cooperation concerning the unacceptable situation caused by the economic blockade. What measures will EPC, therefore, take - both with regard to Azerbaijan and Turkey - to end the economic blockade, and will it propose to the Commission the immediate dispatch of humanitarian aid?

23.02.1992

EL

46. Question by Mr NIANIAS (H-0076/93/rev.)

Subject: Conflict in the former Yugoslavia

Alarming and reliable reports confirm the presence in Bosnia of some 11 000 Muslim fighters from third countries. Some 700 to 800 of them are said to be from Turkey and approximately the same number from Morocco. Some contingents come from other Muslim countries in the Middle East and Asia.

Could EPC confirm the presence of these mercenaries in Bosnia?

Does not EPC consider that the presence of so many armed groups of this nature might aggravate this already tragic conflict, in view of the presence on European territory of mercenaries from other continents and third countries?

20.01.1993

EL

47. Question by Mr CUSHNAHAN (H-0126/93)

Subject: The situation in Croatia

Has EPC discussed the recent outbreak of hostilities in Croatia?

Will this outbreak have implications for the efforts at reaching a settlement of the conflict in the former Yugoslavia?

28.01.1993

EN

48. Question by Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-0062/93)

Subject: Greece

Has EPC given a clear warning to Greece that any interference on her part with the integrity of Montenegro or Macedonia will not be tolerated?

15.01.1993

EN

49. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-0040/93)

Subject: The Skopje issue

What initiatives has European Political Cooperation taken recently to contribute to a settlement to the Skopje issue and what further action does it intend to take based on the stance adopted at European Council meetings?

08.01.1993

EL

50. Question by Mr KOSTOPOULOS (H-0095/93)

Subject: Mr Jensen's statements regarding Greece's position on the Skopje issue

During the presentation of the Danish Presidency's programme at the European Parliament plenary (20 January 1993) and following my question on his statements regarding the Skopje issue, Mr Jensen provided an answer which was contrary to the positions adopted by the European Councils in Brussels, Guimaraes, Lisbon and Edinburgh.

The Greek Members were understandably angry at his conduct and his position which was contrary to the principles of Community solidarity.

Does EPC endorse the statements made by the Danish Foreign Minister and President-in-Office of the Council?

25.01.1993

EL

51. Question by Mr ROMEOS (H-0052/93)

Subject: Use of German tanks against the Kurds

According to German press reports, Turkey is using 'BTR-60' armoured vehicles in operations against the Kurds. These armoured vehicles were provided by Germany in the context of NATO assistance under the condition that they be used for Alliance purposes. How does the European Political Cooperation intend to respond?

13.01.1993

EL

52. Question by Mrs SANDBÆK (H-0255/93)

Subject: Hunger strike by Kurds in Brussels

Has the hunger strike by 720 Turkish Kurds in Brussels been discussed by EPC and has EPC done anything about it?

24.02.1993

DA

53. Question by Mr VALVERDE LOPEZ (H-0057/93)

Subject: Ratification of the Dublin Convention

The Edinburgh Summit proposed to improve the quality of information to Community citizens; the European Council could itself perhaps set an example. The conclusions of the European Council in Lisbon stated, inter alia, that the European Council urges that efforts should be pursued with a view to settling the last problem impeding the signature of the Convention, concerning the crossing of the External Frontiers and 'calls for all ratifications of the Dublin Convention to be effected by the end of 1992.'

Could EPC provide an interpretative statement, addressed to the Community's citizens, explaining this cryptic declaration by the European Council, so that the public understand what the Heads of State or Government were trying to say, and ascertain the problem?

Could EPC also explain what reasons the two parties concerned gave for not having responded to the European Council's request?

14.01.1993

ES

54. Question by Mr Alex SMITH (H-0058/93)

Subject: Peace process in El Salvador

Is EPC aware that there are allegations of non-compliance with the peace accords in El Salvador?

14.01.1993

EN

55. Question by Mrs ODDY (H-0059/93)

Subject: El Salvador peace process

Is EPC aware that the UN Secretary-General has cast doubt on the restructuring of the armed forces in El Salvador and its conformity with the recommendations of the ad hoc committee on the purification of the armed forces?

What assistance does EPC intend to give to ensure that the peace process is successful in El Salvador?

14.01.1993

EN

56. Question by Mrs EWING (H-0082/93)

Subject: Violations of the human rights of the Baha'I community in Iran

Following the confiscation of a large number of private homes and other property belonging to Baha'is by the Iranian Revolutionary Institutions in Yazd, Tehran and Isfahan, will the EPC lodge a formal protest with the Iranian authorities and call on them to give assurances that any confiscated property will be returned to its rightful, legal owners?

20.01.1993

EN

57. Question by Mr BARRERA I COSTA (H-0086/93)

Subject: The situation in Algeria

Given that the government in Algeria is moving increasingly towards a form of military dictatorship and disregarding even the most basic of human rights, and that, having halted the electoral process under way in that country in an unlawful manner, the government has not abided by its undertaking to resume the democratic process, does EPC intend to put pressure on the Algerian Government with a view to securing an undertaking that it will embark on a genuine process of democratization, on the basis of a clearly-defined timetable?

25.01.1993

ES

58. Question by Mrs BANOTTI (H-0152/93)

Subject: Cambodia

Could EPC inform me of its position regarding the situation in Cambodia, does it intend to send EC observers to the forthcoming democratic elections and has it any plans to send further humanitarian aid to Cambodia in the near future?

02.02.1993

EN

59. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-0177/93)

Subject: Human rights in Columbia

Amnesty International recently reported on an incident involving human rights violations against Paez Indians of Columbia which occurred in December 1991. 20 Paez Indians, who were gathering on a ranch 'El Nilo' in Caloto (occupied by them for 4 years) to discuss common problems and celebrate a religious feast, were killed by armed men, some dressed in military uniform. Civilians have been arrested in connection with the killings, but no arrest warrants have been issued against the National Police implicated in the massacre. Can pressure be put on the Columbian authorities to deal with human rights violations?

9.02.1993

EN

60. Question by Mr BANDRÉS MOLET (H-0195/93)

Subject: Survival of a sub-species of monkey on the Guinean island of Bioko

An increase in hunting is seriously threatening the survival of various sub-species of monkeys, some of them unique, on the Guinean island of Bioko.

Of the seven species of monkey of the genus Cercopithecus to be found in Bioko, four are represented by sub-species which exist only on that island, a fact which makes their disappearance a matter of particular concern. The increase in hunting is partly a result of the loss of other means of livelihood and the demand for monkey meat in a particular sector of the population. Various specialists are stressing the need to provide effective protection in areas which have already been declared to be nature reserves.

Is European Political Cooperation aware of these problems, which threaten the existence of unique species? What measures can be carried out in conjunction with the authorities in Equatorial Guinea to preserve these species?

12.02.1993

ES

61. Question by Mr IVERSEN (H-0247/93)

Subject: Iran: sanctions in connection with the Salman Rushdie affair

Will EPC take the initiative in condemning the Iranian authorities' latest attack on the author Salman Rushdie? Can the President of EPC state whether moves are being made to impose sanctions (such as reducing or abolishing refunds for Community exports to Iran) unless the Islamic government lifts the death sentence it imposed on Salman Rushdie?

23.02.1993

DA

62. Question by Mr ARBELOA MURU (H-0251/93)

Subject: Disappearance in Brazil of a European member of a religious order

Can the ministers in EPC take the necessary steps to find a member of the Spanish Marist order, Manuel Campo Ruiz, who disappeared on the afternoon he went to visit a Spanish prisoner in the Helio Gomes prison, Rio de Janeiro, on 18 December 1992?

24.02.1993

ES

63. Question by Mr PIERROS (H-0265/93)

Subject: Destruction of Olympic Airways offices in Istanbul

The considerable damage caused on Saturday, 20 February 1993 to the Olympic Airways offices in Istanbul by Turkish demonstrators protesting at the situation in Bosnia is a further provocation aimed at Greece and is evidence of the anti-Greek climate in Turkey. Despite the fact that Greece has vigorously protested at this unacceptable occurrence, the Turkish Government appears not only to tolerate but to encourage such a climate, adding another element of instability in the Balkans.

What is the position of EPC regarding this latest instance of Turkish provocation and how does it intend to respond to the conduct of the Turkish authorities?

25.02.1993

EL

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION

64. Question by Mr BARRERA I COSTA (H-0186/93)

Subject: The CONVER Programme

Having regard to the European Parliament's resolutions of 13.7.90, 17.9.92 and 9.2.93 and considering that on 29.10.92 the European Parliament adopted two amendments to the General Budget of the European Communities which establish the CONVER Programme for the conversion of the arms industry, when will a new regulation be presented to the European Parliament to ensure the funding of, and to define the legal basis for, the implementation of the CONVER Programme?

10.02.1993

EN

65. Question by Mr NEWMAN (H-0200/93)

Subject: Arms conversion

The European Parliament has adopted resolutions on 14 March 1989, 13 July 1990, 17 September 1992 and 9 February 1993 concerning arms conversion. Additionally, on 29 October 1992, the European Parliament adopted the amendments to the General Budget of the European Community, which established the CONVER programme for the conversion of the arms industry. When will the Commission present a new regulation to the European Parliament to define the legal basis and ensure the financing of the implementation of the CONVER programme?

10.02.1993

EN

66. Question by Mrs CASTELLINA (H-0202/93)

Subject: The legal basis of the CONVER programme

Having regard to Parliament's resolutions of 14 March 1989 concerning European exports of arms (A2-398/88), 13 July 1990 concerning disarmament, the reconversion of the arms industry and arms exports (B3-1176/90) and 17 September 1992 concerning the role of the EC in the control of arms exports and the arms industry (A3-260/92), the written question by Mrs Dury to the Commission concerning the effects of politico-military detente on the arms industry of the Twelve, (answered by Mr Bangemann on 24 July 1990) and Parliament's adoption on 29 October 1992 of two amendments to the General Budget of the EC, establishing the CONVER programme for the conversion of the arms industry: when does the Commission intend to submit a new regulation to Parliament to ensure the financing, and define the legal basis, of the implementation of the CONVER programme?

11.02.1993

IT

67. Question by Mr LANGER (H-0215/93)

Subject: Implementation of the CONVER programme

Having regard to the EP resolutions of 14 March 1989 (arms exports), 13 July 1990 (disarmament, conversion of defence industries and arms exports), 17 September 1992 (supervision of arms exports and armaments industry) and of 9 February 1993 (disarmament, energy and development), and whereas on 29 October 1992 the EP adopted two amendments to the general budget of the EC establishing the CONVER programme for the conversion of the arms industry, will the Commission say when a new draft regulation will be submitted in order to guarantee the funding of and define the legal basis for the implementation of the CONVER programme?

17.02.1993

IT

68. Question by Mr TELKÄMPER (H-0222/93)

Subject: Implementation of the CONVER programme

Having regard to its resolutions of 14 March 1989 on European arms exports, 13 July 1990 on disarmament, conversion of defence industries and arms exports, 17 September 1992 on the Community's role in the supervision of arms exports and the armaments industry and of 9 February 1993 on disarmament, energy and development and whereas, on 29 October 1992, the European Parliament adopted two amendments to the general budget of the EC for the establishment of the CONVER programme for the conversion of the arms industry, when will the Commission submit a new regulation in order to ensure the financing of and define the legal basis for the implementation of the CONVER programme?

18.02.1993

DE

69. Question by Mr BOISSIERE (H-0288/93)

Subject: Implementation of the CONVER programme

- Having regard to its resolutions of 14 March 1989 on European arms exports, 13 July 1990 on disarmament, conversion of defence industries and arms exports, 17 September 1992 on the Community's role in the supervision of arms exports and the armaments industry and of 9 February 1993 on disarmament, energy and development,

- and considering that on 29 October 1992 the European Parliament adopted two amendments to the General Budget of the EC, which establish the CONVER programme for the conversion of the arms industry,

the European Parliament asks the Commission: when will a new regulation be presented in order to ensure the financing of and define the legal basis for the implementation of the CONVER programme?

25.02.1993

FR

70. Question by Mrs ERNST de la GRAETE (H-0289/93)

Subject: Implementation of the CONVER programme

- Having regard to its resolutions of 14 March 1989 on European arms exports, 13 July 1990 on disarmament, conversion of defence industries and arms exports, 17 September 1992 on the Community's role in the supervision of arms exports and the armaments industry and of 9 February 1993 on disarmament, energy and development,

- and considering that on 29 October 1992 the European Parliament adopted two amendments to the General Budget of the EC, which establish the CONVER programme for the conversion of the arms industry,

the European Parliament asks the Commission: when will a new regulation be presented in order to ensure the financing of and define the legal basis for the implementation of the CONVER programme?

25.02.1993

FR

71. Question by Mr CUSHNAHAN (H-0269/93)

Subject: Community structural funds

In view of the agreement of the Edinburgh European Council setting the budgetary guidelines for the Community's structural funds until 1999, can the Commission indicate when decisions will be taken on the breakdown of the allocations of these funds between the eligible regions?

25.02.1993

EN

72. Question by Mr SPENCER (H-0196/93)

Subject: Cohesion Fund

Will DGXI be involved in screening all applications for assistance under the Cohesion Fund?

10.02.1993

EN

73. Question by Mr PAPAYANNAKIS (H-0198/93)

Subject: The Cohesion Fund and the environment

Can the Commission guarantee that 'environmental' projects which will be funded under the Cohesion Fund will be clearly linked to the specific objectives of Community law and policy on the environment?

10.02.1993

EL

74. Question by Mrs RUIZ-GIMÉNEZ AGUILAR (H-0201/93)

Subject: Cohesion Fund

What internal procedures will the Commission use to ensure that Cohesion Fund projects will not contravene Community environmental legislation and policy?

10.02.1993

ES

75. Question by Mrs ANDRE (H-0242/93)

Subject: Flemish Community Council decree on access of television channels to the cable network

In the light of the current process of European integration and the recognition given to cultural diversity in the Maastricht Treaty, will the Commission state whether the decision of the Flemish Community Executive in Belgium to prohibit Canal +, TV5 and Télé-Bruxelles from broadcasting in outlying communes of Brussels (Wemmel, Drogenbos) by virtue of a decree issued in 1987 complies with the 'Television without Frontiers' directive of 3 October 1989?

23.02.1993

FR

76. Question by Mr DEPREZ (H-0261/93)

Subject: Ban on French-language broadcasts in the suburbs of Brussels;
violation of Articles 52 and 59 of the EC Treaty

1. Is the Commission aware that the Flemish community has decided to prohibit French-language broadcasts on Canal+ and Télé-Bruxelles in two 'communes à facilités' in the suburbs of Brussels in accordance with a decree of 1987 concerning cable television channels?
2. Does the Commission not agree that the Flemish community, in basing these restrictions on linguistic criteria, has adopted measures whose restrictive effect is out of all proportion to the objective pursued and has thereby committed an infringement against Articles 52 and 59 of the EC Treaty?
3. If so, does the Commission intend to refer to the Court of Justice this ban on the cable transmission of programmes not broadcast in the language of the place of transmission, at a time when the Maastricht Treaty recognizes the importance of the uninhibited development of and the need to respect different cultures?
4. Could the Commission also indicate what progress has been made by the Member States in incorporating the 'television without frontiers' directive (89/552/EEC)³ in national legislation, the deadline for which expired in October 1991, and what action it intends to take in cases where this directive has not been satisfactorily implemented?

25.2.1993

FR

77. Question by Mrs NIELSEN (H-0132/92)

Subject: Report on the critical situation of some children's institutions
in Romania

In his letter of 11 December 1992 Commissioner Andriessen informed the Committee on Budgetary Control on behalf of the Commission that a final version of the interim summary report would be ready by the end of 1992, which would briefly restate the results of all the official visits made since July.

Will the Commission state whether this report is in fact available and, if so, confirm its formal commitment to forward it forthwith?

Is the Commission aware that if there were any further delay in forwarding the document, action might be taken within the appropriate bodies of the European Parliament to weigh up the implications of such a shortcoming?

28.01.1993

DA

³ OJ No. L 298, 17.10.1989, p. 23

78. Question by Mrs ODDY (H-0136/93)

Subject: World Conference on Human Rights

Will the Commission be represented at the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna from 14 to 25 June?

What practical steps will it be advocating to improve human rights in the world?

28.01.1993

EN

79. Question by Mr COONEY (H-0140/93)

Subject: Human rights

Having regard to the press statement of 11 December 1992 on behalf of EPC stating inter alia 'Human Rights is (sic) now positively addressed in cooperation agreements, and specific human rights situations are discussed at consultative meetings', will the Commission confirm that issues of human rights generally and the case of the Palestinian deportees specifically have been raised in discussion with the Israeli authorities concerning Community agreements with their country, what was the response, did the Commission consider it satisfactory and, if not, what action will it recommend?

29.01.1993

EN

80. Question by Mr ARBELOA MURU (H-0142/93)

Subject: Action on the duty of the world community

Since the Council announced in December 1992 that the Community and the Member States repudiated the use of national sovereignty as an excuse for human rights abuses, and since the world community has a constant legislative duty to preserve and promote human rights, does the Commission not think that the time has come to propose Community action to this effect, applying this precept whenever possible in an international context?

29.01.1993

ES

81. Question by Mr DESMOND (H-0203/93)

Subject: Need to review programmes and monitoring measures in connection with special funding to combat unemployment

Does the Commission find it lamentable that Member States who have apparently taken EC funds to reduce unemployment, have instead spent them on non-productive programmes which do not contribute to reducing unemployment, nor to job creation through productive investments?

Will the Commission take steps to penalise those Member States who have taken funds and wasted them in this way?

Is the Commission in a position to confirm that in future, programmes to combat unemployment by the EC will be effectively monitored and implemented with efficiency and not rendered redundant by Member States violating Community law?

11.02.1993

EN

82. Question by Mr MELANDRI (H-0212/93)

Subject: Palestinian exports

The Peijs report on exports from the Occupied Territories to the EC, adopted on 10 September 1991, called on the Commission to report to Parliament by 31 December 1992 on progress made in eliminating discrimination by the Israeli authorities against Palestinian exporters. It also called for action by the Commission on a number of specific and precise points set out in the report. Has the Commission made a study of the problems raised in the Peijs report? When will it forward it to Parliament and in particular the REX Committee?

16.02.1993

IT

83. Question by Mr van der WAAL (H-0224/93)

Subject: The situation in Armenia and Nagorno Karabakh

On 21 January 1993 Parliament adopted a resolution (B3-0049/93) on Armenia which described the relentless blockade carried out by Azerbaijan as a violation of international law and insisted that it be lifted forthwith. In mid-February, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees expressed the fear that the Armenian enclave of Nagorno Karabakh was only a month away from mass starvation.

What action has the Commission taken on Parliament's resolution with a view to putting an end to the intolerable situation, including food shortages, facing the people living in Armenia and the Armenian enclave of Nagorno Karabakh?

18.02.1993

NL

84. Question by Mr PIERROS (H-0262/93)

Subject: EEC response to the new American administration's 'aggressive' industrial policy

While the GATT negotiations are still in progress, the new American administration is being particularly aggressive in its industrial policy towards Europe, jeopardizing efforts to achieve a global agreement and increasing the probability of a trade war. The latest instance of this is the American President's statements on the aircraft industry which have questioned the validity of the latest US-EC agreement which expressly allows both sides to subsidize this sector in various ways.

How does the Commission intend to respond to the US stance and what are its views on the likelihood of achieving an agreement in the Uruguay Round given these circumstances?

25.02.1993

EL

85. Question by Mr FREMION (H-0119/93)

Subject: Clarification of the definition of 'networks' in the Kaleidoscope scheme

What is the precise definition of 'networks' in the context of the cultural cooperation envisaged by the Commission in the new Action 3 of the Kaleidoscope scheme? We gather that the Commission wishes to support only those networks which are not organizations defending the interests of professionals in the cultural sector, and does not wish to provide funding for permanent structures; it plans rather to subsidize networks having a precise and concrete objective, and which are wound up once the objective is achieved. Is the Commission aware that by this definition it is likely to inhibit the development of stable and effective European networks which carry out the basic work in information, exchanges and planning which is sorely needed in the cultural sector?

28.01.1993

FR

86. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-0133/93)

Subject: New threats to Greek agricultural products

The EC-US agreement on agricultural products under the GATT is likely to aggravate the problems of Greek farmers. The decision to reduce export subsidies will reduce exports and cause surpluses which will lead to new restrictive measures particularly affecting Mediterranean products, especially olive oil, fresh fruit and vegetables, wine and tobacco. The reductions imposed will be the same, regardless of whether the products are in surplus or not. This will cause serious disruption to Greek farming.

Is this information correct? How does the Commission intend to tackle the adverse effects on Mediterranean agricultural products, aggravated by the EC-US agreement? Does the Commission intend to comply with the request that Mediterranean products be treated differently?

28.01.1993

EL

87. Question by Mr McMAHON (H-0137/93)

Subject: Acquired rights Directive

Can the Commission please inform the House what is the position regarding the Acquired rights Directive 77/187EC⁴ and the various infringement proceedings and court actions for infringement taking place at the present time?

28.01.1993

EN

⁴ OJ No. L 61, 5.3.77, p.26

88. Question by Mr POMPIDOU (H-0143/93)

Subject: Determining the sex of human embryos

The recent scandal surrounding the London Gender Clinic, where two doctors are openly making commercial use of biological techniques whereby sperm can be selected in order to determine the sex of the foetus, demonstrates the danger of developments in reproductive biology in the absence of any Community law laying down principles of medical ethics in the field, in conjunction with imprecise and incomplete national laws.

Does the Commission now plan to put forward prompt concrete proposals in the field of medical bio-ethics, to avoid the spread of such practices within the Community?

01.02.1993

FR

89. Question by Mr TITLEY (H-0145/93)

Subject: The EC sugar regime

Is the Commission aware that, because of a combination of the EC sugar regime and the devaluation of the pound, confectionery manufacturers in the UK have been faced by sudden high price rises? These price rises are likely to lead to the bankruptcy of some companies.

Has the Commission any plans to take action to reduce the price of sugar in the EC?

01.02.1993

EN

90. Question by Mr da CUNHA OLIVEIRA (H-0146/93)

Subject: Revision of the Common Customs Tariff

Articles 11 and 15 respectively of Council Regulations (EEC) Nos. 1600/92 and 1601/92¹ of 15 June 1992 provide for the granting of aid per hectare to producers of tropical fruits. In some of the areas concerned, such as the Azores, state aid is already paid to producers of tropical fruits such as custard apples and passion fruit which are not specifically referred to in the Common Customs Tariff. Does the Commission intend to instruct the Committee on CCT Nomenclature to remove these types of fruit from CN code 0810 90 80 and reclassify them appropriately at the next revision of the Common Customs Tariff? If not, why not?

01.02.1993

PT

¹ OJ No. L 173, 27.6.1992, pp. 1 and 13

91. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-147/93)

Subject: Compensation for export companies in Greece affected by the crisis in the former Yugoslavia and the embargo

Export companies in Greece, which have been obliged to use alternative transit routes through Italy, Bulgaria and other countries because of the crisis in the former Yugoslavia and the embargo, are facing a very serious situation (an average increase in transport costs of 29% and a decrease in the volume of trade of up to 90%).

Is the Commission aware of the report by the Greek Ministry of the National Economy on the losses incurred? What measures will it take to subsidize the transport costs for Greek export companies' products and what are its views on the claim for more general compensation for Greece?

01.02.1993

GR

92. Question by Mr David MARTIN (H-0149/93)

Subject: The late payment of grants from the European Social Fund to voluntary organizations in Scotland

Is the Commission aware of the problems delays in the payments of European Social Fund grants can cause, especially to voluntary organizations in Scotland and other parts of the United Kingdom where there is a strong voluntary sector; and has the Commission had any discussion with Member State governments about compensating organizations for delays beyond agreed periods?

01.02.1993

EN

93. Question by Mrs RAWLINGS (H-0156/93)

Subject: Environmental schemes within set-aside

What provisions are there for long-term environmental schemes to be incorporated within the set-aside arrangements for the 1993/4 cropping year and beyond?

02.02.1993

EN

94. Question by Mr VALVERDE LÓPEZ (H-0157/93)

Subject: Suspension of payments by the KIO Group in Spain

The companies in the KIO (Kuwait Investment Office) Group in Spain have initiated the country's biggest ever suspension of payments. The figure amounts to some Ptas 300 000 million, provoking industrial crises and seriously endangering 35 000 jobs directly and double that number indirectly.

The suspension is the result of a complex combination of asset stripping, stock market speculation and questionable mergers and sales which have led to charges being brought against the management of KIO in Spain. Both national and Community law seem to have been contravened. One of the companies involved is ERCROS, which deals in fertilizers. Companies in the KIO Group have received large state subsidies to bolster undertakings and maintain jobs. If the financial problems of the Group led it to bankruptcy, under EC law the state would have to take on subsidiary responsibility.

Has the Commission asked the Spanish Government for information to ascertain whether Community company and financial law has been contravened in the suspension of payments by the companies of the KIO Group and whether the state aid received was compatible with EC law, and does the Commission agree with the concept of subsidiary responsibility of the state in the event of bankruptcy, to cover the pensions of the Group's 13 000 or so former workers?

02.02.1993

ES

95. Question by Mrs LARIVE (H-0158/93)

Subject: Euratom Supply Agency

Does the Euratom Supply Agency have an official policy as regards prices and quotas for the purchase of uranium from the CIS?

If so, what is this policy?

02.02.1993

NL

96. Question by Mr RIBEIRO (H-0219/93)

Subject: Uranium stocks held by the Portuguese firm ENU

Mindful of the European Court of Justice's rulings against the Commission for breach of Article 53 of the Euratom Treaty for not having followed up the request by the Portuguese firm ENU to procure outlets for its uranium stocks, as it could not find a buyer, what conclusions does the Commission draw from the Court's ruling, and what measures will it now take?

18.02.1993

PT

97. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-0015/93)

Subject: Uranium imports from the CIS

Of the companies who petitioned the US Department of Commerce in 1992 for an anti-dumping action against uranium imports from the CIS, how many were European-owned or controlled, and what proportion of the petitioners' production did they represent?

05.01.1993

EN

98. Question by Mrs GARCIA ARIAS (H-0161/93)

Subject: Future public aid to the coal industry

The proposal for an ECSC decision on the future of public aid for the coal industry will undoubtedly affect the global energy and security policy of the three coal supplier/producer countries, the Federal Republic of Germany, Spain and the United Kingdom, though such public aid cannot be said to affect intra-Community trade in coal.

Does the Commission think that this proposal is totally or partially consistent, with the principle of subsidiarity, bearing in mind that the Community is responsible for energy policy?

03.02.1993

ES

99. Question by Mr CASSIDY (H-0164/93)

Subject: Exclusion of independent schools in the UK from the EC LINGUA programme (Action IV)

The United Kingdom list of types of education establishment eligible to receive financial support for exchanges of young people (LINGUA ACTION IV) specifies that such establishments should be state-funded.

It is claimed by the UK Department for Education (DFE) that this is in accordance with the Council Decision 89/489/EEC (OJ No. L 239, 16.8.89) which set up LINGUA. Does the Commission agree with the UK DFE interpretation?

If so, why is it that no other Member State similarly limits applications under Action IV?

03.02.1993

EN

100. Question by Mr SIMEONI (H-0165/93)

Subject: Community regulations on municipal slaughterhouses

The EEC has decided that slaughterhouses must increase their minimum slaughtered livestock units (LUs) from 600 to 1000 per annum in order to continue to qualify for approval.

The new measure claims to be based on health considerations. However, quite apart from the adverse effect on the economic activity of certain rural areas threatened by desertification, there is a risk that the measure will lead to the reappearance of clandestine slaughtering on the farms themselves. Would it not be more judicious to seek the desired objective by providing financial assistance to all slaughterhouses which do not reach the 1000 LU figure so that they can comply with the new health regulations?

03.02.1993

FR

101. Question by Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-0061/93)

Subject: Slaughterhouse Directive

Does the Commission appreciate the disastrous effect that the implementation of the Slaughterhouse Directive is having in rural areas, leading to the closure of many of the smaller slaughterhouses in the UK? What compensation does it propose to offer to those who have lost their jobs and businesses as a result of this wholly unsatisfactory piece of legislation?

15.01.1993

EN

102. Question by Mr COLOM I NAVAL (H-0166/93)

Subject: Fraudulent cattle imports into France

According to the French press, cattle from Poland are entering the Community under false pretences. Those responsible for the fraud are using T1 forms stating that the destination of the animals in question is some North African country, which means that they are exempt from customs duties. Once on Community territory, these forms are swapped for T2 forms, fraudulently stating that the duties in question have been paid, so that the cattle can then be sold within the Community. Is the Commission aware of these such practises? What measures has it taken, and what, if any, have been the results?

04.02.1993

ES

103. Question by Mr Brian SIMPSON (H-0168/93)

Subject: HAZCHEM System

Given that the Commission's DG for the Environment is organizing a training workshop for chemical accidents, when can we look forward as a Community to the implementation of a single system of labelling for the transportation of hazardous goods based on the HAZCHEM System?

04.02.1993

EN

104. Question by Mr Alex SMITH (H-0171/93)

Subject: Protection of the marine environment

What new responsibilities has the Commission acquired following the signing last year of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic, and how do the Commission's responsibilities under the Convention affect its powers to intervene in oil slick pollution arising from tanker incidents in the North Atlantic area adjoining the European Community, such as the recent sinking of the 'Braer' off the Shetland Islands in Scotland?

04.02.1993

EN

105. Question by Mr KOSTOPOULOS (H-0174/93)

Subject: Construction projects on Greek woodland

The Greek Government has very unexpectedly tabled in the Greek Parliament an amendment to Article 13 of the law on pastureland (1734/87) seeking to permit the cession - purchase or occupation - of woodland for the construction of workers' housing, and facilities and projects of various kinds, such as tourist and skiing centres, holiday camps, penitentiary centres etc. How does the Commission intend to tackle this matter?

09.02.1993

EL

106. Question by Mrs BELO (H-0176/93)

Subject: The Community's image

In Portugal, as of 1 January 1993, frontier checks carried out by the immigration services, in an openly abusive manner which overstepped their official remit, have led to the expulsion of citizens of third countries, particularly Brazilians and Guineans. These expulsions, carried out over and above the existing regulations in an inhumane and humiliating way, have been explained in the media (TV, radio and press) by members of the Portuguese Government addressing public opinion in Portugal and in the countries concerned as having been necessitated by Portugal's EC commitments (which is quite clearly not true).

The Portuguese Government is projecting, at home and abroad, the image of a closed Community which lacks clear legislation and fails to respect the fundamental human rights of which it claims to be the defender. Public opinion in Portugal and Brazil, as reflected in the media of those countries, confirms that this image is already a fact of life.

How does the Commissioner responsible for the Community's image view this fact? How does he intend to combat it? What means are available to him to make representations to the Portuguese Government?

09.02.1993

PO

107. Question by Mrs LLORCA VILAPLANA (H-0178/93)

Subject: Destruction of forests in Armenia

It has been reported that in order to cope with the cold the people of Armenia have cut down over a million trees.

While fully respecting the needs of the population, if such destruction of the forests is confirmed, would it be possible to help the people of Armenia to cope with their need for fuel? Would it also be possible to measure and assess the implications of the loss of woodland on such a scale?

09.02.1993

ES

108. Question by Mr KILLILEA (H-0180/93)

Subject: Pharmacy directive and freedom of movement

With regard to the pharmacy directive (85/432² and 85/433³), and its requirement for work experience of pharmacists to be within a consecutive 5-year reference period, does the Commission not agree that this condition is clearly in breach of EC directives on freedom of movement, and on equal treatment for men and women, in that if a woman has had to break this consecutive 5-year reference period, for instance due to pregnancy or bringing up children, she is not considered eligible to practice in other Member States, in spite of previous work experience, possibly over a much longer period?

09.02.1993

EN

109. Question by Mr Christopher JACKSON (H-0183/93)

Subject: River and water quality

Does the Commission know of non-governmental non-political agencies which co-ordinate concern about river and water quality, either within individual Member States or across the Community?

09.02.1993

EN

110. Question by Mr Christopher BEAZLEY (H-0185/93)

Subject: Water quality

What proposals about water quality have been made by the Commission or by individual EC Member States as a result of the Rio conference last year?

09.02.1993

EN

² OJ No. L 253, 24.09.85, p. 34

³ OJ No. L 253, 24.09.85, p. 37

111. Question by Mrs DALY (H-0184/93)

Subject: Bank charges

A British constituent received a cheque from a Belgian customer for £105 but has had to pay a bank a commission of £8.50; another for £54 cost an outrageous £13.93 commission.

Why cannot cheques be exchanged between traders in different Member States on the same terms as within a Member State?

09.02.1993

EN

112. Question by Mr GIL-ROBLES GIL-DELGADO (H-0189/93)

Subject: Harmonization of VAT and the unfair tax burden on French ambulancemen

France has incorporated into its national law the provisions of the 18th VAT Directive, Article 13A of which grants exemption in the case of transport services for sick or injured persons in vehicles specially designed for the purpose, with effect from 1 January 1990. As a result, ambulancemen must pay VAT on all capital goods and fuel and other supplies, which are not subject to any reduction, at the rate of 18.60%, without being able to reduce these payments by offsetting the VAT on the transport services, which is no longer applicable. This deterioration in the tax position of ambulancemen has been exacerbated by the introduction of an income tax calculated on the basis of those of employees and business executives and managers, which also came into effect on 1 January 1990.

Does the Commission intend to take measures to ensure that the harmonization of VAT is not used by Member States, in this instance the French Republic, as an excuse to create new taxes?

10.02.1993

ES

113. Question by Mr FROMENT-MEURICE (H-0191/93)

Subject: Harmonization of VAT and the unfair tax burden on French ambulancemen

France has incorporated into its national law the provisions of the 18th VAT Directive, Article 13A of which grants exemption in the case of transport services for sick or injured persons in vehicles specially designed for the purpose, with effect from 1 January 1990. As a result, ambulancemen must pay VAT on all capital goods and fuel and other supplies, which are not subject to any reduction, at the rate of 18.60%, without being able to reduce these payments by offsetting the VAT on the transport services, which is no longer applicable. This deterioration in the tax position of ambulancemen has been exacerbated by the introduction of an income tax calculated on the basis of those of employees and business executives and managers, which also came into effect on 1 January 1990.

Does the Commission not consider that these measures run counter both to the spirit of tax harmonization and to the objectives of the Single Act?

10.02.1993

FR

114. Question by Mr BANDRÉS MOLET (H-0193/93)

Subject: Agreement on reducing working hours and creating jobs

The Commission recently published its annual economic report for 1993, containing forecasts until 1994. Amongst the major economic indicators, the unemployment rate is shown as rising in 1993 and 1994; in Spain alone, if the forecasts are correct, unemployment will rise to 20% of the working population.

The introduction of new technology in production processes with a view to increasing productivity has in many cases rendered the workforce superfluous, and increased business competitiveness thus inevitably leads to increased unemployment. It is particularly disturbing that those most affected by unemployment are the young, especially those seeking their first job.

What possibilities exist for the Commission to raise and explore the issue of a possible large-scale agreement between European trade union bodies and employers' organizations on the voluntary reduction of working hours in the European Community by means of reciprocal arrangements at trade union level? Does the Commission not think that such a step would have beneficial results for the unemployed and, above all, for society as a whole?

10.02.1993

ES

115. Question by Lord INGLEWOOD (H-0197/93/rev.)

Subject: Circuit Foil, Silloth, Cumbria (England)

Can the Commission confirm that there has been no breach of any of the provisions of the EC Treaty Articles 85-94 in respect of ARBED S.A.'s decision to close its subsidiary Circuit Foil in Silloth, Cumbria, England?

10.02.1993

EN

116. Question by Mrs Caroline JACKSON (H-0208/93)

Subject: Future of EC farm animal welfare legislation

Can the Commission state which, if any, of the existing EC farm animal welfare directives it now intends to repeal or replace (as stated in the 1993 programme) and explain whether this intention conforms with the Community's undertaking under Article 2 of the European Convention on the Protection of Animals kept for Farming Purposes which states that the European Community 'shall give effect to the principles of animal welfare laid down in Articles 3 to 7 of this Convention'? Since these articles express very general welfare standards, does the Commission not agree that it is now in danger of repealing legislation dedicated to high and uniform standards of farm animal welfare in favour of a virtual free-for-all which would be bad for farm animals and bad for fair competition between farmers of different EC countries?

16.02.1993

EN

117. Question by Mr FLORENZ (H-0216/93)

Subject: Landfill of waste

On 28 October 1992 Parliament approved the Commission proposal for a Council directive on the landfill of waste (COM(91) 102 final), subject to the amendments adopted. During the vote, Mr Pandolfi, member of the Commission, announced that the Commission would be incorporating in its amended proposal the ban on co-disposal proposed by Parliament, with the possibility of a five-year transitional period for those Member States which still use this form of disposal.

When will the Commission be submitting its amended proposal, bearing in mind that late submission would result in a delay in the adoption of the legislation?

17.02.1993

DE

118. Question by Mr CORNELISSEN (H-0220/93)

Subject: Increase in VAT in Germany on international bus travel

As I mentioned during the debate on 18 January 1993 concerning the proposed VAT system for passenger transport, the German authorities increased tax on bus travel through Germany by 85% as of 1 January 1993, whereas no tax is levied on international bus travel through Belgium, the Netherlands and various other countries.

In her reply the Commissioner, Mrs Scrivener, explained that this rise was an adjustment to take account of inflation.

Does the Commission agree that this unilateral national measure adopted by Germany is contrary to the spirit of the internal market and the expectations of individual citizens?

What has the Commission done, or what does it intend to do, to reverse or reduce this increase in costs, which is disastrous for some coach companies?

18.02.1993

NL

119. Question by Mrs BJØRNVIG (H-0271/93)

Subject: Taxation of passenger transport

Point 14 of the Commission's programme for 1993-1994 states that environmental concerns should be better integrated into Community policies in other areas. At the same time point 6 states that it is important to carry through various initiatives, including indirect taxation of passenger transport.

Should the wording of point 6 be taken to mean further taxation of public transport in keeping with the way in which the Commission has already tried to convince the Danish Government that the Danish decision to exempt public transport from VAT conflicts with the Sixth VAT directive?

If so, the initiatives will run counter to the integration of environmental concerns into other policies. It is common knowledge that private motorists do not pay the full social costs and so there is

25.02.1993

DA

120. Question by Mrs von ALEMANN (H-0228/93)

Subject: EC internal market

In Germany sliced bread is sold in 500gm packets. The same packets of bread with the same weight have been on sale in Britain but are labelled '400gm' because British regulations stipulate 400gm packets.

Can the Commission state whether completion of the internal market will now mean that 500gm packets of bread can be sold as containing 500gm of bread?

19.02.1993

DE

121. Question by Mr McCARTIN (H-0229/93)

Subject: Suckler Cow Premium

Can the Commission state whether it has any plans to bring forward the payment of the various premia in the livestock sector so that farmers can actually have the benefit of the payments early in the year to which they apply? Would the Commission agree that, in making payments in November, the Community is actually taking a year's credit from the farming sector?

19.02.1993

EN

122. Question by Mr TSIMAS (H-0230/93)

Subject: The war waged by the European cartel against the Greek cement industry

Is the Commission aware that a war is being waged against the Greek cement industry through the formation, in contravention of Community competition law, of a European Cement Cartel, with the aim of causing irreparable damage to the competitiveness of Greek cement?

Is the Commission aware of the illegal activities of the companies LAFARGE COPPEE, ITALCEMENTI and CALCESTRUZZI, which are acting unlawfully on the same industrial and commercial territories against the interests of a flourishing and highly competitive Greek cement industry?

Does the Commission intend to take measures to ensure compliance with Community competition law in this sector?

What measures does it intend to take and when?

19.02.1993

EL

123. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-0233/93)

Subject: Implementation of EC legislation in Member States

There is a growing awareness in many Member States that EC regulations and directives are not implemented in the same way in different countries. This leads to some countries implementing EC legislation to a greater degree than others, indeed, some countries, notably the UK, add on more stringent domestic legislation to the EC legislation, further complicating the issue and bringing EC legislation into disrepute.

How does the Commission intend to monitor implementation of Community legislation to ensure a level playing field among Member States?

19.02.1993

EN

124. Question by Mr AMENDOLA (H-0234/93)

Subject: Ban on the passage of oil-tankers through sensitive and hazardous areas such as the Straits of Bonifacio

At the September part-session Parliament called for oil-tankers to be banned from sensitive and hazardous areas such as the Straits of Bonifacio. The French Government agreed to this request, but not the Italian Government. The Commission's 1993 legislative programme does not contain a proposal for such a measure, as sought by Parliament.

Can the Commission say how it is that it has not included Parliament's request in its legislative programme and whether it does not intend, as a result, to change its programme or at least to call on Member States and Italy in particular to take steps to prohibit the passage of oil-tankers through the Straits of Bonifacio?

19.02.1993

IT

125. Question by Mrs BRAUN-MOSER (H-0237/93)

Subject: Discrimination on grounds of nationality in EC programmes

As is clear from the uneven share-out in the Phare programme - or even under other EC budget headings - where French undertakings were able to conclude many more contracts in 1991/92 (worth ECU 49.9 m) than British (ECU 28.1 m) or German (ECU 20.3 m) undertakings, discrimination on grounds of nationality already exists due to linguistic or other constraints of the Brussels bureaucracy. How big a share have German companies had in recent years in the context of the EC development-aid fund?

19.02.1992

DE

126. Question by Mr IVERSEN (H-0240/93)

Subject: Aid and refunds for exports to Iran

How much direct and indirect aid did the Community grant to Iran in 1991 and 1992? What did export refunds for feta exported to Iran amount to in those two years? What did export refunds for Danish feta exported to Iran amount to?

23.02.1993

DA

127. Question by Mr PAGOROPOULOS (H-0241/93)

Subject: Sale of the Heracles General Cement Company

In February 1992, the Greek Government sold the largest Greek cement concern, the Heracles General Cement Company, in a non-transparent manner and at a reduced price for an undisclosed quid pro quo, thus giving control of it to the Italian company Calcestruzzi.

Given that the Commission is carrying out an investigation into whether a cement cartel is operating in the Community, has the Commission examined, or will it examine, to what extent the sale of the Heracles General Cement Company is connected with the operation of such a cartel and if its sale at a reduced price and for an undisclosed quid pro quo is consistent with Community legislation on unfair competition?

23.02.1992

EL

128. Question by Mrs HERMANS (H-0243/93)

Subject: European policy on bananas

Resistance is growing in different large EC seaports to the EC's forthcoming organization of the market in bananas.

Can the Commission give some indication of the impact its policies will have on jobs in the transport and distribution sector in cities like Hamburg, Rotterdam, Antwerp or Marseilles?

23.02.1993

NL

129. Question by Mr PRAG (H-0244/93)

Subject: Commission competitions

With regard to Competition A720, will the Commission explain the muddle which occurred in the marking of the papers; the long delay in notifying candidates of the results; and the notification of different sets of marks to candidates on two separate occasions (March 1992 and October 1992)?

Will it also indicate what steps it is taking to ensure that such muddles are not repeated in future competitions?

23.02.1993

EN

130. Question by Mrs AINARDI (H-0245/93)

Subject: Application of the safeguard clause in the fishery products sector

The sharp increase in fish imports from third countries into the Community, in particular into France, has caused a slump in prices and a disastrous drop in the incomes of fishermen, who have already felt the effects of restructuring programmes and fishing capacity reductions.

Given the seriousness of the problem, has the Commission decided to apply the safeguard clause and ensure respect for Community preference by applying and enforcing Community minimum prices?

23.02.1993

FR

131. Question by Mr BIRD (H-0250/93)

Subject: Financial assistance - compliance with environmental legislation by small- and medium-sized enterprises

What financial arrangements exist, or are planned by way of grants, soft loans etc., to assist small and medium-sized enterprises in the foundry sector to comply with EC environmental legislation?

24.02.1993

EN

132. Question by Mr NEWENS (H-0252/93)

Subject: Status of domestic workers travelling on employers' documents

Is the Commission aware of the grave abuses of human rights in the United Kingdom, concerning third country nationals gaining entry on employers' documents as domestic workers, who frequently suffer conditions closely comparable to slavery, as documented by the Anti-Slavery Society and the Kalayaan, Justice for Domestic Workers Group?

Will the Commission urgently investigate the status of such workers in the Single Market and bring forward recommendations to safeguard such domestic workers from abuse, enforce their rights and protect them from exploitation under threat of summary deportation?

24.02.1993

EN

133. Question by Mrs SANDBÆK (H-0256/93)

Subject: Protocol on social policy

The Protocol on social policy states that directives on 'working conditions' may be adopted. Can the Commission give a precise and exhaustive definition of the term?

24.2.1993

DA

134. Question by Mrs CRAMON DAIBER (H-0259/93)

Subject: Illegal state aid to Sony by the Land Berlin

Six days after the Bundestag decided to change its seat from Bonn to Berlin a pre-agreed contract on the sale for DM 101 million of a 31.000 m² site on the Potsdamer Platz owned by the Berlin Senate to Sony Company was signed; independent experts estimate that this plot is worth DM 260 million.

Why does it take the Commission so long to establish the fact that this constitutes a clear breach of Article 92 of the Treaty and is the Commission aware that the Senate is using this time trying to deceive the competent services of the Commission by manipulation of the facts?

24.02.1993

DE

135. Question by Mrs IZQUIERDO ROJO (H-0263/93)

Subject: Administration of the European Community - Morocco fisheries agreement

Does the Commission consider that the fisheries agreement with Morocco is being implemented in its entirety in accordance with expectations?

What actions or behaviour are at present causing the Commission concern as regards compliance with the agreement? What steps should be taken to ensure that the agreement is administered more satisfactorily?

25.02.1993

ES

136. Question by Mr SANTOS LÓPEZ (H-0063/93)

Subject: Failure by Morocco to comply with the fisheries agreement

What measure is the Commission taking to ensure that Morocco complies with the EEC-Morocco fisheries agreement and to prevent fresh fish from Moroccan fishing zones entering Andalusian ports during biological recovery periods?

15.01.1993

ES

137. Question by Mrs CRAWLEY (H-0264/93)

Subject: Zero rate VAT trade between VAT-registered traders

The Commission has accepted the principle of zero rating trade between registered traders when that trade crosses national borders within the EC: is the Commission now prepared to extend that principle to trade between registered traders within Member States? This would have the effect of freeing up large amounts of money which would be of immediate advantage to Member States' economies but would be of no net cost to Member States. If the Commission is not prepared to extend the principle would it explain why not?

25.02.1993

EN

138. Question by Mrs McINTOSH (H-1286/92)

Subject: Application of VAT on exports after 31 December 1992

Would not the Commission agree that, under EC provisions on the imposition of VAT, the burden of form-filling and completion of documentation concerning data on intra-EC sales will transfer from government to the companies concerned?

Would not the Commission agree that this is an unwelcome additional burden on small and medium-sized undertakings?

14.12.1992

EN

139. Question by Mr RAFFARIN (H-0270/93)

Subject: The Atlantis programme

At the instigation of the European Parliament, the Community budget for 1993 includes a heading (Article B2-142) concerning implementation of the Atlantis programme, the purpose of which is to promote the environment and economic development, particularly in the regions of the Atlantic Arc.

Can the Commission state how and when it intends to launch this programme?

25.02.1993

FR

140. Question by Mr DESSYLAS (H-0272/93)

Subject: Carcinogenic industrial phenols from the Elvies plant threatening the lives of 50 000 inhabitants in the region of Ioannina

Elvies, an industrial plant impregnating electricity and telegraph poles with crezol, is located in a residential area in Perivleptos in the region of Ioannina (population 1000) and directly above the springs at Tumba which is used to supply water to 52 communities in the Ioannina region (population 50 000).

The hazardous toxic and carcinogenic waste from this industry (industrial phenols) is causing an environmental disaster and in particular is polluting drinking water which according to measurements made by the University of Ioannina, the State Chemicals Laboratory and the Munich Technological University contains up to four times more than the Community limits on phenols (0.5 µ g/l ppb, as laid down in Directive 80/778).

What immediate representations will the Commission make to the Greek authorities to ensure that this plant suspends its operations and relocates immediately. Will it send experts to the area to establish the extent of the water pollution and environmental damage on the spot?

25.02.1993

EL

141. Question by Mr MAHER (H-0273/93)

Subject: TB eradication

In view of the vital importance of the cattle industry to Ireland and the urgent necessity to finally eradicate TB, will aid be available from the Community in future for this project?

25.02.1993

EN

142. Question by Mr FITZGERALD (H-0276/93)

Subject: Action for elderly people in 1994

The current EC action programme for older people ends in December 1993, at the end of the European Year of Older People.

When will the Commission bring forward proposals for a second EC action programme for elderly people, to ensure continued action in 1994 and to build on the increased awareness and results of the initiatives taken during the European Year?

What budgetary proposals is the Commission considering for such ongoing actions on behalf of older people?

25.02.1993

EN

143. Question by Mr NEWTON DUNN (H-1016/92)

Subject: Designs of single currency banknotes

Does the Commission know of, or is it sponsoring, or planning to sponsor, any competitions for a design of banknotes and coins for the single European currency? Is there any decision yet on how many denominations there will be? On a related subject, will there be single European postage stamps?

06.10.1992

EN

144. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-0074/93)

Subject: Hoists on construction sites

Will the Commission please advise me whether hoists on construction sites come under the EC Machinery Directive or the Lifts Directive?

19.01.1993

EN

145. Question by Mr HARRISON (H-0075/93)

Subject: 77/187/EEC - Acquired Rights Directive

The United Kingdom Government is proposing to introduce legislation aimed at the compulsory privatization of the remaining local government owned bus companies. Included in the proposals is the withdrawal of the rights of existing employees to retain their membership of local government superannuation and pension schemes after the transfer of the undertakings.

Further, in drafting the 1981 Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) regulations, which purported to enshrine 77/187/EEC⁴ in English law, the UK Government sought to exclude public sector employees.

Will the Commission confirm that the current proposals and the 1981 TUPE regulations are in breach of European Community law?

Will it take the appropriate action?

Will it ensure that the EC citizens at risk are not deprived of their acquired rights?

19.01.1993

EN

146. Question by Mr ELLES (H-0089/93)

Subject: Machine translation

Will the Commission set out its views on the merits of developing the concept of machine translation?

Does it have any plans to use this technique in the near future to translate any of its own documents?

What is the volume of funds so far devoted to this exercise from EC sources?

Specifically, what was the purpose and total cost of the COMETT-sponsored course organized in Crans Montana, Switzerland on machine translation? What percentage of the course was financed from EC sources, given it was organized in a non-EC country?

25.01.1993

EN

⁴ OJ No. L 61, 5.3.1977, p.26

147. Question by Mr FALQUI (H-0096/93)

Subject: Reasons behind the Commission's decision in autumn 1991 not to pursue its inquiry into possible state aid in the conclusion of the ENIMONT case

Following my written question to the Commission No. 1297/91¹ on conformity with Article 92 of the EEC Treaty of the acquisition by the ENI state-owned energy corporation of Montedison shares in the Enimont joint venture, the then Commissioner responsible Sir Leon Brittan obtained information from the Italian authorities on the whole case which he judged to be satisfactory as far as his own specific responsibilities were concerned. However, he did not see fit to pass this information on to the Member of Parliament who had requested it.

A few weeks ago the Italian courts decided to open their own inquiry into the facts I queried in autumn 1991.

Independently of the outcome of the above inquiry by the Italian courts, can the Commission now release the information on which it based its decision to close its inquiry?

26.01.1993

IT

148. Question by Mr BETTINI (H-0100/93)

Subject: Loss of oak trees in the Mediterranean basin

In Spain, Portugal, Italy, Morocco and Tunisia a worrying number of oak trees, including the cork oak (*quercus suber*) and the holm oak (*quercus ilex*), are dying. The decline of this species has traditionally been attributed to drought, pollution, attack by insects and fungus and changes in farming practices.

Additional causes are the environmental risks caused by the increasing expansion and diversification of international trade, which involves the handling and transport of plants, raw materials and manufactured products, and also the greenhouse effect, which may exacerbate the harmful effects of some fungi.

What does the Commission intend to do to protect the tree population which, in the case of the cork oak, is of considerable economic and environmental value?

26.01.1993

IT

¹ OJ C 259, 4.10.1991, p.45

149. Question by Mr SANCHEZ GARCÍA (H-0108/93)

Subject: Rates of duty under the Tax on production and imports in the Canary Islands

In the previously valid tax scheme in the Canaries, vegetable oil in bulk was exempt from the payment of general tariff import duty, whilst 5% was payable on bottled oil. When the APIC (Tax on production and imports in the Canaries) came into operation, it had to comply with the structure of the Combined Customs and Statistical Nomenclature, which included both types of oil under the same heading.

While this heading was being subdivided Law 20/91 was adopted, which chose to apply an intermediate rate of 3% to both categories as a transitional measure. After the split, oil in bulk was exempted whilst bottled oil remained at the 3% rate, thus producing a result that was worse than the previous situation.

What procedure should be followed to return to the original rates?

27.01.1993

ES

