

European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1984-1985

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11 February 1985

DOCUMENT 2-1593/84

ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME

on 12 and 13 February 1985

PE 93.423



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QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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Question by Mrs TONGUE (H-259/84) (x)

1.

Subject : Implementation of EC Council Directive 79/7/EEC (1) on equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security

What has the Commission done to monitor implementation of the EEC Directive 79/7/EEC given that it should come into force in December 1984 ?

Is the Commission aware that the British government has failed to revise the provisions of the UK Invalidity Care Allowance which is the only benefit in the EEC which is denied to married women just because they are married, and thus contravenes the provisions of the directive ?

28.09.1984

(1) O.J. Nr L 6 from 1.1.1979, p.24

2.

Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-266/84) (x)

Subject : Scheme for reduced price butter for the confectionery industry

Is the Commission aware that the scheme for reduced price butter for the confectionery industry discriminates against the U.K. as it prevents the U.K. chocolate confectionery industry from having access to cheap butter and it severely restricts the availability of subsidised butter to the highly fragmented sugar confectionery industry. Can the Commission indicate when it will erase these anomalies ?

1.10.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question  
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

3. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-270/84) (x)

Subject: Culture in Europe

Is it true that just a handful of people at the Commission are responsible for preparing and implementing Community action in the cultural sector; if so, exactly how many people in the Commission work in this field? Does the Commission think that there are enough of them to work out a coherent cultural policy at European level; if so, can it justify this view - if not, what steps has the Commission taken to change this situation, and with what results?

2.10.84

4. Question by Mr FORD (H-288/84) (x)

Subject: Safety of European Members of Parliament

Could the Commission provide details of what steps it has taken to protect European Members of Parliament in the event of a nuclear attack?

9.10.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question  
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

5. Question by Mr NEWMAN (H-441/84) (x)(xx)

Subject : The Location of the Storage of Chemicals and  
their Proximity to Residential Dwellings

Does the Commission not consider it necessary to strengthen the "Seveso Directive" on the handling and storage of chemical substances, so as to establish a minimum distance between residential dwellings and sites in which chemical substances can be handled and stored.

The dangers of the close proximity of chemical storage to peoples' homes has once again been highlighted by the major chemical fire on the 24th September 1984 at Anchor Chemicals in Clayton, Manchester, and the consequential necessary temporary evacuation of some 300 people whose homes were immediately adjacent to the chemical storage facility.

9 10.1984

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(x) Former oral question without debate (O-44/84), converted into a question for question time.

6. Question by Mrs EWING (H-312/84) (x)

Subject: Community forestry policy

What steps does the Commission propose to take to rekindle interest in a common forestry policy?

11.10.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

7. Question by Mr VON WOGAU (H-324/84) (x)

Subject: Identity checks at Brussels airport

Is the Commission aware that when arriving at or departing from Brussels airport every single Community citizen coming from a different Member State or travelling to such a state is checked by the computer system installed there and does the Commission believe that this practice applied to people travelling between Member States is compatible with the rules of the European Community?

11.10.1984

8. Question by Mr FITZGERALD (H-348/84) (x)

Subject : Reactivating the European Shipbuilding Industry

To ask the Commission what notice it has taken of the Resolution adopted by the European Parliament which asks the Commission to devise a genuine policy for reactivating the shipbuilding industry for example, by encouraging European shipbuilders to place their orders with EEC shipyards, launch modernisation programmes, have fair competition rules respected and harmonise support conditions for financing ?

18.10.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question  
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

9. Question by Mr MAHER (H-352/84) (x)

Subject : VAT on imported motor vehicles

Bearing in mind the Council's answer to question 54 in the first October part session of 1984, does not the Commission agree that the Irish Government's proposed level of imposition of VAT on imported motor vehicles will in effect maintain the situation as it has been during the past ten years and that therefore the free trade rules of the EEC will be breached ?

19.10.85

10. Question by Mr MAC SHARRY (H-360/84) (x)

Subject : International Youth Year

In view of the fact that 1985 has been designated International Youth Year, will the Commission indicate what proposals it has put forward or intends to consider to mark this important event ?

23.10.1984

11. Question by Mr BARRETT (H-364/84) (x)

Subject : Shannon study

In view of the importance of the Shannon Estuary to the economic and social welfare of the West of Ireland and the stated purpose of the ERDF which is to contribute to the correction of the principal regional imbalances within the Community through participation in the development and structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind, will the Commission indicate whether or not it would be prepared to fund a study into the infrastructural problems of this region ?

23.10.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question  
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

12. Question by Mr WOLFF (H-374/84) (x)

Subject : Ban on books encouraging suicide in the Community

Is the Commission aware that in some Member States, legislation has been proposed which, aimed at preventing the distribution of literature which encourages suicide and at punishing the authors; if so, in view of the fact that the Treaty of Rome makes provision for the free movement of goods, does not the Commission consider that measures in this field should be harmonized at Community level so as to prevent the circumvention of the ban on the distribution of these publications?

24.10.1984

13. Question by Mrs NIELSEN (H-433/84) (x)

Subject: Increased opportunities for consumers to buy cheap butter

Consumers cannot understand why they cannot for instance buy cakes in which butter is used at the same price from their local baker as from really large-scale producers, who are able to buy 5 tons of butter at a time at a very low price.

Will the Commission take steps to set up wholesale societies so that consumers in the Community can jointly buy butter in bulk and to ensure that the five ton limit does not remain in force, since a smaller quantity available to more people will mean that more butter can be sold than hitherto, to the advantage of consumers and therefore of the Community?

5.11.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

14. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-526/84) (x)

Subject: Abolition of personal checks between Member States

Can the Commission say, having informed me that it has been notified of agreements in this area between France and the Federal Republic of Germany, in what way and to what extent its Members or staff have taken steps to draw up and conclude similar agreements between other Member States; what have been the Commission's findings in this area?

19.11.84

15. Question by Mr HABSBERG (H-454/84) (x)

Subject: Safety provisions in air transport

Despite current provisions restricting hand luggage on passenger aircraft, some European airlines are again allowing passengers to carry numerous and excessively large pieces of luggage.

These could endanger all passengers by obstructing movement in the event of emergency landing.

What does the Commission intend to do to ensure that the safety provisions are observed?

12.11.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question  
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

16. Question by Mr DALSASS (H-464/84) (x)

Subject: Article on South Tirol in 'EG-Magazin' in October 1984

In October 1982 the European Parliament published a resolution calling for protection for regional languages and cultures which was seen as the first step towards protecting various ethnic groups within the Community.

This opinion was also welcomed by the Commission. How, therefore, can the Commission allow an article to be published in the October 1984 issue of the 'EG-Magazin' which is financed by the Community, which presents a false picture of the situation in South Tirol and is so biased that it gives a false impression of and is detrimental to the South Tirolian ethnic group? Does the Commission not believe that it should disclaim such reports? And what steps will it take to ensure that in future the EG-Magazin promotes the interests of ethnic groups rather than working against them.

12.11.1984

17. Question by Mr SIMMONDS (H-468/84) (x)

Subject : Commission Funds for Slaughter Houses

With reference to the Commission's answer to my question H-88/84 (1) of 11.9.1984, and to Mr Dalsager's assurances that he would investigate the matter, what have been the fruits of that investigation, and will the Commission agree to pursue the matter further ?

(1) Debates Nr 2-316 of 11.9.1984

12.11.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question  
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

18. Question by Mr SEAL (H-482/84) (x)

Subject: Progress of Multifibre Arrangement

The current term of the multifibre arrangement (MFA) is due to expire in July 1986, and international negotiations are now beginning to fix the terms on which it will be renewed. Bearing in mind the implications of the MFA for the Community's textiles and clothing industries, with 2.5 million employees,

Can the Commission state what arrangements will be made for consultations with the textile and clothing industries, including notably the trade unions, and will it take fully into account the fact that the textile industries are largely concentrated in a number of specific regions of the Community, many with particularly high levels of unemployment?

15.11.1984

19. Question by Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-480/84) (x)

Subject: Proposals for an overall reduction in the cost of support for cereals in 1985

Would the European Commission state, bearing in mind the bumper harvest in most cereal crops in the Community this year, whether its proposed Budget, as amended, contains implicit proposals for an overall reduction in the cost of support for cereals in 1985?

15.11.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

20.

Question by Mrs CHOURAQUI (H-485/84) (x)

Subject: Effects and consequences of demographic change

Last April Commissioner Richard told the House that 'demography, the birth rate, the encouragement of population or otherwise within Member States, is essentially a matter for the national policy of individual Member States', but he added that the Council of Ministers of Social Affairs had asked the Commission to analyse the effects and consequences of the demographic changes that are now taking place.

Could the Commission make a statement on this very important question?

19.11.1984

21.

Question by Mr FLANAGAN (H-509/84) (x)

Subject: Cut-backs on Social Fund aid for the handicapped

Will the Commission confirm whether or not it has taken a decision to cut back on the level of Social Fund aid at present being made available to rehabilitation institutes for the handicapped and if so will it state its reasons for doing so?

28.11.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

22. Question by Mr DEPREZ (H-542/84) (x)

Subject: Milk quotas

Belgian farmers, who are adhering strictly to their milk quotas, are worried that certain Member States are not taking the necessary steps to introduce quotas, either for dairies or for individual farms, and intend to pay the additional levy on milk production themselves.

Can the Commission outline the way in which the various Member States have implemented the milk quotas and say whether payment of the additional levies by the Member States would be compatible with Community regulations?

12.12.1984

23. Question by Mr ROUX (H-564/84) (x)

Subject: Rhine-Rhone river link

Is the Commission in a position to explain why in its transport infrastructure policy it has not been able to include the Rhine-Rhone river link as a project of Community interest, as common sense would dictate?

19.12.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

24. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-566/84) (x)

Subject: Proceedings against Greece under Article 169

What justification, what factual elements and whose requests have prompted the Commission to institute against Greece the procedure provided for under Article 169 with reference to Greek regulations and the practice of the Greek authorities in the matter of public contracts relating to State supplies?

20.12.84

25. Question by Mr CHRISTODOULOU (H-574/84) (x)

Subject: Availability of lead-free petrol in countries which are not Members of the EEC

The recent decision of the Council of Ministers of the Environment on the use of lead-free petrol from 1989 will - owing to the geographical position of Greece - hinder the passage of private vehicles both to and from Greece and have a particularly damaging effect on tourism, unless it is decided to make available lead-free petrol in the transit countries Austria and Yugoslavia as well.

Can the Commission state whether these countries (Austria and Yugoslavia) will have petrol stations to supply tourists with lead-free petrol in 1989? If not, what steps does the Commission intend taking to tackle this problem?

20.12.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

26. Question by Mr FITZSIMONS (H-365/84)

Subject : New technologies and the textile industry

Will the Commission state what action it is taking to implement the calls made by the European Parliament to devise a Community strategy in the textile and clothing industry which involves :

- (a) a more rigorous and efficient management of the Community's textile agreements;
- (b) promoting the sector's general competitiveness by specific measures;
- (c) accompanying reconversion by social measures, since a loss of one million jobs is expected by 1990?

23.10.1984

27. Question by Mrs LEMASS (H-382/84)

Subject : Accidents in the Home

Will the Commission state what results have been achieved from the pilot programme which it started, in close cooperation with national authorities on information relating to accidents in the home ?

25.10.1984

28. Question by Mr FANTON (H-385/84)

Subject: Sheep imports from New Zealand

A few months ago, the exasperation of French sheep farmers at the aberrations in the sheepmeat market led to incidents such as the interception of British Lorries on French roads.

The exasperation of these farmers is due to recent imports into France of sheep carcasses from New Zealand, which had simply passed through the United Kingdom in transit.

What measures does the Commission intend to take to put an end to New Zealand's policy of selling sheepmeat at low prices on the European market, and to ensure that all Member States comply with the rules established by the European institutions?

The Commission is surely aware that, unless it meets its responsibilities, sheep farming is liable to disappear in many regions of Europe.

25.10.1984

29. Question by Mr ANDREWS (H-387/84)

Subject : Food assistance to hunger-stricken countries

Could the Commission tell us why considering that some of its food productions are in excess it does not increase its food assistance in favour of populations suffering from starvation ?

25.10.1984

30. Question by Mr ADAM (H-467/84)

Subject : Advanced communication technologies in Europe (Race)

Can the Commission indicate when they expect to publish their proposals for shared research and development work in this field ?

12.11.1984

31. Question by Mr HUGHES (H-476/84)

Subject: European Communities assistance to Consett a former Steel Town in County Durham

What steps has the Commission taken to inform itself of the effectiveness of European Communities assistance granted to the Consett area in the four years following the closure of the steel works there?

15.11.1984

32. Question by Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE (H-493/84)

Subject: Customs regulations for works of art

Artists maintain that the present customs regulations seriously handicap artists in the Community.

Is the Commission also of this opinion and, if so, what proposals is it considering to improve the situation?

23.11.1984

33. Question by Mr Christopher JACKSON (H-606/84) (x)

Subject : Common Market in Motor Vehicles

In order to ensure proper implementation of the proposed regulation on block exemption for motor vehicle distribution, will the Commission ensure a complaints procedure is available to solve quickly difficulties experienced by consumers in exercising their fundamental right to buy cars anywhere in the European Community?

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(x) Former oral question without debate (0-87/84), converted into a question for question time

23.11.1984

34. Question by Mr McMAHON (H-684/84) \*

Subject: FEOGA Grants

Recently S.K. Meats, a subsidiary of W. Forrest & Sons, Paisley, closed its factory in Saltcoats, Ayrshire. In the light of considerable FEOGA grants which this firm received, has the Commission any mechanism to reclaim all or part of the European Community's investment; has the Commission any mechanism for dealing with companies that receive EEC assistance and within a short period of time close their doors causing considerable hardship, unemployment and poverty to the local community and has the Commission any proposals to safeguard EEC funds from being used for "asset stripping"?

11.12.1984

\* former oral question without debate (0-94/84) converted into a question for question time

35. Question by Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK (H-573/84)

Subject: Price increase for polyamides

Is the Commission aware that Imperial Chemical Industries, Fibres Division, has increased the price of various polyamide fibres by 7% with effect from 1 January, and further that last year this division of ICI announced profits of roughly £16 million; and does it not believe that the exempted multifibre agreement of 4 July 1984 between the ten companies, including ICI, which together cover 85% of the market, no longer has any <sup>^</sup>raison d'être and is threatening to degenerate into a price cartel?

20.12.84

36.

Question by Mr CASSIDY (H-575/84)

Subject: Incident by the Shaftesbury Town Twinning Association

The following incident has been brought to my attention by the Shaftesbury Town Twinning Association: On a Town Twinning trip to Lindlar, West Germany, a group from Shaftesbury in my constituency encountered a series of problems. The first was on Thursday 28 August 1984 when arriving at the German border at Aachen at about 7.30 pm. The group was held up for 45 minutes while the two coach drivers filled in a series of forms concerning the fuel tax estimated by the distance to be covered in Germany during the visit. The forms were far from explicit in the English language and both drivers had to re-write their forms which created a delay coupled with the slowness of the frontier control staff in calculating the amount of tax to be paid on the fuel in the two vehicles. On Monday 27 August, a delay was again experienced at Aachen once again because of the calculation of distance travelled and fuel used. These resulted in a demand for excess payment. At the Belgian/French at Veurnes, due to insufficient space, the coaches could not be parked in the allocated park as it was full of lorries awaiting clearance. The frontier officials punished the coach drivers by making them wait an extremely long time to deal with fuel tax.

What action can the Commission take to ensure that such hindrances to free travel for Community citizens travelling by coach are eliminated forthwith?

3.1.1985

37. Question by Mrs CRAWLEY (H-582/84)

Subject: Product Liability

Can the Commission indicate whether or not there was a December meeting of the Council of Consumer Ministers, and if so, what the outcome of that meeting was regarding the issue of the 8-year old Community draft directive on product liability?

If there was not a December meeting, can the Commission indicate the latest decision on this subject?

4.1.1985

38. Question by Mrs BANOTTI (H-586/84)

Subject: Sport and the Community

In April 1984 the European Parliament adopted a resolution on sport and the Community. What action has the Commission taken in response to paragraph XI of the resolution which "requests the Commission to contact the federations, the Member State sports authorities and the youth forum with a view to launching 'Community games' at junior, intermediate, school and university level?

8.1.1985

39. Question by Mr SELVA (H-591/84)

Subject: World hunger

In his radio and television broadcast the President of the Italian Republic, Mr Sandro Pertini, speaking about the problem of world hunger, asked where aid was going and whether it was really being given to the people who were starving.

Could the Commission give precise answers to these questions with regard to Community aid that has been provided to Ethiopia in the last few months to relieve the effects of famine?

10.1.1985

40. Question by Mr VAN AERSEN (H-593/84)

Subject: Negotiations with Egypt

What is the situation in the Commission's negotiations with Egypt, bearing in mind that the Council of Ministers wishes to step up cooperation with the Mediterranean countries in parallel with the enlargement of the Community to include Spain and Portugal?

10.1.1985

41. Question by Mr SEEFELD (H-595/84)

Subject: Purchase of duty-free goods

What is the Commission's reaction to the frequently heard view that the availability of duty-free goods constitutes an obstacle to achievement of a genuine internal market in the European Community?

14.1.1985

42. Question by Mr STEWART (H-596/84)

Subject : Barrage across the Mersey

Can the Commission give their view on the feasibility of the recent proposal for a tidal barrage across the Mersey from a technical and economic viewpoint and can they also comment on the regional benefits to employment that might accrue during the construction and subsequent operation of such a barrage?

14.1.1985

43. Question by Mr PASTY (H-597/84)

Subject: Increase in suckler herd premiums

Suckler herd premiums were introduced by the Community to offset the inadequacy of specialist meat producers' incomes compared with those of milk producers. Because of the collapse in beef prices, which are now considerably below the guide price, the situation for these farmers is now disastrous and it is aggravated by the effects of the introduction of milk quotas on dairy cow slaughterings. Does the Commission consider that it is fair to make specialist meat producers, who are already penalized by their income levels, suffer the consequences of an imbalance that has arisen in another sector? Does it not consider that under these circumstances it would be fair to propose a substantial increase in suckler herd premiums or any other measures having an equivalent effect in the price review for the next marketing year?

14.1.1985

44.

Question by Mr ELLIOTT (H-599/84)

Subject : Sale of EEC subsidised Butter in the U.K.

Is the Commission aware of the gross disparity between the price of EEC subsidised butter to the consumer in the U.K. and that in other Member States? Whereas in Ireland this butter is on sale at only 22p per 250 gram pack and some has been offered free in Germany, the U.K. Government has fixed a maximum retail price of 42p. This is artificially high and is only slightly lower than the normal retail price as shown by the Government's own prices survey. It seems the main beneficiaries in the U.K. will be the packers and distributors, not the ordinary consumers. Is the Commission also aware that the U.K. Government delayed the sale of EEC subsidised butter by 4-6 weeks so that it was not available before Christmas as in most other member countries and in view of this totally unfair and unjustified discrimination against consumers in the U.K. will the Commission make strong representations to the U.K. Government to modify its current policy?

14.1.1985

45.

Question by Mr MORRIS (H-602/84)

Subject : Lead in water intended for human consumption

Five million people in Britain live in houses in which it is reliably reported the tap water contains more lead than is permitted by the EEC directive 80/778/EEC. The danger in Wales is more widespread and more serious because of the very large numbers of older houses or properties with lead piping and the action of a soft, acid water supply in dissolving lead from lead piping. In view of the dangers from lead in water, what action is the Commission taking to ensure that directive 80/778/EEC is fully implemented; can the Commission give an assurance that if the British government makes a request under Article 20 of the directive for permission to waive compliance for a further four years that it will be rejected?

14.1.1985

46.

Question by Sir Peter VANNECK (H-604/84)

Subject : Suspension of duties for certain products intended for use in the construction, maintenance and repair of aircraft (1)

Have the governments of those states, which supply the products listed in Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3384/84 of 27th November 1984, agreed to suspend tariffs on Community-manufactured parts and components for aircraft, assembled in their own-territory?

15.1.1985

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(1) OJ No L 317 of 6.12.1984

47.

Question by Mr GERONTOPOULOS (H-612/84)

Subject: Community policy for young people

The United Nations has declared 1985 International Youth Year. Various events for young people will be held throughout the year at both international and European level.

In the context of its policy for young people, does the Commission share the view that the opportunity offered by International Youth Year should be used to improve and step up Community policies for young people and, if so, what action does it intend to take as a means of helping to achieve this aim? What resources and what specific measures has it decided to implement in support of these events?

15.1.1985

48. Question by Mrs THOME-PATENOTRE (H -614/84)

Subject: Transport of horses

In its resolution of 10 June 1983 the European Parliament tackled the question of the transport of horses. What action has been taken in response to this resolution? What are the Commission's intentions, in particular, as regards reducing the distances over which horses are transported and what measures does the Commission intend to take when strikes or any other circumstances lead to animals in transit being held up at frontiers?

16.1.1985

49. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-618/84)

Subject : Frontier formalities

Will the Commission appoint an ad hoc enquiry into the obstructive operations of officials carrying out customs and passport facilities at Brussels National Airport and Dover Docks, as a beginning for a new campaign against frontier formalities which are a denial of proper free movement of citizens and which subject citizens to official controls which are unsuitable in free and democratic countries?

16.1.1985

50. Question by Mr GUERMEUR (H -620/84)

Subject: European petrochemical industry

Is the Commission aware that the Community's petrochemical industry is increasingly unable to defend itself against competition from countries in the Middle East, which have lower production costs, and does it not consider it necessary to negotiate a ceiling on imports into the Community of petrochemical products from Saudi Arabia?

17.1.1985

51. Question by Mrs DUPUY (H-621/84)

Subject: Consequences of the cold weather in the Community

Is the Commission aware of the serious consequences of the wave of exceptionally cold weather on certain products, particularly in the Mediterranean regions, which are having a substantial effect in terms of price rises, and does it plan to make emergency aid available to the most seriously affected regions of the Community?

17.1.1985

52. Question by Mr GRIFFITHS (H-622/84)

Subject : Food aid

Is the Commission satisfied that food aid deliveries are being made on time to the proper recipients?

17.1.1985

53. Question by Mr CORNELISSEN (H-625/84)

Subject: Red tape for rail passengers at internal frontiers

People travelling on Brussels-Luxembourg-Strasbourg-Basel inter-city trains are obliged to leave the restaurant car at the Luxembourg-France border. This means that many passengers have to leave their meal to get cold during passport controls, which was surely not the intention of the authors of the Treaty of Rome. Will the Commission therefore say what regulations or guidelines necessitate these controls which are highly disagreeable and hardly reflect a European spirit?

17.1.1985

54. Question by Mr LE CHEVALLIER (H-626/84)

Subject: The destabilization of Europe

The Commission has stated (Social Europe, September 1984 - No. 2/84) that 'the increasing politicization of the whole issue of migration' is one of the forces destabilizing Community policy. Can the Commission explain why it does not consider this issue to be political?

18.1.1985

55. Question by Mrs QUIN (H-628/84)

Subject : British nationality and immigration rules

What action, if any, did the Commission take concerning British nationality and immigration rules following the adoption by the European Parliament of the MALANGRE report (1) and in particular has the Commission looked at these rules from the angle of discrimination against women, given the commitment to equality of treatment between men and women contained in Article 119 of the Treaty of Rome?

18.1.1985

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(1) Doc. 1-254/81

56. Question by Mrs LEHIDEUX (H-632/84)

Subject: Provision of information for the foreign population  
in the Community

The Commission thinks that to provide better information for the foreign population living in the Community a programme to provide cheaper or free legal advice should be promoted in each Member State (cf. Social Europe, September 1984 - No. 2/84, p. 25). Can the Commission indicate how much such an operation would cost and how it would be funded?

18.1.1985

57. Question by Mr STIRBOIS (H-634/84)

Subject: Impact of immigration on the European employment market

On what evidence does the Commission base its opinion that foreigners do not share responsibility for the high level of unemployment in the Community, when the HERMAN report suggests the opposite conclusion for some countries? Is the Commission's opinion the same when it comes to a long-term assessment?

18.1.1985

58. Question by Mr COLLINOT (H-636/84)

Subject: Wives of migrant workers from third countries

Does the Commission think that it is desirable and possible to encourage the social and professional integration of the wives of migrant workers from third countries, while at the same time seeking to preserve their linguistic and cultural links with their country of origin; how does it intend to achieve these contradictory objectives?

18.1.1985

59. Question by Mr MOUCHEL (H-638/84)

Subject: EAGGF

Has the Commission taken the necessary steps to reduce the delays in clearing EAGGF accounts, as recommended by Parliament, and to prevent the recurrence of situations like the Milk Marketing Boards affair?

18.1.1985

60. Question by Mr COSTE-FLORET (H-639/84)

Subject: Checks at the Community's internal frontiers

Can the Commission give Parliament an account of the representations it has made to the authorities of Member States in order to reduce identity checks on European citizens at internal Community borders, and of the results obtained?

18.1.1985

61. Question by Mr JUPPÉ (H-640/84)

Subject: Plan by the United States to tax imports of oil and consumer goods

Is the Commission aware that Congress is currently studying a plan to introduce degressive taxes of 20, 15 and 7% per year on imports of oil and consumer goods over a period of three years, with a view to reducing the budgetary and trade deficits, and has it assessed the serious consequences of such measures, if they are adopted, for Community exports of the products concerned?

18.1.1985

62. Question by Mr PITT (H-644/84)

Subject : Flag of convenience shipping

Would the Commission give details of the economic effects of supporting flag of convenience shipping, in terms of the contributions to the balance of payments of Member States, to shipbuilding and associated industries, and employment in shipping, shipbuilding and associated industries?

21.1.1985

63. Question by Mrs CASTLE (H-645/84)

Subject : European Card for the Elderly

In the reply on 9 October 1984 to question No 1 Mr Wijsenbeek (H-107/84) (1), Mr Richard said the first phase of collection of relevant data on benefits granted to the elderly in the individual Member States was under way. Will the Commissioner give an indication as to when the analysis of this information will be completed and what action he then proposes to take?

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(1) Debates 2-317 of 9.10.1984

21.1.1985

64. Question by Dame SHELAGH ROBERTS (H-646/84)

Subject : Equal treatment for men and women in the  
Income Tax Systems

Will the Commission give an assurance that they will continue the study commenced by the previous Commission into the possibilities implementing equal treatment for men and women in the income tax systems and can the Commission state what stage this study has reached ?

21.1.1985

65. Question by Mrs DURY (H-652/84)

Subject: International Code on breast milk substitutes

The Commission has drawn up a directive on the quality and labelling of formula milk for new-born babies and milk foods for older babies. This directive, introduced as an application of the code on the marketing of breast milk substitutes, does not take into account all the aspects of commercial practices in this field or all the methods of promoting baby foods, which is the principal concern of the WHO and UNICEF Code.

For what reasons exactly has the Commission not taken account of the conclusions contained in the two resolutions (October 1982 and April 1983) adopted in plenary session by the European Parliament, and why has the Commission, in drawing up this directive, given preference to the voluntary code submitted by the Association of Dietetic Foods Industries of the EEC (IDACE) instead of the International Code of the WHO?

22.1.1985

66. Question by Mr RAFTERY (H-654/84)

Subject : The flying of the flags of the Member States  
throughout the Community

Is the Commission aware that in a part of the European Communities it is illegal to fly together the flags of all ten Member States? This is the case in Northern Ireland, where under legislation dating from the now defunct Stormont Parliament, it remains illegal to fly or display the flag of Ireland. Can the Commission indicate whether similar legislation exists, in any other part of the Community and if so, where and would the Commission not agree that this situation is clearly contrary to the spirit of the Treaties; if so what action do they intend to take?

23.1.1985

67. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-658/84)

Subject: Textile imports into Greece

There has recently been an extremely sharp rise in imports from EEC countries (UK, France, the Netherlands, etc.) onto the markets in Thessaloniki, Athens and other parts of Greece, of textiles and knitted goods (lining, towels, sheets, cloth, socks, knitwear etc.) which were in fact manufactured in third countries (Singapore, Taiwan, etc.) but which nevertheless benefitted from the favourable tariffs applied to EEC countries. These imports have created fresh problems for Greek workers in the textile industry, which has seen a vast wave of redundancies in recent years.

Would the Commission state why it does not take steps to stop this illegal trading, what practical measures it intends to take against Member States that serve as transit stations for products, principally from countries in South-East Asia, which compete unfairly with domestic products and are able to do so because the workers there are paid a pittance and ruthlessly exploited, and to what extent does the Commission agree that Article 130 of the agreement with the EEC must be enforced in order to restrict imports of textiles and knitted goods, sectors which are in severe crisis in Greece?

23.1.1985

8.

Question by Mr ADAMOÛ (H-662/84)

Subject: Greek subsidies for cherry production referred to  
the European Court of Justice

According to a report in AGENCE EUROPE No. 28 of 29 December 1984, the Commission has initiated an examination procedure for the purpose of taking Greece to the European Court of Justice for providing subsidies for cherry production.

Would the Commission state whether these reports of legal proceedings are correct, whether it intends obstructing cherry production in Greece, a sector which provides a livelihood for whole farming areas (Tripoli, etc.,) and thousands of farming families, what the level of cherry imports from non-Community countries was in 1984 in relation to sales of Community cherries and finally, why it does not apply the principle of Community preference?

23.1.1985

69. Question by Mr IVERSEN (H-667/84)

Subject: Prohibition of the use of TYLAN

Until recently, feedingstuff companies and agricultural organizations in Denmark had agreed not to use TYLAN in feedingstuffs since it was feared that it could harm Danish exports of pigmeat. This agreement has however been terminated and the Danish authorities are now unable to legislate on the subject since TYLAN is permitted in the other Community countries. In October 1984, however, the English periodical 'Science' published a recent scientific study of the possible harmful effects of antibiotics in feedingstuffs. In view of this study, will the Commission give an assurance that Denmark, which exports large quantities of pigmeat to inter alia Japan and the USA, may adopt national legislation prohibiting the use of TYLAN, and can the Commission state how serious the effects of TYLAN will have to be before the Community will propose prohibiting its use?

25.1.1985

70. Question by Mr GIUMMARRA (H-668/84)

Subject: Sicilian citrus fruit producers' associations

How, in view of the moves to cover up responsibility in the management of Sicilian citrus fruit producers' associations, does the Commission intend to substantiate the serious accusations levelled at the Communist-inspired AIPAO (Citrus fruit and vegetables producers' association) to which the Community does not intend to grant a discharge for some 7,000 million paid in advance by the AIMA? Does the Commission consider it has an obligation to make clear that a case (No. 129/84) is pending before the European Court of Justice over the facts of which the AIPAO has been accused, and that on no occasion have any accusations been levelled at the APAS (Sicilian citrus fruit producers' association, whose headquarters are in Catania) concerning the use of Community funds?

25.1.1985

71. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-670/84)

Subject: Integrated operations in Liège and Charleroi

Can the Commission comment on the progress, the substance and the financial aspects of these two experiments?

28.1.1985

72. Question by Mr MØLLER (H-673/84)

Subject: Residence of EEC citizens in other Member States

The fact that EEC citizens are still required to hold a special residence permit in order to take up permanent residence in another Member State, despite the Treaty of Rome's stipulation that Community citizens shall be free to move anywhere within the territory of the Member States, frequently gives rise to unfortunate situations for the individuals affected by this problem. When does the Commission intend to take steps to have uniform rules implemented for all Member States, eliminating the need for any EEC citizen to hold a residence permit?

28.1.1985

73. Question by Mr DE VRIES (H-674/84)

Subject: Abuse of psychiatry in the Soviet Union

On 11 October 1984 the European Parliament adopted a resolution tabled by Mr De Vries, Mrs Veil, Mr von Habsburg, Mr Dankert and Sir Henry Plumb on the abuse of psychiatry in the Soviet Union and the persecution of those who have dared to denounce it.

In the resolution Parliament urged the Soviet Government to grant permission to a member of the Moscow Working Commission to Investigate The Use of Psychiatry for Political Purposes, Mrs Irina Grivnina, to emigrate to the Netherlands with her family.

Is the Commission prepared to lend its support to this call made by the Parliament to the Soviet authorities?

28.1.1985

74. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-675/84)

Subject : Revision of Regional aid ceilings

The Commission's communication on regional aid systems (1) is clearly out of date as demonstrated by Table 7.1.1. in the Second Periodic Report on the Social and Economic Situation and Development of the Regions of the Community in which areas with relatively low grant ceilings are now shown to be as badly off as those allowed higher ceilings. By what date does the Commission intend to bring forward proposals for its revision ?

28.01.1985

(1) O.J. Nr C 31 of 3.2.1979, p.9-15

75. Question by Mr WIJSENBEEK (H-681/84)

Subject: Inland navigation

Can the Commission state whether it intends to ensure that measures are taken, either directly or by the Member States, in connection with inland navigation, particularly as regards north-south routes, to guarantee free competition as set out in the Treaty?

29.1.1985

76. Question by Mr AVGERINOS (H-690/84)

Subject: Community food aid strategy

Whereas a considerable number (75) of developing countries are covered by the regulation on the Community's food aid policy and administration;

whereas it should therefore be recalled that the Commission's proposals for the total quantities of food aid entered in the preliminary draft budget for 1985 are extremely meagre and therefore unacceptable, given the problems and needs of many of the regions in question;

Will the Commission inform Parliament to what degree it is prepared to make a more rational distribution of food aid to countries facing the most acute survival problems; whether it proposes to increase the relevant appropriations, at the same time incorporating food aid into the total range of operations connected with the development programmes for non-Community countries, and whether it proposes to extend the food strategy programmes to cover other developing countries?

29.1.1985

77. Question by Mrs LENZ (H-683/84)

Subject: Commission data banks

Will the Commission confirm that it has set up the data banks ECO 1, Persé, Actu, Celex, Asmodée, IFC and Ceres and, if so, what was the legal basis for setting up these data banks, which functions do they fulfil and what area of documentation do they cover, who is responsible for them, who has access to them, what systems do they use (manufacturer, type, etc.,) and in what languages can they be interrogated?

30.1.1985

78. Question by Mrs van den HEUVEL (H-686/84)

Subject: Discrimination against homosexuals

In answer to earlier questions, the Commission has expressed unacceptable views on the fact that sexual disposition may constitute grounds for dismissal and that conditions of appointment and employment discriminate against homosexuals, since both matters are incompatible with the Treaty.

Is the Commission prepared to give serious consideration to the complaints lodged by individual citizens and organizations in the Member States on account of the views it has expressed on this subject?

30.1.1985

79. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-688/84)

Subject: Italian compliance with Directive No. 79/409 EEC on  
the conservation of wild birds

In a draft law before the Senate of the Italian Republic, intended to implement Directive No. 79/409/EEC (1) on the conservation of wild birds, it is proposed to incorporate - albeit by way of experiment for a two-year period - the whole range of derogations permitted under Article 9 of the aforementioned directive, although these should in fact be made only in exceptional circumstances.

Furthermore, the draft law in question does not prohibit the hunting of many protected species and takes no account of the international conventions to which Italy is party, such as those of Washington, Paris, Bonn and Berne.

Does not the Commission believe that, since the derogations provided for under Directive No. 79/409/EEC, are supposed to form an exception, a law which allows constant derogations cannot be considered to be an enactment of the directive in question?

30.01.1985

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(1) OJ No. L 103 of 25.04.1979, page 1

80. Question by Mr CLINTON (H-689/84)

Subject : Distortions in the EEC Market for soft fruit

Can the Commission please say whether they have conducted an inquiry into the effects of recent dumping of soft fruit (strawberries, raspberries, etc..) onto the EEC market by state trading countries at prices which do not reflect cost of production and what it intends to do to protect the EEC soft fruit industry from the distortion of the market caused by insufficiently controlled imports from state trading countries ?

30.01.1985

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81. Question by Mrs JEPSEN (H-696/84)

Subject: Uniform rules governing the construction of cages  
for egg-laying hens

What information can the Commission provide on the progress  
of efforts to introduce uniform rules laying down minimum  
standards for cages in which egg-laying hens are kept?

4.2.1985

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QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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82. Question by Mrs EWING (H-310/84) (x)

Subject: Alleviation of transport problems in peripheral areas and islands

Will the President-in-office state what steps the Council proposes to take to alleviate transport problems in the Community's peripheral areas, such as the Highlands and Islands of Scotland?

11.10.1984

83. Question by Mr FITZGERALD (H-349/84)(x)

Subject : EEC Investment aid for Cork City and County

In view of the recent devastating effects on employment in Cork City and County following the closure of all its main industries, Fords and Dunlop as well as the imminent closure of Ireland's only ship-building industry at Verolme, will the Council state if it has requested that special and urgent EEC action be undertaken to introduce new investment and jobs into the region ?

18.10.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

84. Question by Mr FLANAGAN (H-363/84) (x)

Subject : Consumer protection

Despite the fact that the European Community has taken action to protect the consumer against toxic substances and to ensure the proper presentation and labelling of foodstuffs, no action has been taken to protect the consumer against faulty goods. Will the Council indicate when it intends to take a decision on this matter ?

23.10.1984

85. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-369/84) (x)

Subject : Use of abstention in Council decision-making

The Solemn Declaration of Stuttgart states that the Council will use "every possible means of facilitating the decision-making process... including, in cases where unanimity is required, the possibility of abstaining from voting".

Is the President-in-Office satisfied that this provision has been implemented to the greatest extent possible; and to what extent has abstention been used in this way since June 1983 ?

24.10.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question  
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

86. Question by Mrs THOME-PATENOTRE (H-386/84)(x)

Subject: Cost of the European passport

One of the objects of the European passport, due to be issued on 1 January 1985, is to achieve greater unity among the citizens of the EEC.

However, it appears that certain Member States intend to take advantage of the introduction of the European passport to increase the cost of passports and are thus likely to create an adverse psychological reaction to Europe.

What measures does the Council intend to take to dissuade Member States from accompanying the introduction of the European passport with a substantial increase in the charge for the issue of passports?

25.10.1984

87. Question by Mr BARRETT (H-508/84) (x)

Subject: Cork Limerick gas pipeline

Is the Council aware of an application from the Irish authorities to the Commission for EEC aid for the planned laying of a gas pipeline from Cork to Limerick, Shannon and Ennis via Ballyporeen, Mitchelstown, Anglesboro, Ballylanders, Garryspillane, Elton, Meanus and Crecova, and furthermore does the Council agree that one of the major advantages of such a scheme would be to supply low cost energy for industry?

28.11.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

88. Question by Mr DONNEZ (H-521/84) (x)

Subject: Site of the European synchrotron

Although the synchrotron construction project was proposed by the European Science Foundation the matter has been referred to the Council at the request of the Danish Government for it to discuss in particular the question of the synchrotron's location.

Is the Council cognizant of the criteria used in the selection of the location for the synchrotron; furthermore, can it explain the motives behind the criticism by certain Member States of the French Government's decision to change the location?

3.12.84

89. Question by Mrs FANTON (H-529/84) (x)

Subject: Milk quotas

At the meeting of the Committee on Agriculture in Ireland at the end of November 1984, the President-in-Office of the Council said that the system of milk quotas as originally envisaged should allow each Member State to propose its own methods for operating the system, for instance by proposing transfers of milk quotas from one region to another according to the specific needs of each region.

Can the Council say what proposals have been made by the Member States and what decisions they have taken?

5.12.84

90. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-490/84)

Subject: Statute of Members of the European Parliament

On 15 September 1983, Parliament adopted a resolution on this subject calling on the Council to decide on a common statute for Members of the European Parliament. What action has the Council taken on this request?

22.11.84

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question  
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

91. Question by Mr ANDREWS (H-551/84)

Subject: Signatories to the Council of Europe convention for protection of individuals with regard to automatic processing of personal data

Will the Council indicate how many EEC Member States have signed and verified the Council of Europe convention for the protection of individuals with regard to the automatic processing of personal data as recommended by the Commission in 1981? (1)

13.12.1984

(1) O.J. L246 of 29/8/81 p. 31

92. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-583/84)

Subject: Meetings of the Council

Is the Council aware of any legislative body in any democratic country, other than itself, whose meetings are held behind closed doors?

4.1.1985

93. Question by Mrs DURY (H-585/84)

Subject: Texts pending before the Council

In the publication entitled 'Commission proposals on which the European Parliament has delivered an opinion, now pending before the Council' (SEC(84) 1621 final), updated to 1 October 1984, some 500 texts, proposals for Council regulations and directives, are shown as still pending before the Council of Ministers of the European Communities.

Some of these have been held up for several years. One of the oldest is dated 3 May 1967, in other words 18 years ago!

Can the Council of Ministers of the European Communities account for these long delays, and what steps does it propose to take to speed up the procedure for adopting texts forwarded to it after the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee have delivered opinions?

7.1.1985

94. Question by Mrs BANOTTI (H-587/84)

Subject: Lomé Convention and sport

With reference to the European Parliament's resolution on sport and the Community (adopted in April 1984) what action has been taken to implement paragraph 18 of the resolution which "requests that when the Lomé Convention is renewed, a special section be devoted to sports events, with the objective of promoting contacts between young people engaged in sport, providing assistance for the provision of facilities and training competent personnel"?

8.1.1985

95. Question by Mr McMAHON (H-601/84)

Subject : Sugar quotas for Portuguese Entry into the EEC

Would the Council please let Parliament have an up to date position of Portugal's entry into the EEC. In the December Parliamentary session, the Minister and President of the Council Peter Barry replied to a supplementary question that the subject would be discussed at the December meeting of the Council of Ministers. Nothing appeared in Press reports of the meeting nor in the communique issued by the Council to the Office of the European Commission in Edinburgh. In view of the keen interest in the West of Scotland by the Sugar Industry and by Tate and Lyle Limited, would the Council please give an update position in negotiations?

14.1.1985

96. Question by Mr von WOGAU (H-607/84)

Subject: Abolition of capital duty and stock exchange turnover tax to make it easier for small and medium-sized undertakings to be admitted to the stock exchange

The Government of the Federal Republic of Germany wishes to abolish capital duty and stock exchange turnover tax and not replace them, in order to make it easier for small and medium-sized undertakings to be admitted to the stock exchange. The 1969 directive concerning indirect taxes on the raising of capital, however, which makes the levying of capital duty compulsory, must first be suitably amended.

What or who is preventing the immediate amendment of the 1969 directive so that the Member States may abolish their capital transaction taxes in order to make it easier for small and medium-sized undertakings to be admitted to the stock exchange?

15.1.1985

97. Question by Mr DEPRez (H-609/84)

Subject: Second European programme to combat poverty

Despite weaknesses and gaps, the first programme (1975-1980) created hopes that resources could be amassed, combined or boosted at European level to support or direct measures and resources to combat poverty in the Member States. Unfortunately, the limited resources available (44 million ECU over five years) restricted the scope of the measures and projects undertaken.

With the second programme the Commission considered that the sum of 35 million ECU over five years (i.e. an average of 7 million ECU per annum) was a minimum for carrying out a programme with even a little impact. On 13 December 1984 the Council of Ministers of Employment and Social Affairs adopted the second programme to combat poverty but restricted it to 25 million ECU over four years (or 6.25 million ECU per annum), i.e. 10 million ECU less than the Commission's proposal and 19 million ECU less than the first programme.

How can the Council of Ministers, by restricting the resources of the second programme to combat poverty in this way, ignore the problems being faced by an increasing number of Europeans? Does it not believe that the fight against poverty should be a priority?

15.1.1985

98. Question by Mr HUGHES (H-613/84)

Subject : Imports of Namibian Uranium to the European Community

Can the Council advise Parliament of the current amounts of Namibian Uranium imported to the European Community; is the Council aware of the worker exploitation involved in the production of uranium in Namibia, South African illegal presence in Namibia and the fact that illegal uranium is used to make nuclear bombs; can the Council give an undertaking that the European Community will cease importation of Namibian Uranium?

15.1.1985

99. Question by Mrs CASTLE (H-617/84)

Subject : Oils and fats tax

To ask the Council whether the question of an oils and fats tax is still under consideration, or whether it has been dropped?

16.1.1985

100. Question by Mr LE CHEVALLIER (H-627/84)

Subject: Clandestine immigration in Europe

Can the Council state why it decided not to adopt the proposal for a directive on clandestine immigration and illegal employment in 1976?

18.1.1985

101. Question by Mrs QUIN (H-629/84)

Subject : British nationality and immigration rules

What action, if any, did the Council take concerning British nationality and immigration rules following the adoption by the European Parliament of the MALANGRE report (1) and in particular has the Council looked at these rules from the angle of discrimination against women, given the commitment to equality of treatment between men and women contained in Article 119 of the Treaty of Rome?

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(1) Doc. 1-254/81

18.1.1985

102. Question by Mr ELLIOTT (H-631/84)

Subject : Definition of Minority Groups in the Community

In view of the growing numbers of second and third generation immigrants making up the increasingly multi-racial Society of many Member States would the Council accept that the current definition of migrants, designed to cover those groups whose special needs are assisted by certain specific provisions made by Community Institutions, is now inadequate and, if so, would the Council be prepared to widen the definition of minority groups eligible for specific help and consideration, to include all those of different ethnic origins to the host communities in which they live, even if they have legal citizenship of the countries concerned?

18.1.1985

103. Question by Mrs LEHIDEUX (H-633/84)

Subject: Protection of the peoples of the Community

The Commission would like all European institutions to join in a declaration of principle condemning racism and xenophobia. Does the Commission also intend, in the discussion of this issue, to defend the right of the peoples of the Community to be protected from racism directed against them by foreigners?

18.1.1985

104. Question by Mr STIRBOIS (H-635/84)

Subject: Illegal immigration in Europe

How does the Council intend to stem and eventually halt the flow of illegal immigrant workers at the Community's frontiers?

18.1.1985

105. Question by Mr COLLINOT (H-637/84)

Subject: Illegal immigration in Europe

Does the Council think that European employers are to blame for illegal immigration or does it not consider that the true culprits are the countries of origin, which encourage these workers to leave their country without a contract of employment?

18.1.1985

106. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-656/84)

Subject: Greek steel exports to the USA

Would the Council state why the Committee of Representatives' meeting on 21 December 1984 decided to reduce the Greek share of exports of steel tubes to the USA to 0.51% of Community exports (when the meeting on 22 November 1984 had decided on 0.55%, itself an unacceptable figure) given that this will have a particularly detrimental effect on the Greek steel industry?

22.1.1985

107. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-660/84)(x)

Subject: Integrated Mediterranean Programmes

Would the Council state the exact stage reached in the procedure for instituting the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes, indicating in particular, the total sum to be made available, with a breakdown per year and country, and the date of implementation?

22.1.1985

(x) Will not be called if items 335 and 336 are kept on the agenda

108. Question by Mr ADAMOU (H-663/84)

Subject: Participation of EEC countries in the militarization of space

At the end of January 1985, Ministers from 11 West European countries are meeting in Rome, the capital of the country holding the presidency of the European Communities, to decide upon a European space strategy. The subjects for discussion are the construction of Columbus, a spaceship which will link up with the American space station, Ariane 5, an advanced version of the West European Ariane missile, and of Hermes, a space shuttle modelled on its American counterpart. The cost of the first two is estimated at 1,700 million dollars each over the next ten years and the third at 1,300 million dollars.

Would the Council state whether the subject of a space arms policy has been discussed in Council, why the Member States of the Community are participating in the militarization of space, which threatens to escalate the arms race to incalculable levels, and how such enormous sums of money are found for the militarization of space but not for combating unemployment, for example?

22.1.1985

109. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-669/84)

Subject: Measures to ensure compliance by Belgium with Community directives

One Member State, Belgium, is not implementing a considerable number of Community directives. Can the Council publish a list of these and propose measures to prevent Member States dragging their feet in this way?

28.1.1985

110. Question by Mr WEDEKIND (H-672/84)

Subject: Community driving licence

Under the First Council Directive of 4 December 1980 on the introduction of a Community driving licence Member States are obliged to exchange the licences issued by other Member States within a year of the holders taking up residence in the state. In practice most people are unaware of the rule that licences must be exchanged within a year and this has frequently given rise to justified complaints when Community citizens who have been driving for years move to another Community country and have to sit a costly and time-consuming driving test again.

In the light of the poor record to date of the application of the first directive on the introduction of a Community driving licence, does the Council not consider that it would be better, rather than requiring the exchange of licences within a very short space of time, simply to make provision for the mutual recognition of driving licences properly acquired in a Community Member State?

28.1.1985

111. Question by Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK (H-682/84)

Subject : Council meeting specially devoted to Women's Questions

Will the Council state whether it intends to follow the precedent created by the French Presidency, to hold a special Council meeting on 8th March 1985 to deal with women's questions ?

29.01.1985

112. Question by Mr BOUTOS (H-691/84)(x)

Subject: Link between Community enlargement and the  
Integrated Mediterranean Programmes

As we are all aware, the Dublin summit linked Community enlargement through Spanish and Portuguese accession with the implementation of the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes. At the same time, however, it is being maintained that only when enlargement takes place will it be possible to increase own resources. Yet the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes, the aim of which is to limit the damaging effects which enlargement will have on the economies of the Mediterranean Member States, cannot be implemented unless own resources are increased. We are clearly caught in a vicious circle.

Can the Council say what specific measures and what policy, if any, it intends to propose to get the Community out of this vicious circle, so that a just and speedy solution may be found to the problems of enlargement, of implementing the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes and of increasing own resources?

29.1.1984

(x) Will not be called if items 335 and 336 are kept on the agenda

113. Question by Mrs BOSERUP (H-685/84)

Subject: Involvement of the 'Spinelli report' in a forthcoming summit conference

In his declaration upon assuming office and his closing speech in Strasbourg on 16 January 1985, the Italian Foreign Minister, Giulio Andreotti, maintained that the mandate for the summit conference should be very close to the European Parliament's proposal for a treaty which is known as the 'Spinelli report'.

Does the Council not consider that involving the European Parliament's proposal for a treaty in this way is an invitation to pay particular attention to this draft treaty and will thereby hamper the conference's potential?

30.1.1985

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QUESTIONS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE TEN MEMBER STATES OF THE  
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES MEETING IN POLITICAL COOPERATION

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114. Question by Mrs EWING (H-477/84)<sup>(x)</sup>

Subject: Turkish Peace Association Prisoners

Will the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation consider the case of the 18 'TPA' prisoners who are currently serving lengthy sentences in Turkey with a view to taking a joint initiative on their behalf and, if so, will the Foreign Ministers make the strongest possible representations on behalf of Mahmut Dikerdem, a cancer victim, who is being denied adequate medical treatment in Sigmalcilar Prison?

15.11.1984

115. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-336/84)

Subject: Community measures against the Turkish Government

What measures has the Community taken against the Turkish Government in view of the latter's massive campaign to exterminate the Kurds through military operations, the formation of paramilitary units, etc.?

15.10.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question  
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

116. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-444/84)

Subject: Situation in Uganda

The Ministers stated last month that they were considering how best to use their influence and support to restore peace and stability to Uganda and, in the meantime, to prevent human rights violations.

What conclusions have the Ministers reached, what initiatives have they taken already and what results have been achieved?

7.11.84

117. Question by Mr SELVA (H-579/84)

Subject: European anti-terrorist squad

Following yet another massacre of helpless and innocent people, on the Naples-Milan train on 23 December 1984, do the Foreign Ministers feel that it is a matter of urgency to lay foundations for the establishment of a European anti-terrorist squad?

3.1.1985

118. Question by Mr de VRIES (H-584/84)

Subject: Persecution of the Baha'is

What bilateral action did the presidency take in 1984 in conjunction with international organizations to induce the Iranian government to put an end to the continual persecution of followers of the Baha'i faith? What initiatives have the Ten decided to take during the Italian presidency?

4.1.1985

119. Question by Mr DENIAU (H-588/84)

Subject: 40th anniversary of the Yalta agreements

Could the Ministers, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Yalta agreements, which are a symbol of the division of Europe into two and of Soviet hegemony over the Eastern half, solemnly affirm the principle of European unity founded on a common civilization and restate that the peoples of Central and Eastern Europe belong wholly and entirely to that civilization. Could they also state what ways and means they intend to use to diminish the present division, which came about as a result of the Second World War, and prevent this situation, which is contrary to the fundamental rules of the law and of democracy, from continuing. Could they furthermore declare that the right to self-determination is a fundamental European value that should obtain throughout our continent and should apply in particular both to the choice of internal political systems and to membership of military alliances.

9.1.1985

120. Question by Mr DEPREZ (H -590/84)

Subject: Hostilities in Ethiopia

At its December 1984 part-session the European Parliament passed an urgent resolution calling on the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to use their good offices to bring about a cease-fire that would end the hostilities in Ethiopia.

What action have the Ministers of Foreign Affairs taken since December to bring about a cease-fire and should they not have made the granting of additional aid to Ethiopia by the European Community conditional on prompt introduction of such a cease-fire?

9.1.1985

121. Question by Mr COT (H-598/84)

Subject: Ratification of the International Convention against  
Torture

Could the Ministers of Foreign Affairs meeting in political cooperation state whether measures have been taken to promote ratification by all the Member States of the International Convention against Torture, which was unanimously adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 December 1984?

11.1.1985

122. Question by Mrs CASTLE (H-603/84)

Subject : The Persecution of the Tamil Minority in Sri Lanka

Bearing in mind the continuing murders and persecution of Tamils in Sri Lanka, and disturbing reports of the involvement of the Sri Lankan Army in some of these acts which are giving rise to widespread concern, will the Foreign Ministers raise the question of human rights with the government of Sri Lanka and press for ; permission for access for the foreign press to go into Jaffna, the Tamils' homeland; to allow foreign government delegates to inspect the camps where thousands of Tamil youths are being kept; to allow food and medical supplies to reach Tamil areas?

15.1.1985

123. Question by Mr ELLIOTT (H-630/84)

Subject : Chemical Weapons

Bearing in mind that the use of sophisticated modern chemical weapons could present almost as great a threat to the life and future health of humanity as the use of nuclear weapons, and noting recent well-founded reports that the British Government is seriously considering adding chemical weapons to its military arsenal, would the Foreign Ministers agree as a matter of urgency to issue a statement condemning the development or stock-piling of chemical weapons by any nation anywhere in the world, in particular to make the strongest representations to the Government of any nation in the European Community known to possess or to be considering acquiring chemical weapons?

18.1.1985

124. Question by Mrs DURY (H-653/84)

Subject: Human rights and fundamental freedoms in Chile

Have the Ministers for Foreign Affairs put pressure on the Chilean Government with a view to obtaining that human rights and fundamental freedoms are at last respected and, if so, how exactly have they done this and what measures have they taken to bring round the Chilean Government to restoring freedom of the press and trade union rights in Chile?

22.1.1985

125. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-657/84)

Subject: Acts of provocation by the USA against Nicaragua

The United States of America has stepped up its terrorist activities against Nicaragua in recent times by withdrawing from the International Court of Justice at The Hague, deploying warships off the coast of Nicaragua, continuing to supply military aid to the counter-revolutionary mercenaries, etc. Would the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation state what action they have taken or intend to take against the US Government on the basis of the San José Declaration?

22.1.1985

126. Question by Mr IVERSEN (H-666/84)

Subject: Arms sales from EPC countries to South Africa

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation (EPC) discussed the rumours that individual countries participating in EPC are selling arms to South Africa in defiance of the UN's arms embargo and, if this is so, would they indicate which countries are involved and the quantity of arms sold to South Africa?

24.1.1985

127. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-671/84)

Subject: WEU

Have the Ministers meeting in political cooperation tackled the subject of the WEU, and in particular the updating of its objectives, and what are their conclusions and proposals for action?

28.1.1985

28. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-680/84)

Subject : Relations between EEC countries and Libya

Have the Ministers meeting in political cooperation now considered relations between Community countries and Libya, as referred to in Question time in the January session of the European Parliament ?

29.01.1985

129. Question by Mrs van den HEUVEL (H-687/84)

Subject: Suspension of talks between the Governments of  
Nicaragua and the United States

In view of the tense political and military situation in Central America, are the Foreign Ministers prepared to act as mediators to ensure that these extremely important talks are resumed as soon as possible?

30.1.1985

