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ORAL QUESTION (O-32/82)

with debate pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure
by Mrs MACCIOCCHI
on behalf of the Socialist Group
to the Council of the European Communities

Subject: Franco-German cooperation in the context of EPC
on relations between Europe and the United States

The Franco-German declaration which was published at the end of the meeting between President Mitterand and Chancellor Schmidt in Paris on 25 February 1982 states that relations between the United States and the other members of NATO 'will be even closer if, in due course, broad-based consultations aimed at defining common objectives and achieving better adjustment of interests take place between Europe and the United States'. At the same time, the declaration also announces that France and West Germany 'have decided that an in-depth exchange of views on security problems will be organized between the two governments'.

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Can the Council indicate the context and objectives of the organization of consultations between Europe and the United States? Should the European Community not be involved in these talks as the most active member of the 'European mainstay' of the Alliance? Nevertheless, do the Franco-German talks on security not prejudge the desired result? Would it not be possible to begin by trying to establish the 'European mainstay' on a multilateral basis in order to avoid creating bilateral axes within Europe in this field?