

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTION (O-75/82)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr Michael WELSH

on behalf of the European Democratic Group

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Progress of the bilateral textile negotiations

The Council decision in April 1982 ratifying the agreement to extend the Multifibre Arrangement until the end of this year made it clear that unless acceptable bilateral agreements were concluded with the principal supplying countries the Community would withdraw from the Arrangement.

1. Which supplying countries have initialled bilateral agreements so far and to what extent does the Commission consider it has used up its margin for manoeuvre in concluding these pacts?

2. Which supplying countries have requested a suspension of negotiations and when does the Commission expect to conclude agreements with each of them?

3. Does the Commission consider that the principle of cut back is inherent in the conclusions of the GATT Textile Committee and to what extent has this been accepted by the four dominant suppliers?

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4. To what extent has the transisional arrangement negotiated with Portugal been taken into account when reviewing the Community's internal global ceilings?
5. When does the Commission expect to report to the Council on the progress and conclusion of the bilateral negotiations ?
6. In the event that the Council determines that the bilateral agreement are not acceptable, what proposals will the Commission make to safeguard the interests of the textile industry?