

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Oral Question (O-42/78)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules
of Procedure,

by Mr van AERSSSEN, Mr MARTINELLI, Mr MÜLLER-HERMANN

Mr VANDEWIELE, Mr JAHN and Mr KLEPSCH on behalf of the
Christian-Democratic Group (European People's Party)
to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Trade relations between the European
Community and Australia

In recent years it has been quite clear that
relations between the European Community and
Australia have not been developing in a
satisfactory manner. According to reports the
recent talks in Brussels produced no worthwhile
results.

The Commission is requested to give a brief
account of the present state of negotiations on
the improvement of trade relations between the
two partners. In particular:

1. Can the Commission outline the requests made by Australia and the Community's reply to the Australian Government's memorandum of October 1977?
2. Can the Commission comment on reports that in the past the Australian Prime Minister, Mr Malcolm FRASER, and the Minister for Special Trade Negotiations, Mr Vic GARLAND, have repeatedly complained about the allegedly protectionistic European Community trade policy and threatened retaliatory measures?
3. How can the political resolve to improve relations between the Community and Australia, which has so often been expressed by both sides, be translated into an effective agreement?
4. What possibilities does the Commission see of compensating Australia for the agricultural markets it lost as a result of the United Kingdom's entry into the European Community? Are solutions to be found only within the framework of the GATT negotiations, or is there a possibility of bilateral solutions in addition to the concerted arrangements for stabilizing world markets under the terms of the Tokyo Round?
5. What are the prospects, in the Commission's view, for the development of long-term cooperation in other areas besides agriculture?
6. What contribution can the Community make in particular to the diversification of Australian industry and Australian exports, and what are the prospects for sales on the Community market of Australian semi-processed and finished products?
7. What effects have Community aids towards the increased use of domestic coal and coking coal and the Community's steel policy on Australian exports to the European Community?
8. Is the supply of Australian uranium for peaceful purposes one of the subjects being discussed in the current talks, and what is the attitude of both sides to this question?
9. What effects have the customs duties and **import quotas** introduced by Australia over the past two years had on Community exports to Australia, and how does the Commission view Australia's willingness to grant trade concessions and its opportunities for so doing?