

European Communities

---

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1983-1984

---

13 February 1984

DOCUMENT 1-1388/83

ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME

on 14 and 15 February 1984

PE 88.288

English Edition



1. Question by Mrs SALISCH (H-581/83) (x)

Subject: Visa requirements for Turkish workers in the Federal Republic of Germany

What steps does the Council propose to take to ensure that, at the very least, pledges already given by a Member State (the Federal Republic of Germany) that it will issue free, one-year visas to Turkish workers are actually honoured?

12.12.1983

2. Question by Mr VAN MINNEN (H-583/83) (x)

Subject: Visa requirements for Turkish workers in the Federal Republic of Germany

What steps has the Council taken to put into practice the call set out in Parliament's report on visa requirements for Turkish workers (Doc. 1-387/82) for free, one-year visas to be issued?

12.12.1983

(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 MOORHOUSE (H-611/83/rev) (x)

Subject: Council of the Transport Ministers

What engagements will the President in council of the Transport Ministers be undertaking in respect of his official duties during his period of office ?

22.12.1983

4 Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-613/83) (x)

Subject: Teaching of human rights

As the Commission stated that the teaching of human rights fell outside the competence of the European Community in its answer to my Question No. 285/83<sup>1</sup> on 14 December 1983, can the Council tell Parliament what the precise role of the Council of Education Ministers is and could it not approach the question of the teaching of human rights from a specifically Community viewpoint without taking refuge behind what the Council of Europe or UNESCO can (or cannot) do in this field?

22.12.1983

---

<sup>1</sup> Verbatim report of the proceedings of 14 December 1983, pp 203-204

---

(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 ROGALLA (H-259/83)

Subject: Checks at Community internal frontiers

Can the Council confirm the need to instruct a high-level group of three, five or seven European politicians to submit proposals within one year on how Community controls at the external borders can be made legally and practically effective without delay in the sensitive areas so that the current checks at Community internal frontiers will no longer be required and when does the Council intend to take steps to this effect?

22.06.1983

6. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-397/83)

Subject: Milk production quotas and the CAP

Does the Council consider that milk production quotas would be a blow struck against the CAP?

23.09.1983

7.

Question by Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK (H-628/83) (x)

Subject: Community aid for the development of the  
Carajas iron-ore mine in Brazil

In 1983 the Community granted a loan of 600 million ECU to Brazil for the development of an iron-ore mine in Carajas (East Amazon region).

According to Brazilian scientists the situation in this region is very alarming: tens of thousands of small farmers are being driven out by force, the rights of the Indians are not being respected, the ecological balance of the Amazon forest is being destroyed and national and international land speculators are apparently in control throughout the area. The whole project also involves a very heavy financial burden for Brazil, which is already encumbered with enormous debts.

Is the Council aware of this disturbing situation?

What measures has the Council already taken to alter this situation? Does the Council not consider that a team of investigators should be sent to make an on-the-spot study of the situation?

Does the Council not also consider that this Community loan to Brazil should be suspended while there can be no certainty that human rights in this region are being respected?

9.11.1983

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-109/83), converted into a question for question time

8. Question by Mr. LALOR (H-559/83)

Subject : E.M.S.

Would the Council state whether or not it has considered the statement made by Commissioner Tugendhat to the Irish Stock Exchange on Friday 21st October last, pointing out the benefits of membership of the EMS and urging the United Kingdom to join the EMS and if so does it endorse the Commission's call ?

2.12.1983

9. Question by Mr. HUTTON (H-587/83)

Subject : Relations of Council with Parliament

Will the Presidency inform Parliament of the specific initiatives it proposes to take in Council to improve relations with Parliament before the European Elections of June 1984 ?

12.12.1983

10.

Question by Mr von HASSEL (H-632/83)

Subject: Transfrontier traffic

Having regard to the unremitting efforts of Members of the European Parliament to remove all barriers to transfrontier traffic; whereas the Transport Ministers of the Community have finally agreed to eliminate these barriers within a period of one year; and whereas, nevertheless, one of the most important international traffic routes - the Bremer highway - is often totally blocked owing to labour disputes involving customs or other control officials stationed there, causing heavy financial and economic losses and considerable personal inconvenience for those forced to wait at the border because of wildcat strikes:

Is the Council prepared to exert pressure on states where labour disputes cause delays of this kind so that, in the case of a strike, they open - or keep open - their borders by removing all border controls?

12.1.1984



11. Question by Mr GEROKOSTOPOULOS (H-637/83)

Subject: Proposal for a regulation (COM(81) 423/final) laying down detailed rules for application of articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty to maritime transport

Although the above proposal for a regulation was submitted by the Commission to the Council almost 2 1/2 years ago, no concrete steps have yet been taken towards adopting it.

The proposed regulation should be issued as a matter of urgency, particularly now that UNCTAD's code on scheduled lines and Regulation No 954/79 have entered into force.

Can the Council explain why there has been a delay of almost 2 1/2 years in adopting the proposed regulation? Can it also state whether it has begun considering the above proposal for a regulation and, if so, can it indicate what progress it has made with the matter so far and suggest a time when it is likely to be adopted.

16.1.84

12. Question by Mr SEEFELD (H-646/83)

Subject: Environmental protection legislation at national level

In the event of failure to reach agreement on Community regulations to reduce drastically the level of pollutants emitted by motor vehicles and the lead content of petrol, is the Council prepared to leave it to the discretion of the Member States to take any measures they consider necessary at national level to protect the health of their citizens and flora and fauna?

19.1.1984

13. Question by Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-654/83)

Subject : Financial aid under Lomé III

Does the Council intend to make financial aid under Lomé III dependent on the agreement by the governments of beneficiary countries to conform to certain minimum standards of human rights? If so, what are these minimum standards? If not, why not?

19.1.1984

14. Question by Mrs Else HAMMERICH (H-656/83)

Subject: Common commercial policy

Would the President of the Council elaborate on the following passage in his statement to Parliament on 18.1.1984:

'In particular, therefore, the Community should strengthen its cohesion as regards its common commercial policy. To achieve this it should equip itself with the necessary means to defend its policy and protect its interests on the same conditions as those enjoyed by its major trading partners. On the basis of a Commission proposal, discussions are in progress with a view to adopting a new instrument in the context of the common commercial policy. It is the Presidency's aim that these discussions should result in practical action.'

What are 'the necessary means to defend its policy and protect its interests' referred to?

Which 'specific proposal from the Commission' did the President of the Council have in mind?

19.1.1984

15. Question by Mr ESTGEN (H-658/83)

Subject: Memorandum from the Luxembourg Government

What arrangements has the Presidency made for the consideration of the memorandum which the President of the Luxembourg Government submitted to the members of the European Council in Athens on 6 December 1983?

23.01.84

16. Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-669/83)

Subject : Unit Trusts

Could the Council state what developments there have been since it replied to my question on this subject in December 1981 ?

25.01.1984

17. Question by Mr von WOGAU (H-670/83)

Subject : Council meetings on the internal market

It has been reported that, following the successful Council meetings on the internal market held in 1983, there are no plans to hold any further Council meetings entirely devoted to this difficult subject, which is crucial to European integration.

When does the Council intend to hold its next meeting devoted, like the Council meeting of 26 November 1983, entirely to the special problems of the internal market?

25.01.1984

18. Question by Mr WELSH (H-671/83)

Subject: Remarks of the French Secretary of State for the Budget

I should like to ask the Council whether the remarks made by the French Secretary of State for the Budget at a lunch in honour of the Delegation of the US Congress on 20 January were in the capacity of the acting President-in-Office of the Council and, if so, whether they represented the position of the Council as regards relations between the Community and the United States, particularly regarding enlargement?

26.1.1984

19. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-676/83)

Subject: The Council's willingness to adopt decisions with a view to the creation of the internal Community market

Last year both the West German and Greek Presidencies organized several meetings of the Ministers responsible for the common internal market.

What Council meetings of this nature are planned for the first half of 1984?

30.1.84

20. Question by Mr ADAMOY (H-680/83)

Subject: Persecution of immigrant trade unionists

Despite Community declarations on the protection of immigrant workers' rights, there are frequent reports of immigrants being persecuted in Member States for carrying out their lawful trade union activities. A recent example of this is the case of a Greek trade unionist in the FRG, G. Stavropoulos, who, in addition to being dismissed for defending workers' rights, found that, when he had recourse to the law, the courts responsible in the FRG systematically obstructed his attempts to obtain justice by continually postponing the hearing of the case, with the result that he ran into financial difficulties and had to leave the country.

Can the Council state what measures it intends to take to protect immigrants and their inalienable rights from the unlawful and anti-labour persecution engaged in by the authorities of Member States of the Community and, in particular, to stop the persecution of the Greek immigrant trade unionist in the FRG, G. Stavropoulos?

30.1.84

21. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-683/83)

Subject: Recognition of migrant workers' collective organizations  
(communities and federations)

Migrant workers living in EEC Member States set up and participate in mass bodies, usually consisting of people of their own nationality, and are active in furthering their own special interests. In so doing, they perform an extremely valuable social function, dealing with questions of information, culture, migrant workers' rights, social adjustment, etc. In most of the Member States, however, these bodies are not recognized and remain unexploited, whereas they could make a decisive contribution to improving the quality and conditions of migrant workers' lives and also to combating racism and xenophobia.

Can the Council say what steps it proposes to take to ensure that the Member States recognize migrant workers' collective organizations (communities and federations) as interlocutors on issues affecting migrant workers themselves, so that they can play their important part more effectively?

30.1.84

22. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-686/83)

Subject: Restrictions on Greek steel industry exports

According to estimates by the Greek Government, Greek steel plants are capable of stepping up both their output and their exports. Does not the Council consider that, by rejecting the Greek request for a 1984 export quota to the USA of the order of 100,000 tonnes of cold-rolled steel products and 20,000 tonnes of hot-rolled products, it will contribute to a weakening of this basic branch of Greek industry, which, unlike the steel-producing units in other Community countries, is on the upturn?

30.1.84

23. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-689/83)

Subject : Appointment of the Belgian judge to the Court of Justice

Can the Council say why the appointment of the Belgian judge to the Court of Justice has not yet been made and what reasons there are for this delay?

31.1.84

24. Question by Mr ANTONIOZZI (H-690/83)

Subject : Mediterranean policy

What precise guidelines does the Council have for an adequate Mediterranean policy, which is vital and urgent both in anticipation of Spanish and Portuguese accession and in view of the importance in this area of political, social and cultural problems as well as economic ones, particularly in the field of agriculture?

31.1.84

25. Question by Mr SIMMONDS (H-694/83)

Subject: European Foundation

Can the President in office of the Council state what progress is being made in establishing the European Foundation?

2.2.84





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

26. Question by Mr RUMOR (H-667/83) \* (xx)

Subject: The political and economic situation in Europe  
as a whole

Will the President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation make a statement 'on the political and economic situation in Europe as a whole, based on the Final Act of 1975 of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and on the extent of its implementation', particularly in the light of the outcome of the Conference of Madrid?<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> The Political Affairs Committee has tabled this question with a view to the organization of the annual debate provided for in the resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 9 July 1982 (OJ C 238 of 13.9.82, pp 81-82) on a symbolic empty seat in the European Parliament.

4.11.1983

\* Former oral question with debate (O-105/83) converted into a question for question time.

(xx) Placed first of the list by the decision of the Enlarged Bureau of 18.1.84

27. Question by Mr. PROTOPAPADAKIS (H-567/83)(x)

Subject : Hostilities between Iran and Iraq

In view of the sinking of the S.S. Antigone in the Gulf on Monday, 21 November 1983, have the Foreign Ministers of the EC Member States meeting in Political cooperation reconsidered what further can be done by the Community and its Member States to help bring about the cessation of hostilities between Iran and Iraq, and to ensure the security of navigation rights for Community shipping in the Gulf of Arabia, so that the lives of Community crews working there are not endangered ?

5.12.1983

28. Question by Mr. PAISLEY (H-586/83) (x)

Subject : Effective system of extradition

When last was an effective system of extradition, which would operate throughout the Community, discussed by the Foreign Ministers, and what progress has been made ?

12.12.1983

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

29. Question by Mr HABSBURG (H-590/83)(x)

Subject: Soviet manoeuvres in the Community's East-West trade

In view of the manifest favouritism shown by the Soviet Union to Jean-Baptiste Doumeng and his Interagra company in exports of Community foodstuffs to the USSR, are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation prepared to inform Moscow that the Community cannot tolerate this new form of interference in the long run, and might even be obliged to take appropriate steps to prevent what is clearly politically motivated distortion of competition?

13.12.1983

30. Question by Sir Peter VANNECK (H-593/83) (x)

Subject : Protection of the Community's oil supplies from  
the Middle East

Will the Presidency place the protection of the Community's oil supplies on the agenda of political cooperation, in the light of continuing conflict in the Gulf ?

13.12.1983

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

31. Question by Mr. VAN MINNEN (H-614/83)(x)

Subject : Jonathon Bloch of 87 Windus Road, London N 16

Following the application by Mr Bloch for permanent residency in the UK, have the governments of the Member States of the Community been consulted ? If so, on what grounds ?

22.12.1983

32. Question by Mr LAGAKOS (H-404/83)

Subject: Ban by the Nine on the Greek Prime Minister's representing the Ten at the UN

According to reports in the Greek and, particularly, the foreign press in the week of 12 to 16 September, on the basis of statements by the Belgian Foreign Minister, Mr Tindemans, 'the Nine banned the Greek Prime Minister Mr Papandreou from representing the Ten at the UN General Assembly'.

As these reports are creating surprise and confusion in public opinion, can the Foreign Ministers say what truth there is in the Tindemans statements and the articles referring to them?

22.9.1983

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

33. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-414/83)

Subject: The Chilean junta

The bloodthirsty Chilean junta continues to react with violence - through arrests and assassinations - to the intense desire of the people to drive it from government. On the basis of the charges made alone, the crimes of the Pinochet junta during the dictatorship are to be measured in terms of thousands of dead and missing persons.

Could the Foreign Ministers state what economic and political action they propose to take, in addition to the verbal protests made to the Chilean junta, to bring about the downfall of this bloody regime?

28.9.1983

34. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-629/83)

Subject: Policy of the Ten towards the situation in Afghanistan

Have the ten Foreign Ministers been able to reconsider the European Parliament's June 1982 resolution calling for recognition of the Afghan resistance as a legitimate national liberation force, and do they in the same spirit intend to express their support for the efforts made by the Pakistani Government in its indirect negotiations with the Kabul Government under the auspices of the UN, to obtain successively: the complete withdrawal of the Soviet armed forces and civil and military advisers; self-determination for the Afghan people without any external interference; the internationally guaranteed definition of Afghanistan as a non-aligned state; the voluntary return of the refugees?

12.1.1984

35. Question by Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU (H-672/83)

Subject: Creation of nuclear-free zone in Balkans

Does the Greek PASOK Government's initiative for the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Balkans fit into the framework of political cooperation between the EEC Member States, and what is the Foreign Ministers' view of this matter?

26.1.84

36. Question by Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK (H-674/83)

Subject: Serge Berten

Two years ago, Serge Berten, a Belgian development worker, was abducted in Guatemala. No word has been heard from him since. According to the Berten family, the Belgian Ministry for Foreign Affairs has made no declaration about Serge Berten's disappearance to the United Nations' Working Party on Missing Persons. What representations have the Foreign Ministers made to the Guatemalan authorities with a view to discovering the whereabouts of Serge Berten? What was their practical outcome? What do the Foreign Ministers intend to do in the near future to finally shed some light on this affair?

27.1.1984

37. Question by Mr ADAMOU (H-681/83)

Subject: Human rights in Morocco

In Morocco, a country with preferential relations with the EEC through the agreements with the Maghreb countries, dozens of the hundreds of thousands of people demonstrating their opposition to King Hassan II's announcement of price increases on basic commodities were killed in clashes with the police.

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation state how they view these actions by the Moroccan Government and what steps they propose to take?

30.1.84

38. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-685/83)

Subject: Effective condemnation of Denktash's pseudo-State

Following Denktash's illegal declaration of a so-called Turkish-Cypriot State, the Ten did no more than deliver a verbal condemnation and failed to take concrete measures to discourage effectively this action by Denktash. On the contrary, products from the occupied northern sector of Cyprus continue to enter the Community freely and none of the previously existing trade arrangements have been suspended.

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation state what concrete sanctions they intend to take to demonstrate their effective condemnation of Denktash's pseudo-State and their support for Resolution 541 of the UN Security Council?

30.1.84





39. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-469/83) (x)

Subject : EEC/China textiles negotiations

In view of the new textiles negotiations due to commence in the second half of November, can the Commission give an assessment of the present trade agreement and indicate what it intends to do with regard to Chinese requests which exceed the overall ceilings set by the Community for sensitive products ?

19.10.1983

40. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-472/83) (x)

Subject : Coastal erosion

How much has the Commission spent in connection with protection against coastal erosion since the European Parliament adopted the Hume report (Doc. 1-830/80)?

19.10.1983

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

41. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-473/83) (x)

Subject : Human rights - Lomé Convention

Can the Commission comment on the mandate it is said to have received from the Council with a view to including human rights problems in the negotiations on the renewal of the Lomé Convention? Without compromising its negotiating strategy, can the Commission give some indication of the chances of success of such a plan?

19.10.1983

42. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-494/83) (x)

Subject: Convergence of economic and social policies

Does the Commission intend to propose the introduction of the 35-hour week in the ten Member States of the Community?

If so, is it not afraid that as a result the Community's competitive position vis-à-vis its major industrial competitors, particularly the United States and Japan, will be weakened, thereby exacerbating the Community's unemployment problems?

26.10.1983

43. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-535/83) (x)

Subject: Ceramic industry

What does the Commission propose to strengthen the Community's ceramic industry to meet the competition from the Far East?

17.11.1983

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

44. Question by Mrs LE ROUX (H-539/83) (x)

Subject : Use of hormones in meat production

Could the Commission indicate what proposals it intends to make to prevent the misuse of hormones in meat production?

17.11.1983

45. Question by Mr HABSBURG (H-591/83) (x)

Subject: Dealings by Interagra in East-West trade

Are the press reports that Interagra has sold 50,000 tonnes of meat, 120,000 tonnes of flour and 1.3 million tonnes of grain to the USSR from the Community in the course of little over a month accurate? Is this not fresh evidence of monopolistic manipulation for political motives by state trading countries, and would the Commission be prepared to take suitable steps to prevent further distortions of competition in this area?

13.12.1983

46. Question by Mr. SEELER (H-599/83) (x)

Subject : ASEAN-EEC Industrial Cooperation Conferences

Will the Commission state how many Industrial Cooperation Conferences have taken place so far between representatives of banking, industry and commerce from the E.E.C. and A.S.E.A.N. countries and how much financial support has the Community made available to enable these Conferences to take place ?

14.12.1983

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

47. Question by Mr MOORHOUSE (H-619/83) (x)

Subject : Sales of telephones to users

Telephones can now be purchased in the United Kingdom following the liberalisation of the British telecommunications monopoly. What is the position in each of the other Member States as regards sales of telephones to users?

3.1.84

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

48. Question by Mr WEDEKIND (H-367/83) \*

Subject: Internationalization of education in the countries of the Community

Despite various efforts to encourage them, the number of student exchanges within the European Community remains at a surprisingly low level. The integration of education or study, involving at least a period of study in a neighbouring Community country, should serve to further the integration of the Community itself. However, this process is systematically impeded in the individual countries by bureaucratic and financial obstacles.

- What steps will the Commission take to rectify this deplorable state of affairs?
- Does the Commission see any possibility of promoting or intensifying twinning arrangements between universities?
- What means are at the Commission's disposal for rapidly removing the obstacles to mobility set up in the individual countries?
- Could the Commission consider awarding grants to highly gifted students of the countries of the Community thus enabling them to spend a period of study in a Community country other than their own ?

27.06.1983

\* Former oral question without debate (0-48/83) converted into a question for question time.

49. Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-498/83) \*

Subject : French Tobacco Industry

What losses have been incurred by the French Tobacco monopoly during the past five years? Does the Commission agree that these losses are a cause of the significant price differential between imported and French cigarettes? Does the Commission not agree that this causes a distortion of competition? What action does it intend to take to stop this breach of the spirit of the Treaty?

16.08.1983

\* Former oral question without debate (0-67/83) converted into a question for question time.

50. Question by Mr von WOGAU (H-517/83)

Subject: Countervailing levies on steel

Does the Commission agree that introducing a countervailing levy on steel would conflict with treaty law and lead to a further deterioration of the conditions attaching to the exchange of goods within the Community, and that fair competition in the steel market can only be achieved by reviewing the aid and subsidies granted by all the Community's steel-producing countries, including the Federal Republic of Germany?

3.11.1983

Question by Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK (H-627/83) (\*)

Subject: Community aid for the development of the  
Carajas iron-ore mine in Brazil

In 1983 the Community granted a loan of 600 million ECU to Brazil for the development of an iron-ore mine in Carajas (East Amazon region). According to Brazilian scientists the situation in this region is very alarming: tens of thousands of small farmers are being driven out, by force, the rights of the Indians are not being respected, the ecological balance of the Amazon forest is being destroyed and national and international land speculators are apparently in control throughout the area. The whole project also involves a very heavy financial burden for Brazil, which is already encumbered with enormous debts.

Is the Commission aware of this disturbing situation? Can the Commission indicate what implementing conditions were attached when this loan was granted to Brazil? Does the Commission intend to send a team of investigators to make an on-the-spot assessment of the situation? Could the non-governmental organization form part of this team? Does the Commission not consider that this Community loan to Brazil should be suspended until there can be no doubt that human rights in this region are no longer being trampled underfoot?

9.11.1983

(\*) Former oral question without debate (O-108/83), converted into a question for question time

52. Question by Mr VAN AERSSEN (H-574/83)

Subject: GATT's seven wise men

At the 39th Annual Conference, the Director General of GATT, without seeking authorization from the majority of GATT members, appointed a group of seven wise men, because GATT had allegedly reached an impasse.

Does the Commission share the view that official trade policy risks falling into private hands, especially since democratic control is now no longer guaranteed and that there is a danger that particularly business-conscious organizations will utilize the prestige and first-hand information which they will then pass on to an exclusive clientele in return for payment?

7.12.83

53. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-562/83) (x)

Subject: Customs frontier

Where does the customs frontier of the European Communities' Customs Union lie, and according to what legal provisions is it drawn?

8.12.1983

---

(x) Former written question No. 1643/83, converted into a question for question time

54. Question by Mr BLANEY (H-596/83)

Subject: The report of the Court of Auditors on the cost of the CAP

In view of the fact, cited by the Court of Auditors in its report in response to the European Council of June 1983, that 'in 1981, 70% of guarantee funds were channelled into payments to agri-foodstuffs undertakings', will the Commission propose amendments to the intervention mechanisms, as the Court of Auditors suggests, 'to ensure that the measures reach those whom they are supposed to benefit - farmers or consumers'?

13.12.1983

55. Question by Mr PINTAT (H-598/83)

Subject : Expenditure by the international Energy Agency

What expenditure has the 21-country International Energy Agency undertaken in the last three years? What percentage of this has been taken up by nuclear energy?

14.12.1983

56. Question by Ms QUIN (H-601/83)

Subject : Situation of the aged in the EEC

Has the Commission drawn up a report on a comparative survey of the situation of the aged as requested by the European Parliament in its resolution in the Squarcialupi report - doc. PE 72/784 ?

15.12.1983



57. Question by Mr CLINTON (H-621/83)

Subject : Harmonisation of petrol prices

In view of the data given in the EEC oil bulletin, 1982-1983, which compares the weekly consumer prices for gasoline in each Member State, in national currency and in dollars, can the Commission please comment on the wide degree of variance in gasoline prices between the Community average and the average Irish price (before taxes and duties) ?

The average variance in 1982 and 1983 was 21 %. Maximum variance occurred in March of 1983 which was 32,5 %, equivalent to \$129.6 or around £IR 115. Can the Commission assist in any way in the review of this serious discrepancy in order to restore a fair and competitive market for gasoline for distributor and consumer alike ?

4.01.1984

58. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-634/83/rev.)

Subject : lead-free petrol

Will the Commission state whether it had in its possession, at the time when Mr Commissioner Narjes made comments in the December session of Parliament, regarding the introduction of lead-free petrol, information on:

- the percentage increase in petrol prices; the percentage decrease in miles per litre of petrol; the increase in the purchase price of cars; and, if so, what that information was?

4.1.1984

59. Question by Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU (H-623/83)

Subject: Application by the Greek Government for prolongation of restrictions on Greek imports

Having regard to the submission by the Greek Government to the Commission of an application for approval of the prolongation of the restrictions on Greek imports which applied up until 31 December 1983, what are the Commission's intentions in this matter?

9.1.1984

60. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-624/83)

Subject: Substituting the cultivation of opium poppies.

In the resolution on the combating of drugs adopted by the European Parliament, the Commission was called on 'to study the operation and results of earlier programmes to promote the diversification or substitution of crops from which drugs are manufactured and to consider whether new initiatives could be made in conjunction with other countries and organizations such as the United Nations Fund for Drug Abuse Control, UNESCO and the World Health Organization.'

Can the Commission say whether it has followed up the European Parliament's suggestions, more especially in view of the dangers which might arise in some non-associated countries - including certain states in the so-called Golden Triangle, such as Thailand and Indonesia - following the agreement on manioc and the diversification of this crop which, in the absence of firm and precise Community intervention, might favour the cultivation of opium poppies?

10.01.1984

61. Question by Mr PRAG (H-663/83)

Subject : Failure to apply EEC Treaty provisions - cost to UK

Has the Commission calculated the current annual cost to the United Kingdom or any other Member States of the failure to achieve :

Freedom to supply the full range of insurance services, under Articles 63 and 64; freedom to supply the full range of banking services, also under Articles 63 and 64; freedom to transport goods by road to any destination in the Community and to pick up return or intermediate (cabotage) loads within the Community (under Articles 74, 75, particularly 75,1a and b) ?

10.01.1984

62. Question by Mr MEGAHY (H-626/83)

Subject: CHINA/EEC TEXTILE AGREEMENT

Would the Commission indicate its current position in the talks between China and the EEC on the renewal of their bi-lateral textile agreement?

11.1.84

63. Question by Mr DENIS (H-630/83)

Subject: Reduction of American government aid to Zimbabwe

The American government has just halved its financial aid to Zimbabwe because, according to American representative William H. Gray, of Zimbabwe's opposition to American policy, and particularly the invasion of Grenada.

Does the Commission intend to protest against such practices since the United States is one of the main donors of aid to Zimbabwe and this move could have catastrophic consequences for the country?

12.1.1984

64. Question by Mr von HASSEL (H-631/83)

Subject: Transfrontier traffic

Having regard to the unremitting efforts of Members of the European Parliament to remove all barriers to transfrontier traffic; whereas the Transport Ministers of the Community have finally agreed to eliminate these barriers within a period of one year; and whereas, nevertheless, one of the most important international traffic routes - the Brenner highway - is often totally blocked owing to labour disputes involving customs or other control officials stationed there, causing heavy financial and economic losses and considerable personal inconvenience for those forced to wait at the border because of wildcat strikes:

Is the Commission prepared to exert pressure on states where labour disputes cause delays of this kind so that, in the case of a strike, they open - or keep open - their borders by removing all border controls?

12.1.1984

65. Question by Mr BOCKLET (H-635/83)

Subject: Clearance of goods at the Brenner pass

For several weeks the carriage of goods from the Federal Republic of Germany to Italy has been severely disrupted at the Brenner frontier post and the situation has now reached a new crisis point. Every day there are tailbacks of several kilometres involving hundreds of lorries. This disastrous situation has arisen owing to the overhasty and totally unprepared introduction by the Italian authorities of a drive-in system of clearance for goods traffic. In addition to the economic losses incurred by road haulage operators as a result of the slow clearance and long waiting periods associated with it, the conditions for drivers, in terms of social and sanitary facilities, are intolerable.

Is the Commission aware of the problems outlined above and what is its view of the situation in the light of the principle of the free movement of goods enshrined in the EEC Treaty? What action does the Commission intend to take in its capacity as guardian of the Treaties?

13.1.1984

66. Question by Mr GEROKOSTOPOULOS (H-636/83)

Subject: Proposal for a regulation (COM(81) 423/final) laying down detailed rules for application of articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty to maritime transport

Although the above proposal for a regulation was submitted by the Commission to the Council almost 2 1/2 years ago, no concrete steps have yet been taken towards adopting it.

The proposed regulation should be issued as a matter of urgency, particularly now that UNCTAD's code on scheduled lines and Regulation No 954/79 have entered into force.

Can the Commission explain why there has been a delay of almost 2 1/2 years in adopting the proposed regulation? Can it also state whether it has undertaken an examination of the above matter and, if so, can it indicate at what stage the procedure has now arrived and suggest a time when the regulation is likely to be adopted?

16.1.84

67. Question by Mr GONTIKAS (H-638/83)

Subject: Drawing up regulation on merchant shipping competition

What measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure that the draft regulation on merchant shipping competition is drawn up in its final form as soon as possible?

16.1.84

68. Question by Mr BALFE (H-641/83)

Subject : Doorstep milk delivery

Is the Commission aware of the importance and popularity of doorstep milk delivery in Britain. Will the Commission use its powers to enable this to continue?

17.1.1984

69. Question by Mrs DURY (H-642/83)

Subject: Projects receiving aid from the Belgian 'Special Survival Fund'

Belgium has set up a 'Special Survival Fund' to provide effective aid to combat hunger in the world. The first action taken by this Fund was to support two International Agricultural Development Fund projects, one in Somalia and the other in Kenya.

Can the Commission say if it was informed of these special Belgian projects as part of the activities undertaken by the Community to combat hunger in the world; whether it does not think it necessary to ensure closer coordination between national and Community activities and whether the Commission believes that the projects supported by Belgium are in accordance with its thinking on 'food strategies'?

18.1.1984

70. Question by Mr BÉRKHOUSER (H-643/83)

Subject : Cigarettes in France

By a ministerial order made on 30 December 1983 for implementation on 9 January 1984, fixing new cigarette prices, the French Government has imposed an additional tranche of a surtax considered by the Commission to be illegal (see reply to written question No. 16/83) (1). What steps is the Commission taking against France to rectify the situation with regard to the arbitrary fixing of cigarette prices and the continued implementation of the surtax?

18.1.1984

(1) O.J. No. C 243 of 12.9.1983, p. 4

71. Question by Mr DELOROZOY (H-645/83)

Subject: Tobacco surtax in France

The introduction of a tobacco surtax in France has resulted in a sharp increase in the tax on a packet of cigarettes, the price of which has risen by about 45% since 1981. This provision does not appear to be consistent with the trend in taxes on tobacco throughout Europe; moreover, manufacturers are not allowed to apply normal price rises to cover increases in production costs and are thus facing serious problems.

Can the Commission say what steps it has taken to ensure fair competition between European cigarette manufacturers in the various Member States of the EEC?

19.1.1984



72. Question by Mr SEEFELD (H-647/83)

Subject: Unilateral environmental protection legislation by the  
Member States

As things stand, it is likely that the Council of Ministers for the Environment will continue to find it impossible to reach agreement; does the Commission therefore consider that it would be compatible with the EEC Treaty for one Member State, in order to protect its citizens and flora and fauna, to adopt unilaterally various provisions designed to reduce drastically the pollutants in emissions from motor vehicles and, more specifically the lead content of petrol by 1986?

19.1.1984

73. Question by Mrs Beate WEBER (H-648/83)

Subject: Reduction in pollution caused by emissions from motor vehicles

Following the total failure of the Council of Ministers for the Environment on 29 November 1983, does the Commission still seriously believe that the Council, which is constantly failing in its role as a Community institution, will summon up the political determination to put the health of the citizens of Europe before certain industrial interests and adopt measures to bring about a drastic reduction within the next three years in the pollution caused by vehicle exhaust fumes?

19.1.1984

74. Question by Mr KLINKENBORG (H-649/83)

Subject: REduction in the exhaust emissions of motor vehicles

Does the Commission still intend to submit to the Council in April 1984 proposals concerning a reduction in the exhaust emissions of motor vehicles and, more specifically a reduction in the lead content of petrol?

19.1.1984

75. Question by Mrs SEIBEL-EMMERLING (H-650/83)

Subject: Positive effects on the Community as a whole of unilateral national environmental protection measures

Does the Commission share my view that the unilateral adoption by one Member State of regulations imposing a drastic reduction in the pollutants emitted by motor vehicles and in the lead content of petrol would in no way disrupt intra-Community trade since, were this to happen, the other Member States would in point of fact be forced in their own economic interests (tourist sector and the car industry) to bring their own legislation into line with such measures, which are necessary in the interests of the health of all the Community's citizens?

19.1.1984

76. Question by Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS (II-651/83)

Subject : Vocational training

Does the Commission believe that it is desirable that a period of vocational training should be available free of charge to every school leaver in every Member State of the Community and does it have any fixed views as to the desirable length of such training and any intention to provide financial incentives for employers to participate in such a scheme?

19.1.1984

77. Question by Mr PATTERSON (H-659/83)

Subject: Funds voted by Parliament for the anti-poverty programme

Given the substantial funds entered in the 1984 budget for measures to combat poverty and approved by this Parliament, will the Commission now give details of the use to which this money will be put and of the legal basis for expenditure ;

Will the Commission further indicate the timetable envisaged for the approval of a Council decision on a second programme to combat poverty in the EEC and, in particular, the timetable for obtaining the opinion of Parliament on the proposed decision?

23.01.84

78. Question by Sir Peter Vanneck (H-660/83)

Subject: Argentina and the non-proliferation treaty

Noting that the EURATOM-ARGENTINA Agreement expired in November 1983, can the Commission give an assurance that in any new agreement between the European Atomic Energy Community and Argentina, the Community will insist on inspection and verification on Argentine territory, just as the Community accepts the same procedures?

23.1.84

79. Question by Mr Pol MARCK (H-662/83)

Subject: Paying for intervention purchases

According to Commission reports, the Commission has decided to lay down longer deadlines for paying for intervention purchases. Deadlines for payment have been extended from 60-90 days to 120-150 days. This would mean savings of 7.5 thousand million Bfrs.

What financial repercussions will this have on those concerned?

23.1.84

80. Question by Sir Fred WARNER (H-664/83)

Subject: Elimination of milk surpluses in the Community

The U.S. Government has devised a scheme to limit production of milk by paying producers to reduce their sales below their normal "marketing history" amount. It is estimated that this could eliminate the entire milk surplus in the USA. Could the Commission consider implementing a similar plan within the Community?

24.1.84

81. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-665/83)

Subject: Early retirement in the Liège iron and steel industry

Can the Commission say if it is planning to finance early retirements in the iron and steel industry in Liège, and is there any likelihood of the age at which it would take effect being somewhere around 50/52?

25.1.84

82. Question by Mr BETTIZA (H-666/83)

Subject: Collection of data on EEC-Yugoslav trade

With reference to Article 5 of the EEC-Yugoslavia Cooperation Agreement, can the Commission state its attitude to the siting on the territory of the Community of an office for the collection of data on trade, particularly cooperation between undertakings?

25.1.83

83. Question by Mr PROUT (H-673/83)

Subject : Imports from Member States

Is a Member State obliged to accept imports from another Member State which fall short of the Community standard laid down in an optional harmonization directive governing the safety standards to be met by those imports, but which meet a lower National standard which it observes domestically ?

26.01.1984

84. Question by Mrs CASTLE (H-675/83)

Subject: Import of Pets

Will the Commission reject any suggestion that the rules for import of pets by tourists in the Community should be harmonised as such harmonisation would be irrelevant to the working of the common market and would threaten the highly effective measures taken by Britain and Ireland to eradicate rabies from their territories.

26.01.84

85. Question by Mr CROUX (H-678/83)

Subject: Rise in cost of nuclear energy

Reports have recently appeared concerning the rise in cost of nuclear energy and, in particular, the cost of constructing nuclear power plants. A recent study carried out by the Worldwatch Institute, an independent American research centre, apparently concludes that these costs are considerably higher than the original estimates.

Reports that a nuclear power plant near completion at Moscow in the American state of Ohio has been converted into a coal-fired electricity generating station would appear to corroborate this conclusion.

Can the Commission state whether the abovementioned reports can be confirmed and, in particular, whether the cost of nuclear energy and nuclear power plants is considerably higher or whether higher estimates will have to be made than was the case until recently and, if so, can the Commission state whether and to what extent this rising cost factor has been or is being taken into account in the overall energy policy proposed by the Commission.

30.1.1984

86. Question by Mr ADAMOY (H-682/83)

Subject: Protection for Greek oil producers

Serious problems, even problems of survival, are being faced by Greek producers owing to severe competition from imported seed-oils. The situation will become still worse as from 1 January 1984, when all the protective restrictions on imports of seed-oils are to be lifted and marketing olive oil will become literally fraught with problems.

Can the Commission say what steps it proposes to take to protect the incomes of hundreds of thousands of oil producers?

30.1.84

87. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-684/83)

Subject: Transportation of saffron in Greece

82 saffron-producing communes in Kozani prefecture are facing an acute problem of survival because of the great difficulties they face in moving and marketing the product, which is in fact their chief source of income. This year's production amounted to nine tonnes; meanwhile 14 tonnes of the 1981-1982 crop lie unsold in the warehouses. The EEC consumes a total of 17 tonnes of saffron per year, yet from Greece (despite the principle of Community preference) it imports only six to seven tonnes. There is, moreover, no subsidy to boost exports of saffron to non-Community countries.

Can the Commission say what steps it proposes to take to create outlets for Greek saffron so as to secure producers' incomes?

30.1.84

88. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-687/83)

Subject: EEC refusal to issue more licences to Greek Lorries

The number of licences giving freedom of movement to Greek Lorries transporting goods between the EEC countries remains at 88 for 1984 (lower even than the number for Luxembourg) because the Community refuses to increase the number, so that either the movement of Greek products from Greece to the other Community countries is impeded or Greek transporting interests are harmed in general.

Can the Commission explain why the restriction on the issue of licences to Greek Lorries is being continued in 1984, and say what steps it proposes to take to increase the number?

30.1.84

89. Question by Mr TREACY (H-692/83)

Subject: Policies towards promoting employment in the Community

In view of the continuing increase in unemployment in the Community, will the Commission outline the policies it has undertaken to date towards combatting unemployment, and state to what extent it considers them to have been successful; will it further state what effect it expects its recent proposals on local employment initiatives (1), if and when adopted, to have on employment, particularly in lesser-developed areas, and whether it envisages the adoption of a legal instrument in relation to its proposals on employment for women (2)?

1.02.84

(1) Com (83) 662/fin

(2) Com (83) 653/fin



90. Question by Mr RYAN (H-693/83)

Subject: Recoupment of variable slaughter premium  
for sheepmeat

By sprinkling pepper on sheepmeat exported to other Community countries, UK exporters have been able to avoid the "clawback" provisions of Regulation 171/84 (1). This results in a drain on Community funds and disruption of normal trading patterns. In view of the failure of the Commission's most recent attempt to stop this irregularity (Regulation 3678/83 (2)), what action does the Commission now propose?

1.2.84

(1) O.J. No L 20, 25.1.84, p. 11

(2) O.J. No L 366, 28.12.84, p. 53

91. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-695/83)

Subject : European cultural centres

Under the last Presidency of the Council, an informal meeting of the Ministers for Culture of the Member States brought up the idea of nominating each year one city in the Community that would organize exhibitions of works of art or cultural events exemplifying the Community's cultural heritage. However, no formal decision was taken.

In its answer of 17 January to my question No. H-568/83, the Council confirmed that the cities of Athens and Amsterdam had already been suggested but that cities that were not capitals would also be considered.

When does the Commission intend to submit the relevant proposals and will these ensure a fair regional spread of the cities that may be selected to avoid centralism, of which there is a real danger if only capitals are eligible?

2.2.1984

92. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-696/83)

Subject: Measures concerning imported cut flowers

The Commission has acknowledged the important effect of the proposed measures to prevent distortion of the market for cut flowers by excessive imports from third countries, which the market cannot absorb.

Can the Commission give help to producers within the Community by stating a date by which they will be able to announce definite proposals and put them into force?

3.2.1984

93. Question by Dame Shelagh ROBERTS (H-697/83)

Subject: Quarantine Laws relating to dogs and cats

Has the Commission any proposals under consideration for the removal of import restrictions on the movement of dogs and cats between member states of the Community and, if so, will the Commission take note that rabies is a horrific and insidious disease and that those countries that are free of it should be able to look to the Community for help in maintaining their disease-free status?

3.2.1984