

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983-1984

16 January 1984

DOCUMENT 1-1268/83

ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME

on 17 and 18 January 1984

PE 87.422

1. Question by Mr BORD (H-284/83) (x)

Subject: Member States and the European Monetary System

Could the Commission outline the consequences for the Community of the withdrawal of one of the Member States from the European Monetary System?

5 July 1983

2. Question by Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU (H-522/83) (x)

Subject: Exorbitant increase in transit charges for goods vehicles in Austria

In view of the fact that the Austrian Government, following Yugoslavia's example, has now also announced an increase of 50% from January 1984 in the special road-transit charge paid by goods vehicles crossing Austrian territory, what really forceful measures does the Commission propose to take to secure the withdrawal of this unwarranted decision, which directly affects Greece and the other EEC countries in respect of the transport costs of their products?

7.11.1983

(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 VIE (H-526/83) (x)

Subject: Financing for the airport at Pointe Saline

An article has appeared in the French press under the title 'The EEC finances subversion', accusing Mr CHEYSSON, at the time the Commissioner responsible for relations with the Third World, of having persuaded the EDF to provide finance under the Lomé II Convention for the airport of Pointe Saline on the island of Grenada, which was built by Cubans with materials supplied by Algeria and Libya.

The existence of this airport, whose capacity seems by far to exceed the requirements of tourism on the island and suggests that it was built to fulfil military rather than civil needs, prompts the question of what criteria the Commission based its case, assuming that the information reported is accurate, in order to obtain financing from the EDF?

11.11.1983

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

4. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-531/83) (x)

Subject: Imports of cut flowers into the Community

In its answer to oral question No. H-326/83¹, the Commission deliberately evaded the issue of imposing quantitative restrictions on imports into the Community of cut flowers from certain third countries, merely pointing out that it was still actively considering the most appropriate solutions. Can the Commission state clearly its intentions as to possible new arrangements and clarify its position with regard to the solution based on annual quantitative restrictions on imports of these products into the Community?

15.11.1983

¹ Debates of the European Parliament - No. 303, 14 September 1983

5. 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

6. Question by Mr PINTAT (H-536/83) (x)

Subject: Energy objectives

In line with the Communication from the Commission to the Council of 9 February 1982 ('An Energy Strategy for the Community: the Nuclear Aspects', COM(82) 36 final) and the favourable opinion given by the Pintat report, which was adopted by the European Parliament at Strasbourg on 18 June 1982¹, a large public-opinion survey was conducted by the Commission; its findings were published in October 1983. This investigation of European public opinion and energy objectives offers the advantage of having been carried out simultaneously in the ten Community countries and has the credibility of a study conducted by an international organization. Energy problems have a decisive effect on the economies of the Ten; the Commission is therefore to be congratulated on its contribution to the raising of public awareness in this field.

The study reflects European public opinion as it was in 1982. How might the Commission follow up this initial study so as to permit the various authorities responsible to provide, with maximum public acceptance, the new power-generating facilities that are essential to ensure European independence.

17.11.1983

¹OJ C 182 of 19 July 1982, p. 129

(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 GAUTHIER (H-545/83) (x)

Subject: Oil consumption

According to information from the International Energy Agency, from 1984 onwards world oil consumption will start to rise again for the first time since the 1979 price increases. Can the Commission state whether it has taken account of this economic forecast in its proposals to the Council for a Community energy strategy?

22.11.1983

8. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-555/83) (x)

Subject: Admissibility of the actions brought by a number of Luxembourg communes against restructuring decisions

What is the Commission's opinion as to the admissibility of the actions brought before the Court of Justice by a number of Luxembourg communes against restructuring decisions?

30.11.1983

(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 WEDEKIND (H-365/83) *

Subject: Manufacture of 'fake' recycled paper

Is the Commission aware that there are firms in the Federal Republic of Germany that are adding chemical dye-stuffs to ordinary paper so that it acquires the aspect of recycled paper and can be sold for considerably higher prices? This method of profit-making is all the more irresponsible in economic terms since the paper produced cannot be reprocessed.

Can the Commission provide details showing whether this 'fake' recycled paper is also manufactured in other Member States of the Community and what share of the recycled paper market it has already obtained? Does the Commission intend to take action to stop this practice?

If so, what steps does it envisage?

8.06.1983

* Former oral question without debate (0.45/83) converted into a question for question time

10. Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-497/83)*

Subject : Italian Tobacco Industry

To what extent has the Italian Tobacco Industry complied with existing harmonisation measures? What success has the Commission achieved in ensuring that imported cigarettes are allowed to compete on equal terms with Italian cigarettes? What further steps if any does it intend to take?

16.08.1983

* Former oral question without debate (0-66/83) converted into a question for question time.

11. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-357/83)

Subject: Specific measures towards European integration

What action does the Commission think should be taken to counter the clearly growing belief among the general public in the Community that the process of European integration is incapable of producing any specific measures which are generally felt and easily appreciated by the average citizen?

6.09.1983

12. Question by Mr KAZAZIS (H-415/83)

Subject: Double payment of road tax by Greek officials of the European Communities

When entering Greece by car, Greek officials of the European Communities are obliged to pay road tax for the duration of their stay.

In view of the fact that the officials in question already pay road tax in the country in which they work (Belgium or Luxembourg), the circular issued by the Greek Ministry of Finance stipulating that staff of the European Communities must pay road tax runs counter to the Geneva Convention of 16.5.1956 and Community legislation on double taxation.

What steps does the Commission propose to take to have this measure revoked?

28.9.1983

13. Question by Mrs EWING (H-436/83)

Subject : National Consumer Councils

Does the Commission agree that Consumer Councils throughout the Community - as for example, the Scottish Consumer Council - have a very important role to play in the Communities pre-legislative consultation procedures ? Can the Commission confirm that the funds now available will permit a full programme of meetings to be held, of those consultative committees on which the National Consumer Councils are represented ?

5.10.1983

14. Question by Mr COLLINS (H-442/83)

Subject : Steel industry

On 29 September 1983 Mr Andriessen recommended that Ravenscraig should close. Will Mr Andriessen not agree that redundancies in the steel industry have been greater in the United Kingdom than in any other Community country and will he not agree, therefore, that his remarks were quite unreasonable especially having regard to the increase in capacity which has taken place elsewhere in the Community?

11.10.1983

15. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-458/83)

Subject : Financial assistance from the EEC

To ask the Commission whether they will include, in all contracts which are placed by the Community with public authorities and companies, a requirement to display publicly notices stating that Community aid has been accorded?

13.10.1983

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

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

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

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

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

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

19. Question by Mr CLINTON (H-479/83)

Subject : Suspension of the Farm Retirement Scheme

Can the Commission please explain the justification for cancelling the Farm Retirement Scheme during the review of Directive 160 and has the Commission any proposals on new ways and means of encouraging ageing farmers to retire and to provide an opportunity for well-trained young farmers to start a career in agriculture?

20.10.1983

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

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

21. Question by Mr von WOGAU (H-516/83)

Subject: Discrimination against nationals of other Community Member States
by German insurance companies

Mr Michelangelo Di Pierro, a national of another Member State of the Community, has lived in the Federal Republic of Germany since 1961, in Hamelin. He is employed in the public service. Since 1961 Mr Di Pierro has driven without accident. His motor insurance company, the Württembergische Feuerversicherungs AG, requires him to pay a foreigners' risk surcharge of 60% of his motor insurance premium.

Does the Commission consider that the levying of a foreigners' risk surcharge equivalent to 60% of the insurance premium in respect of nationals of another Member State of the Community resident in the Federal Republic of Germany is compatible with Article 7 of the EEC Treaty and, if not, what steps does it consider should be taken to abolish discrimination of this kind?

3.11.1983

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

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

23. Question by Ms. QUIN (H-542/83)

Subject : Proposed tax on oils and fats and its effect on
developing countries

What discussion with developing countries has the Commission had concerning the proposals for a tax on oils and fats ?
In particular what has been the reaction of ASEAN countries ?

18.11.1983

24. Question by Mrs BOSERUP (H-548/83)

Subject: Access to the Commission's files

In Chapter I, section 7 of its Twelfth Report on Competition Policy, the Commission states that it now permits the undertakings involved in a procedure to inspect the file on their case.

Why does the Commission believe that the above rules should apply only to undertakings involved in a case? Does it not think the above rule should be extended to cover applicants, plaintiffs and other parties in cases that are being or have been dealt with under the Community system?

24.11.1983

25. Question by Mr VAN AERSSEN (H-566/83)

Subject: 'Underground' economy in the Community

The 'underground' economy has developed into a well organized economic sector in the Community.

A study by the ILO in Geneva and another by Professor B.S. Frey of Zurich indicate that, for example,

- the 'underground' economy in Italy accounts for 25-33% of GNP
- in Britain for 8-10% of GNP
- in the Federal Republic of Germany for 13-15% of GNP.

Is the Commission systematically looking into the causes and effects of the phenomenon of the 'black' economy, and if not, is it prepared to take firm action on this problem as part of its efforts to ensure that the common market becomes a reality?

5.12.1983

26. Question by Mr FICH (H-571/83)

Subject: Conference on the Community and the education system

Recently, the Commission organized a conference in Videbaek, Denmark on the Community and the education system.

Under what heading of the Community budget was this conference funded and what was the legal basis?

6.12.1983

27. Question by Mr VAN ROMPUY (H-573/83)

Subject: Fabelta-Zwijnaarde

On what grounds does the Commission prohibit the granting of state aid to Fabelta-Zwijnaarde?

7 December 1983

28. Question by Mr NORDMANN (H-57/83)

Subject: Textile and clothing industry

On 12 July 1983, the Commission forwarded a questionnaire to the Member States concerning aids to the textile and clothing industry. The aim of the questionnaire was to draw up an overall table illustrating such aids, the legal bases for them, the intervention bodies granting them the procedures for granting them, the appropriations utilized and the scale of the projects and investment involved, in order to improve the transparency of the various forms of support enjoyed by the textile and clothing sector in each country.

Can the Commission provide Parliament with a preliminary summary of the findings of this essential investigation, given that the Member States' answers to this questionnaire were to be forwarded to it by 15 October?

9.12.1983

29. Question by Mrs SALISCH (H-580/83)

Subject: Visa requirements for Turks in the Federal Republic
of Germany

Is the Commission aware that the undertaking originally made by the Minister of the Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr Baum, to authorize the issue of free, one-year visas has evidently been retracted by his successor as Federal Minister of the Interior, Mr Zimmermann, since such visas are currently not being issued for movements across the German-Dutch border, and what does it propose to do about it?

12.12.1983

30. Question by Mr VAN MINNEN (H-582/83)

Subject: Visa requirements for Turks in the Federal Republic of Germany

Does the Commission recall the undertaking it gave during the debate on the report on visa requirements for Turkish workers, which was adopted in July 1982 (Doc. 1-387/82), that it would ensure that the call for a free, one-year visa would be put into practice in the Member States?

12.12.1983

31. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-585/83)

Subject : The totally anti-"communautaire" situation

What effective steps has the Commission recently taken to end the totally anti-"communautaire" situation where British-based insurance companies cannot operate in Germany and British-based auction houses cannot operate in France ? Would it support moves to prevent German-based car manufacturers and French-based wine producers selling their wares in Britain ?

12.12.1983

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

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

33. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-592/83)

Subject: Proposals amending for the fourth and fifth times the
directive on cosmetic products

At its plenary sitting of 14 October 1983, the European Parliament, by a large majority, adopted an amendment tabled by the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection to Article 10 of Directive 76/768/EEC¹ on cosmetic products. In this amendment the European Parliament called on the Commission to transmit any proposed amendments to the annexes of the Directive on cosmetics to Parliament by the normal consultation procedures.

Bearing in mind that the Commission had referred the proposals amending for the fourth and fifth times the Directive of July 1976 to Parliament for an opinion - these in fact being amendments to Annexes II, III, IV and V of Directive 76/768/EEC and dealing in particular with toothpastes and hair tints - does the Commission not consider, in view of the above vote, that the two directives in question ought to be referred to Parliament for an opinion again, especially as the debate had already been started by the committee responsible?

13.12.1983

¹OJ No L 262, 27.9.1976, p. 169

34. Question by Sir Peter VANNECK (H-594/83)

Subject : Arabus-Airbus

Following the proposal for Egyptian collaboration in the Airbus Industrie Project,⁽¹⁾ what steps is the Commission taking to promote collaboration between interested firms in all Member States and Arab partner firms so that the European Airbus might be an Arab-European Airbus ?

13.12.1983

¹Financial Times 6.12.1983, p.5

35. Question by Mr BLANEY (H-595/83)

Subject : Cost of the CAP

Does the Commission agree with the estimates of the Court of Auditors, in its report in response to the European Council of June 1983, about the costs to the EAGGF of Community non-preference, the burden of compensatory measures, and the aggravating effect of MCA's, and will it propose measures to reduce these costs ?

13.12.1983

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

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

37. Question by Mr KYRKOS (H-604/83)

Subject: Economic aid for disaster-hit regions

The disasters which hit Vasilika in Thessaloniki prefecture and Ormilias in Halkidiki prefecture, two regions whose main crops are out-of-season vegetables, caused damage to 10 hectares of hot-houses, i.e. to 100% of the farms. The damage to permanent structures and crops, which varies between 30% and 100% in extent, falls exclusively on the farmers as there is no insurance coverage. The setback to crop-growing in such a vulnerable sector will have serious repercussions on producers' incomes, which are going to come under a still heavier burden from excessive borrowing from banks.

Since the people in the region are in a terrible economic position and are in debt to the banks for loans which they took out in the past to rebuild their houses destroyed in the 1978 earthquakes, is the Commission thinking of giving any economic aid to the farmers in those regions, and would it object to the farms in question being brought within the scope of Directive 72/159/EEC, application of which recently began in Greece, with derogations relating to development project and comparable incomes?

20.12.1983

38. Question by Mrs DURY (H-605/83)

Subject: Breastmilk substitutes

Can the Commission say what action it has taken on the European Parliament's resolution on the code of marketing of breastmilk substitutes?

20.12.1983

39. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-608/83)

Subject: The forthcoming EP elections

As is well known, there are in many EEC countries - and particularly in Greece - broad political and popular movements that oppose their countries' accession to and continued membership of the EEC.

Why is the Commission engaging in a series of propagandistic 'informative' activities, and do not the latter constitute interference in the election contest?

21.12.1983

40. Question by Mr ADAMOU (H-610/83)

Subject: Destruction of citrus fruit in Greece

Since Greece's accession to the EEC thousands of tonnes of citrus fruit have been thrown on to tips and buried because markets could not be found for them in due time. Specifically, of the 81-82 harvest 75,600 tonnes of oranges, and of the 82-83 harvest a total of 137,500 tonnes of citrus fruit were disposed of on tips. The 83-84 crop is expected to be smaller. However, owing to delays with exports (they were supposed to have started in November) and the obstacles which the EEC puts in the way of Greece's trade with third countries, there is a danger that, this year too, large quantities of citrus fruit will have to be destroyed.

What steps does the Commission intend taking so that markets will be found in good time for this year's crop of citrus fruit and the incomes of Greek producers will be protected?

21.12.1983

41. Question by Mr ADAM (H-616/83)

Subject : ESPRIT

Agence Europe reports that at the Research Council on 13th December 1983 the Commission gave an assurance that the necessary appropriations could be mobilised by making savings in other sectors of the Community research policy.

Will the Commission please inform Parliament of the nature of these savings?

3-1-1984

42. Question by Mrs CASTLE (H-617/83)

Subject : Exclusive Purchasing Agreement

In their answer to Oral Question H-503/83⁽¹⁾ by Mrs Castle, the Commission indicated a refreshingly tough determination to ensure that tenants of tied houses were not victimised for exercising their rights under Regulation 1984/83.

Will the Commission write directly to the brewing companies in the U.K. to reiterate the warning contained in their excellent reply?

3.1.1984

(1) Verbatim report of proceedings of 16.11.1983 p.230 (prov.edition)

43. Question by Mr HARRIS (H-618/83)

Subject : Fishing

Is the Commission aware that a number of bulk catchers are fishing for mackerel inside the South West "box" and will it carry out an urgent investigation of the position in conjunction with the United Kingdom authorities?

3.1.1984

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

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?

3.1.1984

45. Question by Mr PETERSEN (H-622/83)

Subject: Computers

Is the Commission aware that the aim of the Japanese research programme concerning fifth-generation computers is to develop a computer which can carry out one thousand million LIs ('logical inferences') per second, where the best conventional computers today can carry out between 30,000 and 100,000? Is the Commission aware of the qualitative leap in the whole field of data processing which the Japanese programme will entail if its aims are achieved?

Will the Commission also state what specific plans are contained in the Esprit programme on the development of fifth-generation computers, and whether these plans comprise an integrated programme based on an overall plan - aimed at producing a qualitative/revolutionary leap - or whether the programme is more on an ad hoc basis?

9.1.1984

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

46. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-229/83) (x)

Subject: Controls at internal frontiers

During the 1983 peak holiday season, when will the Council as members of the Council, visit two typical Community frontier crossing points to discuss the purpose of frontier controls with travellers?

When visiting these crossings is the Council willing to select one of the Benelux type and one of the old-fashioned small state type to satisfy themselves with regard to the advantages and inconveniences of one or other control procedure?

14.6.1983

47. Question by Mr LALOR (H-432/83) (x)

Subject : Strengthening the EMS

Is the Council satisfied that the Community is making every effort to comply with one of the priority goals of the Copenhagen Summit of December 1982, namely the strengthening of the European Monetary System, and when it is hoped to have all ten Member States embraced into the system ?

4.10.1983

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

48. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-461/83) (x)

Subject : Measures to mitigate unemployment

What does the Council propose to do, to implement Articles 48, 49 and 50 of the Rome Treaty, concerning the mobility of workers, particularly young workers in the Community; in particular the setting up of machinery to put offers of employment in touch with applicants for employment as stated in Article 49 (d)?

14.10.1983

49. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-537/83) (x)

Subject : Opinions of the European Parliament

I should like to ask the Council whether the opinions of the European Parliament are ever specifically and in detail reported and discussed by the Council during their meetings and if this is confirmed to be the generally agreed procedure, will he instruct the Council Secretariat to reflect this in the drafting of all Communiqué and in their announcements of the promulgation of Community decisions ?

16.11.1983

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.1976

50. Question by Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU (H-546/83) (x)

Subject: Harmonization of social legislation in the Member States of the EEC

Having regard to the provisions of Articles 117 and 118 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community and its resolution of 21 January 1974 - laying the foundations of a social action programme, which has been implemented in certain sectors only - can the Council of Ministers state how it is dealing with the question of harmonizing social legislation in the Member States for the benefit of the peoples of the EEC countries?

23.11.1983

51. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-556/83) (x)

Subject: Draft Belgian Legislation on immigrants

Does the Council consider that draft legislation currently under consideration in Belgium which seeks to prevent the reunification of families and the right of recent immigrants to live or take up residence in certain districts of Belgium is compatible with Community law?

30.11.1983

52. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-376/83)

Subject : Report on Council's activities

In view of the difficulty of obtaining both oral answers to Questions to the Council and information on action taken by the Council, will the President-in-office now agree to report at every session - or periodically - to Parliament on the action taken by the Council on Parliament's Opinions, on the amendments it has made to Commission proposals, and on its own-initiative resolutions, on the lines of similar information give by the Commission ?

15.09.1983

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.1976

53. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-396/83)

Subject: American special steel imports

What is the Council's view regarding compensation to be sought following the unwarranted imposition of quotas on American imports of special steels?

23.09.1983

54. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-455/83)

Subject : New advisory and management committees

How many new advisory and management committees, involving Council and Member State staff, have been set up during 1983?

13.10.1983

55. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-495/83)

Subject: Convergence of economic and social policies

Does the President-in-Office of the Council intend during his term of office to propose the introduction of the 35-hour week in the ten Member States of the Community?

If so, is he 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

56. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-553/83)

Subject : Council of Ministers on Social Affairs

According to press reports on the Council of Ministers on Social Affairs held in Athens in November, proposals were put forward and discussions held on restrictions of workers' rights at European level. Can the Council state if this information is correct, exactly what topics were discussed and what decisions taken ?

29.11.1983

57. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-568/83)

Subject: European Cultural Centres

Does the Council not think that its plan to designate a new European capital every year as the European Cultural Centre will consolidate or strengthen State centralism rather than break it down? Does it not consider that it would be generally preferable over the long term to have cities of artistic and historical merit selected on the basis of well defined criteria and designated in accordance with a rota system, as I suggested in my motion for a resolution of 21 February 1983?

5.12.1983

58. Question by Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK (H-569/83)

Subject: Supervision and control of transfrontier shipment
of hazardous wastes within the European Community

In its resolution of 8 June 1983¹ on this subject, the European Parliament called on the Council to take a rapid decision. On 15 June 1983, the Commission submitted a revised proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC). However, the Environment Council of 28 November 1983 has once again ended without result, although a working party was charged with the problem.

What precise problem areas does the Council propose that the working party consider? When is the working party to submit its findings to the Council? Will the Council take a final decision on the proposal submitted by the Commission at its meeting of 16 December 1983 - is it aware of the European public's enormous interest in this problem and the high expectation of a prompt and binding solution?

Is the Council willing to bear the political responsibility for possible accidents and disasters in the event of a failure to reach a rapid decision?

5.12.1983

¹OJ No C 184, 17.7.1983, p. 50

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

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

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

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

61. Question by Mr BLANEY (H-597/83)

Subject : Conclusions of the Court of Auditors

On the report of the Court of Auditors in response to the
conclusions of the European Council of June 18, 1983 does
the Council accept the conclusions of the Court of Auditors
in particular about the scope for action and possible savings,
and what action does it propose to take ?

13.12.1983

62. Question by Mrs PHLIX (H-600/83)

Subject : The use of languages

For the debate on the Council statement of 13 December on the
Greek Presidency, the speech made by the President-in-Office,
Mr Papandreou, was available in three languages only.

Can the Council explain why this speech was not available in all
Community languages and can the French Presidency give an
assurance that documents will, in future, be distributed in all
Community languages?

14.12.1983

63. Question by Mr DEL DUCA (H-606/83)

Subject: Less-favoured farming areas

With regard to the proposal for a Council directive amending Directive 75/273/EEC¹ concerning the Community list of less-favoured farming areas within the meaning of Directive 75/268/EEC (Italy)² - COM(83) 424 final - approved by the European Parliament on 14 October 1983,³ could the Council state why, at its meeting of 14 and 15 November 1983 in Brussels, it failed to approve the Community list set out in the above-mentioned document?

20.12.1983

¹OJ No. L 128, 19.5.1975, p.72

OJ No. L 206, 5.8.1975, p.14

²OJ No. L 128, 19.5.1975, p.1

³OJ No. C 307, 14.11.83, p.102

64. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-607/83)

Subject: Application of VAT in Greece

At its part-session in December 1983 the European Parliament approved the ROGALLA report, which reduced postponement of VAT application in Greece from the two years proposed by the Commission to one year.

What position will the Council of Ministers adopt and does it envisage the possibility of further postponing the application of VAT in Greece, having regard in particular to the negative effects such application will have on the country's economy and on its workers?

21.12.1983

65. Question by Mr MOORHOUSE (H-611/83)

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 March 1984?

22.12.1983

66. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-613/83)

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. 285/83¹ 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

¹ Verbatim report of the proceedings of 14 December 1983, pp 203-204

67. Question by Mr ADAM (H-615/83)

Subject : Esprit

It is reported that the Research Council failed to approve the ESPRIT programme at its meeting on 13th December 1983, because of the question of financing.

How does the Council justify this delay in view of the fact that the Budgets Council had already approved the appropriations in its draft budget for 1984?

3.1.1984

68. Question by Mr CROUX (H-620/83)

Subject : European Union

In the solemn declaration made at Stuttgart on 19 June 1983, the European Council stated in point 2.1.4 that it would submit each year a written report to the European Parliament on the progress achieved on the road towards European Union. It was further stated that this report would be the subject of a debate in Parliament, on which occasion the European Council would normally be represented by its President or one of its members.

When will the European Council be submitting the said report for 1983?

3.1.1984

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

69. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-385/83) (x)

Subject : Piracy off Lagos

Do the Foreign Ministers believe that their protests to the Government of Nigeria on assaults on shipping by pirates off Lagos will have any beneficial effect ?

15.09.1983

70. Question by Mrs EWING (H-390/83) (x)

Subject : Assassinations of Croats in Member States

In view of political assassinations by agents of the Yugoslav Government of Croats living outside Yugoslavia, some of which have occurred in Community Member States, will the Foreign Ministers, within the framework of contacts with the Yugoslav Government concerning the EEC-Yugoslav Trade & Cooperation Agreement, seek the cessation of such actions by the Government of a State which, like the Community, is a signatory of the Helsinki Final Act 1975 ?

20.09.1983

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding
Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.1976

71. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-460/83) (x)

Subject : Cooperation in Foreign Policy by Member States

After the disunity in Foreign Policy displayed on the South Korean Boeing 747 air disaster, what have the Foreign Ministers been able to achieve in restoring the former close cooperation in Foreign Affairs?

14.10.1983

72. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-475/83) (x)

Subject: Libyan Government policy

Have the Ministers considered the dangers implicit in the Libyan Government's present policy as a result of the Libyan occupation of part of Chad (a signatory of the Lomé Convention) and its scarcely concealed support of practices condemned by the European Community and the entire international community?

19.10.1983

73. Question by Mr RIEGER (H-528/83) (x)

Subject: European disarmament conference

What is the form and underlying purpose of the Member States' contribution to the preparations for the European disarmament conference, due to begin in January 1984? What do they expect to emerge from this conference?

14.11.1983

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.1976

74. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-439/83)

Subject: Extradition of Turkish democrats from the Federal Republic of Germany

There is a danger that the Federal Republic of Germany is about to comply with a request for an extradition order made by the Turkish junta to Mr Zimmermann, the West German Minister for the Interior.

In view of the political oppression and persecution practised by the Turkish junta towards its political opponents, what specific measures do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation intend to take to prevent Turkish and Kurd democrats being extradited to the Turkish junta?

29.8.1983

75. Question by Mr LAGAKOS (H-354/83)

Subject: The proposal of the Greek Government to postpone the stationing of Cruise and Pershing Missiles

Given that the recent initiative of the Greek Government to postpone for six months the stationing of Cruise and Pershing Missiles objectively promotes peace, détente and disarmament and given that both European and international public opinion is sensitive on this point and is favourably disposed to initiatives of this kind, what position do the Ten intend to take with regard to this proposal, the aim of which is to prolong the negotiations in Geneva and to increase the chances of arriving at an agreement which reflects the aspirations of the people of Europe?

1.9.1983

76. Question by Mr ADAMOU (H-408/83)

Subject: Proposal to defer deployment of Pershing II and Cruise missiles

There are three months left before the end of 1983, the deadline set by the USA and NATO for deployment of the Pershing II and Cruise missiles, an act which would bring our whole continent to the brink of nuclear disaster.

Could the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation state why, despite the Greek Presidency's proposal for a six-month deferment of the deployment of the American missiles while the Geneva negotiations are continued, they remain silent on the No. 1 problem exercising the peoples of the Member States of the Community, though most of the national governments in the Community indeed support the installation of the missiles in the face of the manifest opposition of the people within the Community, as demonstrated by the recent polls in the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium and Holland?

28.9.1983

77. Question by Mr KYRKOS (H-478/83)

Subject : Reiteration of the statements by Mr Denktash concerning an 'autonomous Turkish-Cypriot state'

Do the Ministers propose to condemn unequivocally the threats reiterated by the Turkish-Cypriot leader, Mr Denktash, to declare an 'autonomous Turkish-Cypriot state'? Have they considered the exceptionally dangerous complications which would arise were this threat carried out, and what decisions have they reached with a view to discouraging categorically any support for Mr Denktash from the Ankara Government, without which the Turkish-Cypriot leader would undoubtedly be more restrained?

20.10.1983

78. Question by Mr WEDEKIND (H-572/83) *

Subject: Consular agreement between Greece and the GDR

Is it true that Greece and the GDR have initialled a consular agreement under which refugees from the GDR who escape over the Bulgarian border to Thessaloniki or arrive in Athens from the East German ship 'Völkerfreundschaft' are extradited to the GDR?

How can Greece reconcile the conclusion of such a consular agreement between it and the GDR with European political cooperation which unites the Member States of the European Community or with the principles and spirit of the ECSC Final Act?

27.10.1983

* Former oral question without debate (0-104/83) converted into a question for question time.

79. Question by Mr TYRRELL (H-509/83)

Subject : Agreements on the prevention of terrorism

Will the Ministers state what progress has been made in making agreements to facilitate the capture and extradition of those perpetrating terrorist crimes in one Member State and seeking sanctuary in another ?

28.10.1983

80. Question by Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK (H-541/83)

Subject : Detention of a number of former Zairean MPs

According to press reports, during the night of 12 to 13 October a number of former Zairean MPs belonging to the UDPS opposition party (Union pour La Démocratie et La Progrès Social) i.e. Mr Kibassa Maliba, Mr Ngalula Mpandajila, Mr Tshisekedi wa Mulumba, Mr Makanda Mpinga and Mr Lusanga Ngiele and all members of their family at home at the time were brutally carried off to an unknown destination by paratroopers and agents of the Zairean State Security Service.

These former MPs had been detained and imprisoned earlier but were set free during President Mobuto's so-called political reconciliation.

What steps have the Ministers of Foreign Affairs already taken to find out from the Zairean authorities where these people are being held and what has already been done to secure their release ;

are the Ministers of Foreign Affairs not going to urge the Zairean authorities to respect human and political rights ?

18.11.1983

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

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

82. Question by Mr BALFE (H-575/83)

Subject : Tamil minority in Sri Lanka

Further to my oral question No.42 (H-490/83) (1) can the Foreign Ministers be asked to state :

What reply they have received from their representations to the Sri Lankan Government on the 3rd August and in view of the continuing violation of human rights will they now make further public representations ?

7.12.1983

(1) Verbatim report of proceedings of 16.11.1983, p. 214

83. Question by Mrs DUPORT (H-577/83)

Subject: Situation of women in Rwanda and Zimbabwe

On 29 April 1983 and 21 July 1983, 'Le Monde' published two articles revealing that young women in Rwanda who were regarded as vagrants had been sentenced to terms ranging from 6 months to 3 years in 'work and re-education camps'.

Rwanda's Minister of the Interior acknowledged that unfortunate mistakes had been made during the massive raids carried out in February and March.

During the weekend of 12 and 13 November 1983, several thousand women were arrested in Zimbabwe during a large-scale anti-prostitution operation.

Women who were unable to prove that they were not prostitutes were sent to rehabilitation camps to learn how to become what the government called 'useful members of society'.

The European Community welcomed the advent of democracy in Zimbabwe and its independence.

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware of the violations of these women's rights, and can they make representations to the Governments of Rwanda and Zimbabwe to ensure that these re-education camps are closed and that these raids are stopped?

9.12.1983

84. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-584/83)

Subject : Vietnam

In their dealings with Vietnam, do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation accept estimates that some 100,000 people are imprisoned in Vietnamese prisons for indoctrination purposes (including a quarter of those committed to such prison camps in 1975/6) and what view do they have about this situation ?

12.12.1983

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

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

86. Question by Mr HABSBERG (H-590/83)

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

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

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

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

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