

European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

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12 September 1983

DOCUMENT 1-660/83

ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME

on 13 and 14 September 1983



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QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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1. Question by Mr. MARSHALL (H-837/82) (1)(x)

Subject : Full diplomatic recognition of Israel by Greece

In view of the Association Agreement between the Community and Israel does the Council not agree that it is appropriate that Greece should accord Israel full diplomatic recognition ?

4.3.1983

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

2. Question by Mr GERONIMI (H-328/83) (1)

Subject: Recognition of the State of Israel by Greece

Could not the President of the Council, using the authority he at present enjoys, follow up Greece's official recognition of the State of Israel by a personal statement on the matter?

9.8.1983

(1) The Council intends to give a joint reply to these two questions

3. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-25/83) (x)

Subject : Economic relations between Europe and Israel

Following publication of the report by the Committee of Inquiry in Israel and now that peace negotiations between Israel and Lebanon seem to be moving ahead, does the Council intend, as it should, to normalize economic relations with Israel in respect both of trade relations and of the financial aid which has been frozen since June 1982 ?

10.3.1983

4. Question by Mr. MORELAND (H-86/83) (x)

Subject : Draft Directive of lorry weights and dimensions

When does the Council envisage adopting the proposals on lorry weights and dimensions ?

14.4.1983

5. Question by Mr BONDE (H-217/83) (x)

Subject: Majority decisions in questions considered to be of vital importance by one of the Member States

In its pamphlet 'Samtidsorientering' (information about contemporary life), the Commission of the European Communities informs Danish schoolchildren that the Community's Member States have agreed NOT to apply majority decisions in questions which are considered to be of vital importance by only one of the Member States.

Does the Council share this view?

3.6.1983

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

Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-227/83)<sup>(1)(x)</sup>

Subject: Checks at internal frontiers

Can the Council state what position has been reached in the deliberations on the Commission's proposal for a resolution on the simplification of checks at internal frontiers and, in so doing, indicate the main subjects of contention, say which national delegations have expressed what reservations and state what procedures have been or remain to be completed (at negotiating, expert, COREPER, Council level, etc.) and when will the negotiations as a whole be completed ?

8.6.1983

(1) Former Written Question No. 600/83, converted into a question for Question Time

Question by Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU (H-221/83)<sup>(x)</sup>

Subject: EEC citizens' right to vote in the Member State  
in which they are resident

In view of the forthcoming elections to the European Parliament in 1984 and having regard to the principle of the freedom of movement for citizens of the Community within the Member States, what action does the Council intend to take to enable citizens to vote who are resident in a Member State different from their state of origin? Is the Council aware that the delay in taking a decision on this matter constitutes an important obstacle to progress as regards the freedom of movement laid down in the Treaties?

10.6.1983

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

8. Question by Mr EISMA (H-222/83) (x)

Subject: Part-time working in the European institutions

According to the answer to my written questions 1422/82 and 1423/82<sup>1</sup>, only about 1.8% of staff are working part-time in the Community institutions.

The Council has moreover rejected a proposal to introduce 75%-time working.

Given the consensus that the redistribution of work should be encouraged, not least by promoting part-time work, does the Council agree with me that it is setting a bad example and what steps is it considering in order to improve matters?

10.6.1983

(1) OJ C 29, 3.2.1983, p.14

9. Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-248/83) (x)

Subject: Nordic Passport Union

Will the Council assure the Danish electorate that the Nordic Passport Union will continue undiminished and unaltered?

21.6.1983

10. Question by Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK (H-253/83) (x)

Subject: Regulation of waste transport within the EEC

At their meeting of 16 June 1983, did the Environment Ministers instruct the COREPER to draft a regulation on this problem; if so, when will the Council adopt this regulation? Has the Council decided to accept the European Parliament's resolution of 8 June 1983 on the transfrontier shipment of hazardous wastes inter alia as regards compulsory permits from all the countries concerned?

22.6.1983

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

1. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-162/83)

Subject: Direct relations between EP and Council

Can the European Parliament have direct relations with the Council?  
If so, why is it that the President of the Council stated before Parliament on 17 May 1983, in reply to Oral Question No. H-7/83<sup>1</sup>, that the Council of Education Ministers could not place the question of the teaching of human rights in the Community on its agenda 'in the absence of proposals from the Commission'?

Will the Education Council one day consider the resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 18 October 1982?

19.5.1983

(1) Debates No.1-299

12. Question by Mr Van Miert (H-304/83)

Subject: Euro-Arab dialogue

To what extent does the signing of the Second Financial Protocol between the European Community and Israel affect deliberations concerning the resumption of the Euro-Arab dialogue, and what are the prospects as regards the latter?

8.6.1983

13. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-235/83)

Subject : Energy Investment in the Developing countries

Does the Council intend to give the Commission new instructions in order to fulfil the Community's commitment, at the Williamsburg Summit, to give special attention to the flow of resources for energy production in the developing countries ?

16.6.1983

14. Question by Mr VAN AERSSSEN (H-260/83)

Subject : Summit politics

The Belgian Government, in the person of its Minister of Finance, has levelled some sharply-worded criticism at the major industrial countries for their increasing tendency to withdraw into 'exclusive clubs' to discuss world economic problems, and for their plans to set up a 'superclub' of the five major industrial countries, thereby intensifying this trend.

Does the Council share this criticism or does it still take the view that the OECD provides the appropriate institutional framework within which to discuss world economic problems as they relate to the countries concerned?

28.6.1983

15. Question by Mr WOLTJER (H-265/83)

Subject: Measures relating to the fixing of farm prices

Can the Council indicate exactly which supplementary measures it decided upon in fixing farm prices for 1981/1982 and 1982/1983 and what action has since been taken on these? Can the Council also indicate what the content is or was of the 'Gentleman's Agreement' on the cessation of MCA's and what the effect of this 'agreement' was in the price decisions for 1981/1982 and 1982/1983 and the extent to which this agreement was observed?

4.7.1983



Question by Mr Jack STEWART-CLARK (H-267/83)

Subject: Public Holidays

A recent Commission survey of public holidays in the Member States shows the highest number to be 14 and the lowest only 8 days holiday per year. Staff in the Community institutions however receive no less than 22 public holidays every year.

Can the Council explain how the figure of 22 is established?

4.7.1983

Question by Mr Gérard FUCHS (H-269/83)

Subject: Use of NCI 3 for the ACP states

Does the Council not think that some of the appropriations available under NCI 3 should be available for the realization of industrial projects of mutual ACP/EEC interest on the territory of the ACP states?

4.7.1983

Question by Mr PRANCHERE (H-278/83)

Subject: Agreements on the multiannual supply of agricultural products

Despite frequent prompting by Parliament, the Council has still not given a decision on the Commission proposal of 24 July 1981 concerning 'framework agreements relating to the multiannual supply of agricultural products'. The implementation of such agreements would enable the shortcomings of the EEC's medium and long-term policy on export sales to be corrected.

Pending a final decision by the Council, could the latter not authorize the Commission to negotiate such agreements with the countries pressing for them?

5.7.1983

19. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-291/83)

Subject : Contact group between Parliament and COREPER

The President-in-Office gave an assurance to Parliament at Question time on 5 July that he would seek the agreement of the Council to the establishment of a contact group between the Political Affairs Committee of Parliament and COREPER.

Has the President-in-Office now obtained Council's agreement ?  
If not, why not; and when will he succeed in doing so ?

7.7.1983

20. Question by Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-298/83)

Subject : Drug abuse

Would the Council state what action, if any, they will take to combat the rising tide of Drug abuse within the Community and if they will initiate action through Interpol or any other suitable agency to reduce the inward illegal flow from third countries of Drugs such as Heroin, Cocaine and Raw opium ?

7.7.1983

21. Question by Miss QUIN (H-299/83)

Subject : The Shipbuilding Industry in the EEC

When did the Council last discuss shipbuilding and what was the context of its discussions?

8.7.1983

2. Question by Mrs LE ROUX (H-303/83)

Subject: Common fisheries policy

In November 1980 the Commission submitted to the Council a communication on social aspects in the Community sea fishing sector. This communication formed an adjunct to the proposals for a common fisheries policy, and the Assembly of the European Communities delivered its opinion on these proposals in 1981.

Since a common fisheries policy has now been adopted, will the Council now implement the measures concerned with the social aspect of the Community's fisheries policy?

12.7.1983

23. Question by Mrs NIELSEN (H-309/83)

Subject : Harmonization of postal charges within the Community

What does the Council propose to do to harmonize postal charges within the Community, and does not the Council consider that the present discriminatory treatment has a distorting effect on competition and is incompatible with the plans for an internal market?

There are significant variations in the rules in force for letters weighing over 20g and postal packets, depending on whether they are being sent to addresses in Denmark or to the other countries in the Community.

19.7.1983

24. Question by Mr SCHINZEL (H-317/83)

Subject: Development of the internal market

During Question Time in July 1983, the Greek President-in-Office of the Council departed from the regrettable practice adopted by his predecessors, who would regularly invoke the confidentiality of their discussions in answer to questions on the state of negotiations, in what was a most welcome token of his commitment to the further institutional development of the Community (supplementary answer to Question No. H-83/83 by Mr Adam).

Is the President of the Council now able to keep his promise and supply precise details of the attitudes of the various Member States to the development of the internal market, and can he assure us that he will continue to keep the European Parliament informed of other discussions in the Council with the same democratic candour?

22.7.1983

25. Question by Mr BANGEMANN (H-318/83)

Subject : Liberal Party in Greece

Can the President in Office explain on what grounds the activities of the Liberal Party in Greece are not mentioned on the state-controlled television and radio stations in contrast to those of other political parties, bearing in mind the commitment of all Member States to the basic principles of pluralist democracy and recalling that the entry of Greece to the Community only became possible after a dictatorship, which practised political censorship of the mass media, was overthrown ?

27.7.1983

16. Question by Mr LALOR (H-323/83)

Subject : The problems of smaller economies within the EEC

What action has the German Presidency initiated in relation to giving special attention to the problems of smaller economies such as Ireland which the Presidency stated recently it intended to take?

9.8.1983

17. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-332/83)

Subject : Meetings of the Council

Does the Council ever intend that any of its meetings shall be held in public, as is permitted under Article 3 of its Rules of Procedure ?

10.8.1983

28. Question by Mr PATTISON (H-334/83)

Subject : Implications for Irish economy of recent proposals  
on agriculture

Is the Council aware of the implications for the Irish economy of the recent proposals on agriculture, in view of its significance as Ireland's major industry, and will it ensure that the necessary measures to protect it are adopted and implemented speedily?

16.8.1983

29. Question by Mr BONACCINI (H-335/83)

Subject: Destabilizing effect of the dollar exchange rate

In the last few months the dollar exchange rate has become even more erratic and its effect on all European currencies more unsettling. Does the Council not think that this will very much compromise economic recovery in Europe? Have the Williamsburg agreements had a positive effect and how did the various States contribute to the effort made? What negotiations are in progress or under consideration with regard to the problem of real interest rates?

16.8.1983

30. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-337/83)

Subject : Racist discrimination in France

Will the Council take action against the French authorities who refused British citizens entry when on a day trip from London to Calais, simply because they were black, in order to ensure that this deplorable act of racism never happens again?

17.8.1983

31. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-345/83)

Subject : Unacceptable activities of the Commission of the European Communities

According to reports on Greek television (EPT I of 1 August 1983 at 9 p.m.) groups from the Commission based in Athens are to begin a tour of different regions of Greece to inform Greek farmers on matters connected with the EEC's agricultural policy.

Whereas this activity by the Commission falls outside the framework of the Treaties; whereas the political parties and various organizations are responsible for providing information and criticism of Community policy; whereas similar tactics by the Commission have been strongly condemned both in the past and recently in the European Parliament by MEPs of the British Labour Party, the Danish Popular Movement against the EEC and the KKE following a question on the matter by the British Labour MEP, Mr MEGAHY; what measures does the Council intend to take to bring an immediate end to activities of this kind by the Commission which constitute unacceptable interference in the internal affairs of Member States and in the pre-election campaign for the forthcoming elections of June 1984 to the European Parliament?

19.8.1983

32. Question by Mr HÄNSCH (H-353/83)

Subject : European Council in Stuttgart

In the 'Solemn Declaration on the European Union' (paragraph 2.3.6) of the European Council in Stuttgart the governments pledged that the Council would open talks with the European Parliament and the Commission on a new agreement on an improved and extended conciliation procedure.

When does the Council intend to open these talks and will it propose a timetable and a framework for the talks?

30.8.1983





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

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33. Question by Mr BONDE (H-180/83) <sup>(x)</sup>

Subject : The Commission's role in EPC

Will the Foreign Ministers confirm that the Genscher-Colombo Plan, in its present form as an official declaration, does not in any way extend Commission participation in European political co-operation beyond what was decided in the London declaration of 1981, and, if so, does this mean that:

- the Commission may only take part as an observer
- the Commission may only put forward proposals in areas covered by the provisions of the Treaty of Rome
- the Commission may not, without specific authorization from the Council, incur expenditure for foreign policy or security policy purposes
- the Commission may not take part in meetings where purely EPC matters are to be discussed ?

18.5.1983

34. Question by Mr BØGH (H-182/83) <sup>(x)</sup>

Subject : EPC and the Council of Ministers

Will the Foreign Ministers explain what steps will be taken at future meetings of the Council of Ministers, the European Council, COREPER and working parties to ensure that EPC matters

- do not appear on the same agenda as matters coming under the Treaties
- are not discussed together with Treaty matters
- are not prepared together with Treaty matters
- are not financed in whole or in part out of the EC budget?

18.5.1983

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

35. Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-184/83)<sup>(x)</sup>

Subject : Economic aspects of security policy

Will the Foreign Ministers give a specific and detailed account of how the concept of 'the political and economic aspects of security policy' differs from other aspects of security and military policy, and will the Foreign Ministers confirm, in particular, that the following matters fall outside the economic and political aspects of security :

- arms production
- the arms trade
- the establishment of an arms agency
- matters dealt with in NATO
- matters which may affect Irish neutrality
- studies of defence problems
- nuclear missile deployment
- civil defence
- coastal surveillance?

18.5.1983

36. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-242/83)<sup>(x)</sup>

Subject: Soviet Union proposal for nuclear disarmament throughout Europe

Given that, in the event of a nuclear conflict, Europe and its peoples, who have already witnessed and suffered from two world wars, will be the first to be subjected to its catastrophic effects, what is the position of the Foreign Ministers towards the new peace proposal put forward by the Soviet Union for nuclear disarmament throughout Europe so that the peoples of Europe may be delivered once and for all from the nightmare of a nuclear holocaust?

20.6.1983

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

37. Question by Mr ADAMOU (H-243/83) (x)

Subject: Safety of N. Kianouri

The European Parliament's resolution on the sending of a Red Cross delegation to Iran (Doc. 1-418/83) calls on the Ministers to take steps to secure the safety of Mr N. Kianouri and others detained with him.

What measures do the Ministers intend to take in this direction?

20.6.1983

38. Question by Mr. FERGUSSON (H-282/83) \*

Subject : Co-operation between the embassies of the Ten in third countries

Does the document agreed by the Foreign Ministers on March 8th, relating to greater co-operation between the embassies of the Ten in third countries, envisage the eventual amalgamation of their missions when and where this is possible?

6.5.1983

\* Former Oral Question without debate (O-32/83), converted into a question for Question Time

39. Question by Mrs EWING (H-178/83)

Subject : Release of five Cuban citizens , together with their lawyers

Could the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation bring pressure to bear on Cuban Authorities to release from prison five Cuban citizens, together with their lawyers, who sought to establish a free trade union ?

27.5.1983

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

40. Question by Mr. HABSBURG (H-204/83)

Subject: Persecution of Jews in Nicaragua

Are the Foreign Ministers aware of the persecution of Jews by the Sandinist regime in Nicaragua (see B'nai B'rith report) and are they prepared, in their talks with the Sandinist government, to impress upon them that persecution of the Jews and, more generally, of religious communities and racial and national minorities, makes it impossible for the Community to justify the continuation of aid programmes for Nicaragua in the eyes of the European public?

9.6.1983

41. Question by Mr. KYRKOS (H-205/83)

Subject: Statements by Mr. GENSCHER concerning the Greek Presidency

Are the Foreign Ministers in agreement with the statement made by Mr. GENSCHER on 25.5.1983 concerning the Greek Presidency or do they take the view that they should provide some clarification of the remarks made by their President, Mr. GENSCHER, vis-à-vis a government which 'fully accepts its responsibilities' and certainly has, as the representative of a country, its own special approach to foreign policy? What are the precise implications of the suggestion that Greece will need a 'trial period' before finally assuming the Presidency?

8.6.1983

42. Question by Mr. PURVIS (H-254/83)

Subject : Parliament's resolution on the Iran-Iraq war

Following Parliament's urgent resolution of 19 May 1983 (1) urging the Community to offer its good offices in mediation for a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, what decision has been made by the EEC Foreign Ministers as to such a political initiative and what, if any, action has been taken ?

23.6.1983

(1) PV 15 of 19.5.1983 - PE 84.774

Question by Mr HERMAN (H-263/83)

Subject: Wave of political arrests in Haiti

In view of the deeply disturbing wave of arrests of members of the Christian Democrat opposition in Haiti in May of this year, particularly the arrest of one Christian Democrat member, the president of the order of lawyers, Mr Jean-Baptiste DUPLEX, a member of the League of Human Rights, well known for his defence of political and trade union leaders oppressed by the Haitian authorities - a situation even more disturbing since the person in question is aged over 65 and seriously ill - what initiatives do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation intend to take to assist political prisoners and, in particular, to safeguard the life and health of Mr J.B. DUPLEX, taking account both of the repeated promises of greater democracy in Haiti and the cooperation between the EEC and Haiti?

30.6.1983

Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-274/83)

Subject: Emigration of Ida NUDEL from the USSR

What action have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation taken on the resolution tabled by Mrs Ewing and other members and adopted by Parliament on the refusal by the Soviet authorities to grant an exit visa to Ida NUDEL, a Soviet Jew (Doc. 1-810/82). What was the result, if any, of their meeting and what do the ministers intend to do in the near future with regard to this matter?

5.7.1983

Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-287/83)

Subject: Withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan

Have the Ministers of the Ten been informed of the tenor of the indirect negotiations currently being conducted by Pakistan and representatives of the Government in Kabul; do they consider that they should encourage this diplomatic initiative by Pakistan, the aim of which is to achieve the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan; and do they not consider that the time has now come to recognize the Afghan resistance as a legitimate national liberation movement, as requested by the European Parliament (in its resolution of June 1982)?

5.7.1983

46. Question by Mr HÁNSCH (H-294/83)

Subject: Detention of the Turkish teacher, Sakir Bilgin

At the beginning of January, Sakir Bilgin, a Turkish teacher who had been working in primary and senior elementary schools in Cologne since 1978, was arrested in Turkey. He is being detained pursuant to the new Article 140 T of the Penal Code despite the fact that he was only exercising his right in Germany, as a member of the Education and Science Trade Union and of the Association of Turkish Teachers, to criticize the social and political situation in Turkey.

Are the Foreign Ministers prepared to make a determined effort to secure the release of Sakir Bilgin and what action do they intend to take?

7.7.1983

47. Question by Mr LAGAKOS (H-320/83)

Subject: The situation in Central America

In view of the positions adopted by the Ten on Central America, as expressed in the conclusions of the European Council summit in Stuttgart, what view do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation take of the recent decision by the President of the United States of America to set up a special commission on Central America headed by the former Secretary of State, Dr Kissinger?

What view do they take of the stance adopted by countries such as Honduras towards Nicaragua, given the dangers inherent in the area, and how do they intend to support the initiative of the Contadora group of countries which was favourably received by the Stuttgart summit?

9.7.1983

48. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-343/83)

Subject : USA military exercises in Honduras

In the light of US military exercises in Honduras, US provocative naval exercises off the coast of Central American countries and Mr Reagan's statements which pose a threat to the national independence and territorial integrity of Nicaragua and other countries in Central America and place an obstacle in the way of a political solution to the problem of Central America, what measures do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation intend to take to prevent another Vietnam with a view to ensuring peace in this troubled region and guaranteeing the right of the peoples of Central America to take their own decision on their future free from foreign interference.

19.8.1983

49. Question by Mrs DURY (H-352/83)

Subject: Acquisition and possession of firearms by private individuals

What stage has been reached in the work by the Ministers of the Interior and of Justice meeting in political cooperation as the 'Trevi Group' on harmonizing the legislation on the acquisition and possession of firearms by private individuals and on standardizing and imposing joint control over arms exports from one State to another?

30.8.1983





50. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-165/83) <sup>(x)</sup>

Subject: Obstacles to passage across frontiers

Has the Commission noted, in recent weeks, a growing number of obstacles to passage of both goods and persons across frontiers, and what is its response to this deteriorating situation?

19.5.1983

51. Question by Mrs MARTIN (H-188/83) <sup>(x)</sup>

Subject: Position of women working in family businesses without pay

Can the Commission inform Parliament of the action it has taken or plans to take in response to the call for:

- recognition of the occupational status of women working in family businesses without pay,
- a directive permitting the financing of replacement services in agriculture to enable women working in agriculture to be free to undergo training and participate in social life,

contained in the resolution of 11 February 1981<sup>1</sup>?

31.5.1983

<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 50, 9.3.1981

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

52. Question by Mr BORD (H-212/83) (x)

Subject: Lack of qualified engineers in the electronics industry

Following the communication from the Commission to the Council concerning new technologies and vocational training, could the Commission say whether it intends to take effective action to remedy the lack of highly-qualified electronics engineers in the Community and what measures it considers most appropriate for this purpose?

10.6.1983

53. Question by Mr GAUTHIER (H-225/83) (x)

Subject: EEC's nuclear programme

In view of the notion being propagated in some official circles - notably in France - that there is a danger of nuclear over-capacity, does the Commission not consider it urgently necessary to remind the Member States of the importance in terms of energy strategy of the Community completing its nuclear programme in accordance with the objectives for 1990 laid down by the Commission in its proposals to the Council, and also to stress the grave consequences of cutting back nuclear programmes?

8.6.1983

54. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-218/83) (x)

Subject: Pilot projects for coastal protection

In the summer of 1981, the Commission undertook to implement a coastal protection policy.

How long do the inhabitants of exposed coastal areas still have to wait before concrete pilot projects for coastal protection are started as proof of the Community's sincerity?

10.6.1983

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

55. Question by Mr WELSH (H-233/83) (x)

Subject: National assistance leading to an increase in nylon manufacturing capacity in Belgium

Is the Commission aware of the proposed agreement between the Belgian Government and the Belgian company Beaulieu under which the latter will acquire the fibre producer Fabelta and does it consider that this agreement respects the provisions of the Commission Directive of July 1977 renewed on 11 August 1981 which inter alia forbids state aids for the purpose of expanding fibre capacity?

16.6.1983

56. Question by Mr GONTIKAS (H-237/83) (x)

Subject: Inadmissible and deliberate distortion of facts through the press by the Athens Information Office

Does the Commission agree with the statements published by the Athens Information Office (in an article signed by A. Hatziantoniou) with regard to the intentions and aims of the New Democracy Government concerning Greece's accession to the EEC and, if not, what measures does it intend to take - or has it taken already - against those responsible for the publication of this insulting article against New Democracy?

16.6.1983

57. Question by Mr de FERRANTI (H-244/83) (x)

Subject : Abolition of Excise Duties which produce relatively little revenue

What action is the Commission proposing to take to abolish the duties on matches and lighters in Denmark, Ireland, Italy and the United Kingdom in view of the anomalous position as reported in the first issue of the "Kangaroo News" in February 1983 and the stated intent to abolish excise duties which produce relatively little revenue (Written Question No 280/82 in June 1982 (1) ?

20.6.1983 (1) OJ C 188, 22.7.82, p. 18

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

58. Question by Mr. LALOR (H-678/82)

Subject : EEC Cash for Ireland

The Irish Foreign Minister was given assurances last September that the Community would consider ways of investing extra EEC cash in Ireland to offset Ireland's contribution to EEC rebates for Britain. What steps have been taken to honour this pledge ?

4.1.1983

59. Question by Mr BALFE (H-156/83/rev.)

Subject : Food Advisory Committee

Is it true that the Food Advisory Committee to DG III continued to discuss the IDACE Code at its meeting on April 18 and 19 ? Further, is it true, as it appears, that DG III intends to proceed with a voluntary code reserving the Directive for some of the more technical elements of the WHO code ?

27.6.1983

60. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-161/83)

Subject: Parliament's resolution on the teaching of human rights in the European Community

Could the Commission really not bring itself to study carefully the resolution adopted by Parliament on 18 October 1982 and the explanatory statement attached thereto and, in its great wisdom, to make specific proposals to the Council, since the latter, in the statement made to Parliament by its President on 17 May 1983, seemed to indicate that such proposals from the Commission were essential?

19.5.1983

61. Question by Mr GEROKOSTOPOULOS (H-279/83) \*

Subject : Incomplete reporting to Greek public opinion of the results of the country's membership of the EEC

It was reported in the Greek press that the Greek Radio and Television Corporation (ERT) was ordered by the Government not to report the positive results of Greece's membership of the EEC.

Although a government spokesman did deny the report in the form in which it appeared, he confirmed it in substance by admitting that at a recent Cabinet meeting Ministers were ordered, when alluding to the results of membership, to avoid creating misleading impressions, not to announce the positive results only but the negative ones as well.

Will the Commission say:

1. if such a decision contributes to implementing and observing the Treaty of Rome;
2. if the procedure decided upon is in conformity with Community Directives and Regulations, which stipulate that when projects are being carried out with Community funding they should be widely reported to the public in the funded area;
3. if it proposes to take a stand on an action which, apart from anything else, is likely to disorient Greek public opinion on the subject of the country's membership of the EEC?

27.5.1983

\* Former Oral Question without debate (O-39/83), converted into a question for Question Time

62. Question by Mr BONDE (H-216/83)

Subject: Majority decisions in questions considered by one of  
the Member States to be of vital importance

In its series 'Samtidsorientering' (information about contemporary life), Topic 13: European Political Cooperation, the Commission writes that the Member States of the Community have agreed NOT to apply majority decisions in questions which are considered to be of vital importance by only one of the Member States.

Does the Commission agree with this view, as put to Danish school-children?

3.6.1983

63. Question by Mr VAN AERSSEN (H-207/83)

Subject: Conduct by French nationalized undertakings in breach of  
the Treaties

The nationalized undertaking AVION DASSAULT has informed the French dealers supplying it with office equipment that it will refuse to accept any foreign products in future. Similar open warnings, which are in breach of the Community Treaties, have also come from other nationalized undertakings among the French banks and large firms.

What steps is the Commission taking to put an end to these Treaty violations?

9.6.1983

Question by Mr WEDEKIND (H-346/83)\*

Subject: Probationary driving licences

In view of the increasing number of accidents caused by young people, does the Commission not think it would be a good idea for all new applicants to be issued in the first instance with a licence that is valid for a limited period only?

Does the Commission plan to take any action to this effect?

8.6.1983

\* Former Oral Question without debate (O-43/83), converted into a question for Question Time

Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-230/83)

Subject: Commission representation at Williamsburg

'Europe' of 30-31 May 1983 states that the Heads of State or Government meeting in Williamsburg 'devoted more time than ever in the past to those aspects of their cooperation which relate to security, and adopted a statement reiterating the West's determination to defend itself, but also to negotiate.'

Did the Commission's representatives take part in these talks? Did the Commission's representatives speak on these subjects and, if so, what did they say?

14.6.1983

Question by Mrs SCAMARONI (H-231/83)

Subject: Community fisheries policy

Would the Commission state what the consequences would be for the exploitation of marine resources of the enlargement of the Community to include Spain, in particular with regard to the Bay of Biscay, which is in danger of being overfished by Spanish fishermen?

14.6.1983

67. Question by Mr CLINTON (H-246/83)

Subject : Liberalisation of intra-Community trade in minced  
meat products

With the development of fast food retail outlets in many Member States and the growing demand for meat-based convenience foods such as uncooked beefburgers, sausages, reformed meats, etc., it is essential that the present obstacles to trade in these products be removed.

Can the Commission please say what steps it intends to take in order to remove the obstacles to free trade within the Community of minced meat products ?

21.6.1983

68. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-252/83)

Subject : Regional policy in the Member States

Will the Commission carry out a study to see whether Member States equally attempt, through de-centralisation of governmental functions and in their policy for the location of government offices, to follow policies consistent with proper economic development of the regions or whether they are encouraging centralisation of economic development on the one hand while spending "Regional funds" to deal with the consequences of this process ?

22.6.1983



69. Question by Mr KAZAZIS (H-255/83)

Subject: Financial Protocol EEC-Turkey

In the 1984 preliminary draft budget, the Commission has entered a figure of 10 million ECU in payment appropriations under chapter 9630, Third Financial Protocol with Turkey, and has also entered a 'p.m.' under chapter 9631, Fourth Financial Protocol with Turkey. However, taking advantage of a transfer facility from chapter 9632, Special Aid for Turkey, the Commission has also entered a new appropriation of 20 million ECU.

Would the Commission state whether the inclusion of these appropriations in the 1984 preliminary draft budget is consistent with the statements made by Mr THORN and Mr HAFERKAMP to the effect that arrangements under the protocols with Turkey would be frozen until there was a return to democracy in that country, and what evidence does the Commission possess that there will be a return to a real system of democracy in Turkey next year?

27.6.1983

70. Question by Mr KYRKOS (H-257/83)

Subject: Rich countries' views on the Regional Fund

The rich countries of the Community have expressed the view that the concept of geographical concentration of Regional Fund aid should be abandoned, that certain infrastructure projects should be excluded from Regional Fund financing and that more stringent criteria should be applied for granting aid.

To what extent does the Commission share these views and does it intend to give these proposals its firm backing, which also have the support of all Members of the European Parliament?

27.6.1983

71. Question by Mrs PHLIX (H-261/83)

Subject : Community policy in the coal sector

On 10 June 1983, the Commission adopted a number of proposals to promote a balanced policy for solid fuels providing, inter alia, for a cutback in Community production of some 40 million tons a year, representing 15% of current output.

To what extent does the Commission intend, in the event of the closure of mines considered to be non-competitive, to meet the demand for coal by means of additional imports or stepping up Community production and what is the Commission's position on the Community's increasing dependence on coal supplied by non-Member States?

29.6.1983

72. Question by Mr WARNER (H-264/83)

Subject: Propects of Community citizens in Greece

To ask the Commission whether certain actions taken by the Greek Authorities to hamper the enjoyment and use of his property by the owner of the Achmetaga Estate at Prokopion in Euboea contains an element of discriminatory action against a Community citizen which would enable the Commission to take up this matter with the Government of Greece in the context of other matters affecting the property of Community citizens which are at present under discussion?

1.7.1983

73. Question by Mr KALOYANNIS (H-276/83)

Subject : Community measures regarding the European housewife

Having regard to the important part played, and the services provided, by the European housewife in society and in the family, can the Commission tell us what measures have to date been taken or suggested by the Community to ensure that the position of the European housewife is covered in the legal, economic and social context in a similar way to that of the gainfully employed, given that, apart from anything else, the work she performs is unremunerated?

29.6.1983

74. Question by Mr COLLINS (H-266/83)

Subject: Healths care in the Member States

At its last meeting in November 1978, the Council of Health Ministers indicated its desire to promote better health care in the Member States. The Council requested the Commission to make suggestions for Community action in various spheres and to give such action priority. It did not, however, institute a procedure for effective monitoring of health services in the Member States.

Can the Commission therefore say to what extent the public is represented in the Health Authorities of the various Member States? If not, will they then take steps to provide such information?

4.7.1983

75. Question by Mr Gérard FUCHS (H-268/83)

Subject: Use of NCI 3 for the ACP states

Does the Commission not think that some of the appropriations available under NCI 3 should be available for the realization of industrial projects of mutual ACP/EEC interest on the territory of ACP states and is it willing, if necessary, to make proposals to the Council for a new regulation to this effect?

4.7.1983

76. Question by Mr CECOVINI (H-272/83)

Subject: Exclusion of the Appennine region of Emilia Romagna  
from the Community's integrated development  
programmes

Is it true that the Appennine region of Emilia Romagna  
is to be excluded from the Community's integrated development  
programmes and, if so, will the Commission reconsider  
its current guidelines in view of the serious consequences  
this would have for the forestry workers cooperatives,  
employment levels and the overall socio-economic fabric  
of this mountain region, where the trend towards exodus  
has only recently slowed down and where serious economic  
and social imbalances and hydrogeological problems still  
persist?

4.7.1983

77. Question by Mr HABSBURG (H-275/83)

Subject: Distortions in East-West trade

Does the Commission not consider that the numerous indications  
of politically motivated distortion of competition by COMECON  
in East-West trade provide it with an opportunity to make  
proposals on dealing more effectively and more quickly than in  
the past with the monopolistic practices of the state-trading  
countries?

5.7.1983

78. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-277/83)

Subject : Political implications of the net contributions by  
Member states to the Community Budget

In view of the political implications of the net contributions by Member  
states to the Community Budget, what is the precise method used to calculate  
this figure for each Member state; what categories of expenditure and  
revenue are incorporated in the calculation and what consideration is  
given to the net benefit to Member Nations of Intra-Community Trading?

5.7.1983

79. Question by Mr COTTRELL (H-288/83)

Subject : Long distance express and international buses.

Alarm has been caused by a number of serious accidents throughout the Community concerning long distance express and international buses. The view is widespread that existing safety regulations may not be sufficient, particularly with regard to speed of the vehicles and hours spent at the wheel by their drivers. There appears to be evidence of lack of supervision of drivers' hours, inadequate controls at frontiers and lack of enforcement of existing speed limits. Will the Commission state a response to these concerns, bearing in mind that it will not be satisfactory to state that enforcement, as such, is a subject for competent national authorities : the question is, how adequate are the existing regulations and do they require re-enforcement ?

5.7.1983

80. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-290/83)

Subject : U.S. Unitary Tax

In view of the continuing use by many States of the USA of imposing taxation of companies on their world wide profits (ie the unitary tax system) and the recent confirmation by the Supreme Court of the USA of this practice what action does the Commission now propose to take to alleviate this double taxation of a number of European operations ?

6.7.1983

81. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-293/83)

Subject: Transit through countries of the European Community  
of Swiss radioactive waste

The Swiss Government has decided to proceed with the dumping of 1200 tonnes of radioactive waste in the Atlantic in 1983 regardless of an international resolution prohibiting any such action, and despite the fact that the European Parliament has called for an end to such dumping.

Since it is certain that the radioactive waste passes through one or more Community countries before being loaded on to the British vessel from which it is discharged, could the Commission state whether the transport of Swiss radioactive waste by road or railway complies with the safety requirements imposed by the Community in this field?

7.7.1983

82. Question by Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-295/83)

Subject : The 1978 Davignon plan

Would the Commission state whether the 1978 Davignon plan to reduce synthetic Fibre production has been effective. Will he state what action he intends to take to force those Member countries which have not reduced their production as required in the 78 plan to do so in 1983 ?

7.7.1983

Question by Miss QUIN (H-300/83)

Subject : Shipbuilding

When will the Commission introduce a Directive, to supersede the 5th Shipbuilding Directive, in order to provide effective measures for European shipbuilding to survive the present crisis as was requested by the European Parliament in its debate on shipbuilding at the February part-session of the European Parliament?

8.7.1983

4. Question by Mr SIMMONDS (H-301/83)

Subject : Electricity and gas prices in the Community

In the light of the report in Usine Nouvelle, n. 13, of 31st March 1983, that the aluminium producer, Pechiney-Ugine-Kuhlmann, is being supplied with electricity at a special low price, to what extent is competition among many industrial energy consumers distorted by the lack of transparency in electricity and gas prices?

11.7.1983

5. Question by Mr RYAN (H-283/83)

Subject : Computer compatibility

Having regard to the public interest which requires the widest possibility of connecting into computer systems processors and other plug compatible elements, how soon will the Commission clearly define and effectively ensure timely provision of adequate interface information by computer manufacturers to their competitors ?

13.7.1983

86. Question by Mrs PRUVOT (H-305/83)

Subject: Change in Community wines policy

Can the Commission provide details concerning the arguments advanced by the United States in negotiations with the Community to justify the export of wines which do not conform to European standards?

15.7.1983

87. Question by Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU (H-306/83)

Subject: Increase in Yugoslav transit dues

In May this year the Yugoslav Government decided to triple the transit dues on lorries in transit through its territory.

What steps has the Commission taken or does it propose to take in response to that country's decision, which has a considerable negative impact on the transport of agricultural and other products from Greece to the EEC Member-States and vice versa, bearing in mind that Yugoslavia is linked to the European Community by a special agreement?

18.7.1983

88. Question by Mrs CASTLE (H-307/83)

Subject : Regulations for coach and lorry drivers

What steps has the Commission taken together with member governments to tighten up on the enforcement of the regulations on driving and rest periods for coach and lorry drivers following the recent tragic accidents on the roads of the Community ?

18.7.1983



89. Question by Mr von WOGAU (H-308/83)

Subject : Exemption from customs duty on fuels imported in private cars travelling within the Community

Is there a Community regulation conferring exemption from customs duty on fuels imported in petrol cans carried by private cars travelling within the Community, and, if not, what has so far prevented a Community regulation being adopted?

Does the Commission consider that the different rules applied in Member States - in Great Britain, Ireland and Italy, fuel carried in petrol cans is not exempt from duty at all, while in Belgium only five litres and in Denmark, Germany, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands ten litres are exempt - are the right way to promote travel within the Community?

18.7.1983

90. Question by Mrs NIELSEN (H-310/83)

Subject : Harmonization of postal charges within the Community

What does the Commission propose to do to harmonize postal charges within the Community, and does not the Commission consider that the present discriminatory treatment has a distorting effect on competition and is incompatible with the plans for an internal market?

There are significant variations in the rules in force for letters weighing over 20g and postal packets, depending on whether they are being sent to addresses in Denmark or to the other countries in the Community.

20.7.1983

91. Question by Mr KELLETT-BOWMAN (H-311/83)

Subject : "Resin Based Emulsion Paper Sizes"

Is the Commission satisfied that free competition, pursuant to Article 85 of the EEC Treaty, exists in the Community for "resin based emulsion paper sizes"?

21.7.1983

92. Question by Mr EYRAUD (H-315/83)

Subject: Sale of cereals to the USSR under an agreement between the USSR and the USA signed in October 1975 for a period of five years and extended by two years in 1981

The USSR has undertaken to buy a minimum of 6m tonnes of cereals per year from the USA. This agreement expires on 30 September 1983. According to press agency reports, the negotiations between the American and Soviet delegations aimed at reaching a new agreement have come to nothing.

According to the same sources, the Soviet Union 'would like to diversify its sources of supplies'.

This being the case, has the Commission taken this opportunity to compensate for the markets lost in the Middle East? If so, has it begun, or invited the Member States to begin, negotiations with the Soviet Union in this area, and what stage have they reached; if not, why not?

21.7.1983

93. Question by Mr PROVAN (H-316/83)

Subject: Butter concessionary schemes

When will the Commission consider extension of the various butter concessionary schemes so that such users as the confectionery industry could gain some benefit, as in the past they have been good customers?

22.7.1983

94. Question by Mr LAGAKOS (H-319/83)

Subject: Road transport and transit problems

Could the Commission tell me if it intends to submit proposals aimed at solving the problems experienced by transport traffic in transit (quantitative restrictions and monetary charges) and, if so, when it intends to submit these proposals to the Council?

2.8.1983

95. Question by Mr Dieter ROGALLA (H-322/83)

Subject: Identity checks at internal borders

What is the Commission's attitude to the assertion by Member States that the progressive abolition of identity checks at the EC's internal borders would entail a number of encroachments into sensitive areas (e.g. internal security, drugs, immigration policy, weapons, etc.)? Does the Commission possess any statistics, either of its own or from the Member States, which could be gone through and assessed - to the extent that enough staff is available for the job - and could it then compare the results with, say, similar material obtained from the USA or the Nordic Passport Union?

9.8.1983

96. Question by Mr DAVERN (H-325/83)

Subject : EEC survey on the british flour milling industry's price policy in respect of the Irish market

Last February the Commission announced that it was "currently looking into the possibilities of starting a survey on the British flour milling industry's price policy in respect of the Irish market". (1) Will the Commission now state what stage this survey has reached and what further action, if any, it proposes to take as a result of its examination?

9.8.1983

(1) H-715/82 Debates of the European Parliament No. 1-294/83 of 9.2.83

97. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-326/83)

Subject: Introduction of quantitative restrictions for imports of cut flowers from certain third countries

Given the increasing problems which, as it has itself acknowledged, face the horticultural sector, especially in the Mediterranean regions does the Commission not agree that, if the Community is to enjoy effective protection from imports from certain third countries, quantitative restrictions on imported flowers should be introduced at Community and regional level in the form of annual quotas for certain major suppliers, together with origin control procedures making it compulsory for the most sensitive products to be accompanied by a certificate of origin at the time of importation?

9.8.1983

98. Question by Mr GERONIMI (H-327/83)

Subject: Fuel prices

Filling stations belonging to certain chains are still offering motorists considerable discounts on petrol. Sometimes reductions of several centimes per litre can be obtained. In July 1983, the French Government threatened fuel distributors offering unfair discount levels with sanctions, since independent filling stations felt themselves subject to 'unfair competition'. It is somewhat surprising that, on 1 July 1983, the Tribunal de Marseille should have handed down a moderately-worded ruling on the question of illegal agreements between the big oil companies and on the matter of 'protection of the large monopolies by the french government'.

Is it the Commission's view that the Treaty of Rome does not apply to fuel products?

9.8.1983

99. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-336/83)

Subject : Racist discrimination in France

Will the Commission take action against the French authorities who refused British citizens entry when on a day trip from London to Calais, simply because they were black, in order to ensure that this deplorable act of racism never happens again?

17.8.1983

100. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-340/83)

Subject: Lomé III and human rights

What stance will the Commission adopt in the negotiations for the renewal of the Convention of Lomé on the inclusion of the concept of 'respect for human dignity' and in view of account being taken of the preparatory talks on the matter, what results does it consider will be achieved?

19.8.1983

101. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-342/83)

Subject : Exports of Greek wines to Member States of the EEC

Can the Commission state:

- having regard to the level of exports to the Member States of the EEC of high quality Greek wines with a high alcohol content (the export figure for 1980 crop was 120,000 tonnes, for the 1981 crop 40,000 tonnes and for the 1982 crop zero):
- whereas it is about to issue a regulation establishing import quotas from third countries which will also apply to Greece,

what measures it intends to take to reverse this situation with regard to exports of Greek wines to the Member States of the EEC?

19.8.1983

2. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-344/83)

Subject : Imports of apricots into Greece

Although apricots are generally in short supply in the EEC and this year's production in Greece will reach between 120,000 and 130,000 tonnes, for the first time Greek producers have already ploughed in approximately 40,000 tonnes and there is a prospect of this figure reaching 50,000 tonnes while the Commission has at the same time approved import quotas for apricots from Israel, Tunisia and Morocco which are to be applied even in Greece. What measures does the Commission intend to take to protect Greek production and to promote the export of apricots from Greece which is one of the major producers?

19.8.1983

13. Question by Mr HARRIS (H-347/83)

Subject : Western mackerel stock

What steps are being taken to protect the western mackerel stock in view of the latest warnings of scientists about the continuation of virtually unrestricted fishing and why, in view of these warnings, has the TAC been increased to about one third of the estimated entire stock, and what is happening about the proposal for an extended "box" from which bulk catchers would be excluded ?

26.8.1983

104. Question by Mr VON HASSEL (H-349/83)

Subject: Deterioration of the ecological balance of the  
Baltic Sea

The deterioration of the ecological situation of the Baltic Sea is as dramatic as that of the North Sea. Since part of the Baltic coast is Community territory, would the Commission state whether it is aware of the dangers of pollution and 'dumping' in the Baltic Sea, how it assesses the situation and, if it shares my concern, what steps it is taking to achieve effective solutions by giving priority to joint action by coastal states, including those which do not belong to the Community?

29.8.1983

105. Question by Mr COLLINS (H-350/83)

Subject : Lead in petrol and the enlargement of the EEC

The current levels for lead in petrol in Spain are 0.65 g/l (98 RON), 0.48 (90 RON) and 0.635 in Portugal. These levels are higher than the 0.40 maximum permitted level in the 1978 directive on lead in petrol.

Has the Commission received requests from the Spanish and Portuguese authorities for any exemptions or periods of adaptation to the directive and if so, what is the outcome of the discussions?

29.8.1983