

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983-1984

14 November 1983

DOCUMENT 1-1015/83

ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME

on 15 and 16 November 1983

PE 86.634

1. Question by Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU (H-273/83) ^(x)

Subject: Immediate implementation of the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes

What specific steps does the Council of Ministers propose to take in the immediate future to put into effect the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes proposed by the Commission, the implementation of which would be a particularly timely move for the development of the most backward and disadvantaged regions of the Community?

4.7.83

2. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-289/83) ^(x)

Subject : Mediterranean Monk Seal

In the light of the Parliament's resolutions on this subject and the action taken by the Council on the Harp and Hooded seal, what action has been taken to reverse the deteriorating position of the Mediterranean Monk Seal ?

5.7.83

3. Question by Mrs EWING (H-389/83) ^(x)

Subject : Meeting of the Council of Fisheries Ministers

Will the President-in-Office comment on the outcome of the last meeting of the Council of Fisheries Ministers ?

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

4.

Question by Mr KALOYANNIS (H-440/83) (x)

Subject : The combating of terrorism in Greece

Approximately three years ago the Greek Parliament, desirous and concerned to prevent and stamp out terrorism, passed a law on terrorism which included provisions and judicial safeguards providing for severe penalties for those convicted of acts of terrorism. Despite the fact that the feeling of security in Greece has recently been shaken and the country is now pervaded by fear and uncertainty as a result of an increase and escalation of acts of terrorism, the perpetrators of which have managed to elude detection by the judicial authorities, the Greek press reports that the Minister of Justice of the Greek Socialist Government is tabling a bill revoking the existing law on terrorism or amending it through the introduction of milder provisions.

In view of this situation and the last three notorious crimes committed in Greece, namely the murder of Mr Georgis Athanasiadis, the editor of the daily 'Vradini' who was dedicated to democracy, the attempted mass murder of New Democracy cadres headed by Mr Paliokrassas, the Secretary-General of the Parliamentary Group, and the bomb attack on foreign diplomats in Psychico, Athens, can the Council of Ministers ask the Greek Government - in view of its concern for a common approach in dealing with the problems of law and order and terrorism - how, given the circumstances described above, the Greek Government can justify the introduction of milder anti-terrorism laws, and duly inform the European Parliament of the outcome?

20.4.1983

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-24/83), converted into a question for question time

5. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-228/83)

Subject: Checks at internal frontiers

Is the Council aware that every day citizens of Community Member States going for walks on the so-called 'green' internal frontiers (between Member States) are being harassed by officials and made to pay hefty fines for technical infringements of obscure and out-dated regulations, and what does the Council propose to do to stop it?

14.6.1983

6. Question by Mr GEROKOSTOPOULOS (H-447/83) (x)

Subject : Compensation for victims of decolonization in line with the resolution adopted by the C.E.S.O.M.

It is a known fact that more than four million Europeans (including Belgian, French, Greek, Italian and Dutch nationals) were victims of decolonization and suffered the consequences of the Second World War.

Their problems and demands have been repeatedly formulated and aired in many different quarters by the organization representing them, the 'EUROPEAN CONFEDERATION OF VICTIMS OF DECOLONIZATION' (C.E.S.O.M.).

On 2 and 3 May 1983 the C.E.S.O.M. organized a meeting in Athens, which adopted a resolution - a copy of which is attached - protesting at the Community's failure to concern itself with their problems.

Does the Council intend addressing itself to the above-mentioned problem - which concerns so many million inhabitants of the Community - and seeking means of solving it?

30.6.1983

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-51/83), converted into a question for question time

7. Question by Mr LALOR (H-324/83)

Subject : Pilot EEC transport and programme

Will the Council give due reason why at its meeting of Transport Ministers in Luxembourg on 7 June 1983 it failed to reach a decision to implement the proposal to provide vital aid worth £ 700,000 and £ 2.2 million for two road schemes in Ireland, namely the Wexford Ring road and the Dublin Airport link road?

9.8.1983

8. Question by Mr SEELER (H-448/83) (x)

Subject : Extension of EEC sanctions against the Soviet Union

In its answer to my Written Question No. 2020/82¹ the Council fails to answer my specific questions directly. I would therefore ask the Council again;

1. What practical effects on Soviet policy towards Poland have been achieved up to now by the economic sanctions imposed in March 1982?
2. What practical effects on Soviet policy towards Poland does the Council expect to achieve with a continuation of these sanctions?
3. If the Council has been unable to ascertain or is not expecting any practical effects on the Soviet attitude towards Poland, what objectives is it pursuing with the continuation of economic sanctions against the Soviet Union?

23.8.1983

¹OJ No. C 197, 25 July 1983, p. 6

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-68/83), converted into a question for question time

9. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-374/83)

Subject: Responsibility to Parliament of COREPER

The President-in-office reminded Parliament on 5 July that COREPER was an organ of the Council and was responsible to it.

Will he now seek the agreement of the Council to publish Press Releases, similar to those of the Council but containing more detail, to inform the European Parliament and the public of the course of discussions in COREPER and of the decisions taken by it?

15.9.83

10. Question by Mr EISMA (H-422/83)

Subject: Transfrontier effects of power stations

It would appear from the Council's and Commission's answers to Written Questions 64/83 and 65/83¹ by Mrs Krouwel-Vlam that the 1976 proposal for a regulation² on the introduction of a Community consultation procedure in respect of power stations likely to affect the territory of another Member State is still under discussion because one Member State is strongly opposed to it.

Could the Council say which Member State this is, what its objections are, how the Council intends to resolve this difficulty and why the Council should not perhaps reach a decision by a qualified majority?

29.9.1983

¹ OJ No. C 189 of 14.7.1983, p. 35

² Doc. COM(76) 576 final and OJ No. C 149 of 15.6.1979

11. Question by Mr MARCK (H-425/83)

Subject: Community rules on agricultural products

In October 1982 the European Parliament adopted a resolution by a large majority on the strengthening of controls on the application of Community rules on agricultural products (Doc. 1-528/82).

Why has the Council not taken action on the Commission's proposal for a regulation (COM(82) 899)?¹

Are there not enough examples of fraud and abuse?

29.9.1983

¹ OJ No. L 381 of 31.12.1982, p. 2

12. Question by Mr ANTONIOZZI (H-429/83)

Subject : Agricultural protection and intervention mechanisms

Is it the intention of the Council to inflict irreparable damage on Italian farms with initiatives which would virtually transform the European common agricultural market into a free trade area owing to the radical and progressive dismantling of the protection and intervention mechanisms?

It is particularly requested that the olive oil subsidies be maintained for the benefit of economically weak and socially disadvantaged areas, in accordance with the fundamental principles enshrined in the Community Treaties.

3.10.83

13. Question by Mr OUZOUNIDIS (H-446/83)

Subject : Unacceptable discrimination against immigrants in the form of a special motorcar insurance tariff payable by foreign workers in the FRG

According to press reports, German motor insurance companies intend to introduce, at the latest from the beginning of 1984, a special car insurance tariff payable by foreign workers and particularly Turks, Greeks and Yugoslavs. The premiums to be paid by foreigners (Auslandertarif) would be up to 50% higher than those paid by German citizens.

The German car insurance companies have submitted a request for approval of this special tariff for foreigners to the responsible German state department (Bundesaufsichtsamt). This unacceptable discrimination against (European) foreigners and, particularly, against those from southern Europe is being practised by the insurance companies on the grounds that these persons cause more accidents than German citizens.

What measures does the Council intend to take to protect foreign citizens living and working in Germany from this kind of discrimination, which is creating a climate of fear and fuelling racism in Europe, and what measures does it intend to take to prevent such action being taken in the future?

11.10.83

14. Question by Mrs WEBER (H-452/83)

Subject: Environmental protection measures

What preparations has the Council made to obtain a decision during the Athens summit on implementing the environmental protection measures announced at the Stuttgart summit, in particular with regard to combating transfrontier air pollution and its consequences (the death of forests)?

13.10.1983

15. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-454/83)

Subject : Agricultural surpluses

Is the Council pleased that it is its own actions over recent years in the annual fixing of prices under the common agricultural policy that are the main cause of agricultural surpluses?

13.10.1983

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

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

17. Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-464/83)

Subject : The Economic aspects of security

The Danish Government has declared that the economic aspects of security do not cover matters concerning cooperation on arms in the Community. However, during the European Parliament's debate on the Fergusson report on 11 October, Commissioner Narjes referred to this very section of the Stuttgart Declaration as a background to discussion of arms production and arms sales.

Does the Council take the view that 'the economic aspects of security' can in any way refer to plans for cooperation on arms production in the Community?

17.10.1983

18. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-468/83)^(x)

Subject: Preparations for the Athens Summit

Can the Council state whether its discussions to date in preparation for the Athens Summit have been making satisfactory progress as regards the future financing of the Community and the creation of new policies?

19.10.83

(x) Will not be called if item 260 is confirmed on the agenda

19. Question by Mr WELSH (H-470/83)

Subject : Council of Trade Ministers

Following the opaque answer given to my written question 778/83 will the Presidency put the question of regular meetings of Trade Ministers on the agenda for the next meeting of the Council (General Affairs) ?

19.10.1983

20. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-474/83)

Subject: Human rights - Lomé Convention

Does the Council wish to comment on the fact that it has reputedly instructed the Commission to try to include the human rights question in the negotiations on the future Lomé Convention, a welcome decision on which it is to be congratulated?

19.10.1983

21. Question by Mr TYRRELL (H-486/83)

Subject : Council Directive 83/351/EEC⁽¹⁾ on air pollution by gases
from engines from motor vehicles, including gases
from compression engines

Council Directive 83/351/EEC makes specific reference to
Article 100/EEC, the Article under which the Directive was made.

Article 100 expressly provides that the European Parliament
be consulted if the implementation of the Directive involves
the amendment of legislation in any Member State.

The European Parliament, in its Opinion (OJ C 184 of 11.7.1983, p.131)
expressly stated that there be included in this Directive
provisions requiring the opinion of Parliament in the event
of the Commission making more than merely technical amendments
to the Directive. Instead, the Council has removed the
Parliament's right of consultation in this area.

Can the Council explain why it has so deliberately removed
the right of Parliament to consultation, and does it not
regard this as an abrogation of the spirit of the Treaty
of Rome?

24.10.1983

(1) O.J. L197 of 20.7.1983, p.1

22. Question by Sir Peter VANNECK (H-501/83)

Subject : Supplies of Australian uranium ore to the European
Community

If the Australian Government succumbs to pressure for the
abrogation of uranium ore supply contracts to Community
electricity undertakings, what steps will the Council take
in conjunction with the Commission in order to ensure that
contracts are honoured ?

27.10.1983

23. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-506/83)

Subject: Facilitating the participation of migrants in the elections to the European Parliament

Owing to rising unemployment, the worsening economic crisis and other factors, migrant workers and their families will experience extremely severe problems in travelling to their countries of origin in order to exercise their right to vote in the elections to the European Parliament.

What measures does the Council propose to take to facilitate their travel and does it propose to make sufficient resources available from the Community budget so that the majority of migrants will not be compelled to abstain from voting?

28.10.1983

24. Question by Mrs SCHLEICHER (H-507/83)

Subject: Environmental impact studies

Can the Council indicate what progress has been achieved in its discussions on the Commission's proposal for a directive on environmental impact studies, which major problems are still preventing early adoption of the proposal and what prospects it sees for adoption at the next meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Environment?

28.10.83

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

25. Question by Mrs DE MARCH (H-467/83) (x) (xx)

Subject: Extradition requests addressed by the Turkish
Military Junta to the governments of the Ten

The Turkish military junta has addressed a number of requests for extradition to the governments of several Community countries. The ten Member States are, however, aware of the constant systematic violations of human rights in Turkey, a country where arbitrary imprisonment or imprisonment for expressing opinions contrary to the regime is widespread and people are frequently sentenced to death or tortured. Almost 100,000 persons are thought to be in prison in Turkey.

Turkey is, however, a signatory to the European Convention on Human Rights and has been linked to the Community by an association agreement since 1963.

Do the Foreign Ministers not agree that it is urgent and imperative to adopt a common position on the rejection or blocking of the requests by the Turkish military junta for the extradition of political refugees until such time as individual rights and freedoms are once again respected in Turkey?

5.7.1983.

(x) Former oral question with debate (0-55/83), converted into a question for question time

(xx) Priority pursuant to the enlarged Bureau decision on 12.10.1983

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

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 ?

27.05.1983

27. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-339/83) (x)

Subject : European Companies in South Africa

A report has been published in a British newspaper, The Observer, stating that the following companies in South Africa are breaking the E.E.C. Code of Conduct, by paying wages below even the E.E.C.'s rather modest minimum recommendations.

British Electric Traction.

Quinton Hazell (Of which the British Prime Minister's husband is a director).

Dunlop.

GKN.

Lonhro.

Low & Bonar.

Turner & Newall.

Wimpey.

Do the Foreign Ministers propose to take any action to remedy this disgraceful state of affairs?

17.8.1983

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

28. Question by Mr ADAMOU (H-341/83)(x)

Subject : Heinous policy of the Evren junta

Two Turkish prisoners, Mehmet Demirtzan and Hasan Tzan, who were on hunger strike have died from exhaustion and continual torture in the prisons of Istanbul. Thousands of others are continuing the hunger strike, which began on 8 July in the prisons of Istanbul and spread to prisons in Tsanakale, Malatya, Diyanbakir and the Black Sea, demanding an end to torture and better living conditions. What measures do the Foreign Ministers intend to take to put an end to the torture of prisoners and save the lives of the hunger strikers in Turkey, having particular regard to the steadily growing movement throughout Europe in support of the hunger strikers and condemning the Turkish junta of Evren which suppresses all basic human rights?

19.8.83

29. 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

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

30. Question by Sir Peter VANNECK (H-393/83) (x)

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

In view of the importance to economic and social life in all Member States of oil supplies from the Middle East, has the time come for member states to share the burden in finance, material and men of protecting sea lanes for oil tankers bringing oil to Ireland, Denmark, Britain, Netherlands, Germany, France, Luxembourg, Italy and Greece, only two member states bearing this burden in 1983 through the deployment of naval vessels in the Straits of Hormuz ?

22.9.1983

31. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-411/83) (x)

Subject: Pressures on the Greek Government to determine its foreign policy

Can the Ministers meeting in political cooperation say to what degree 'political cooperation' is based on the principle of unanimity and whether it is possible only when there is unanimity of opinion among the Ten; and if it is so because there are such vehement reactions to the Greek standpoints on the Boeing affair from the partners in 'political cooperation' themselves?

28.9.1983

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

32. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-413/83) (x)

Subject: Unacceptable acts of war by the USA in Lebanon

Since the beginning of the second half of September American forces have been intervening directly in the civil war in Lebanon. These actions by the USA go clearly beyond the bounds and the original aims of the multinational force, which was set up to prevent clashes between Israeli and Arab forces, constitute foreign intervention in Lebanon's internal affairs, hit other countries in the region, such as Syria, and generate risks of a more widespread flare-up in the region. The USA's unacceptable acts of war have met with direct and indirect criticism from the governments of EEC Member States such as France, Italy, Greece and others.

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation say what specific measures they are going to take to condemn and discourage American military intervention in Lebanon, which is clearly outside the framework of the EEC's Middle East policy, and to secure the immediate withdrawal of the multinational force, as called for by the National Salvation Front of Lebanon?

28.9.1983

33. Question by Mr HABSBURG (H-313/83)

Subject: Increase in the number of Cuban mercenaries in Angola

Do the Ministers agree that the evacuation of Cuban mercenaries from Angola is a precondition for genuine Namibian independence, since experience shows that failure to do so will undeniably expose this weak country to the danger of unwarranted intervention and even military aggression?

21.7.1983

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

34. Question by Mr LAGAKOS (H-462/83)

Subject: Problems of Central America

Can the Foreign Ministers state what developments have taken place in Central America, particularly in the light of the meeting of the troika with the Contadora group during the recent UN meeting in New York?

9.8.83

35. Question by Mr KYRKOS (H-380/83)

Subject: Extradition of Turkish opponents to the Evren dictatorship

Can the Council of Ministers meeting in political cooperation state whether they will convey to the German Government their opposition to its decision to extradite to Turkey immigrants wanted by the authorities in Ankara? The German Government's decision constitutes not only support for the Ankara regime at the very time when the Evren dictatorship is taking new measures to suppress freedom of the press and political parties but also represents a violation of the fundamental principles of democracy and humanity.

29.8.1983

36. Question by Sir Fred WARNER (H-428/83)

Subject : Terrorist Attack at Bologna Station

In view of reports of the escape of Licio Gelli who was detained in connection with the bomb attack in Bologna Station in October 1980 in which eighty people were killed, can the Foreign Ministers' meeting in political cooperation say what cooperative action has been taken by other member states, if any, to assist the Italian Government in bringing the perpetrators to justice ?

30.09.1983

37. Question by Mr TYRRELL (H-444/83)

Subject : Decolonisation of the Baltic States

What progress can the Conference of Foreign Ministers report in pursuing the request of the European Parliament for the decolonisation of the Baltic States to be placed on the agenda of the United Nations sub-committee on Decolonisation? (report by Dr. Habsburg, Doc. 1-656/82)

11.10.1983

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

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

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

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?

19.10.83

40. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-484/83)

Subject : Establishment of a permanent secretariat for
European Political Cooperation

As it is now two years since "a small team of officials seconded from preceding and succeeding presidencies" was, under the London Report on European Political Cooperation (1), put at the disposition of the Presidency, what discussions have the Foreign Ministers held regarding the possibility of developing this team into a permanent secretariat for European Political Cooperation; and what obstacles prevent the establishment of such a secretariat ?

21.10.1983

(1) Supplement 3/81 to the Bulletin of the EEC, p.14

Question by Lord BETHELL (H-489/83)

Subject : The destiny of Jarmak Lukjanow

On October 11th the Foreign Ministers were asked in the European Parliament what action they had taken over Parliament's resolution of September 15th about Jarmak Lukjanow, a Belgian citizen presently under sentence of death in the Soviet Union. The President-in-Office replied that the Ten "shall pursue the course they judge most appropriate under present conditions". Will the President-in-Office now clarify this answer and tell the European Parliament what action he has taken in this extremely urgent matter?

24.10.1983

42. Question by Mr BALFE (H-490/83)

Subject : Tamil minority in Sri Lanka

To ask the Foreign Ministers whether they have received any representations about the treatment of the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka and what response they have made?

25.10.1983

43. Question by Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK (H-510/83)

Subject: The disappearance in Africa of nationals of four Member States

On 2 July 1983 Jan-Willem Baudouin (Belgium), Trix Oosthuyzen (Netherlands), Torven Augustinus (Denmark) and Nodele Delany (Ireland) set out from Mpulungu in Zambia on a sailing trip on Lake Tanganyika, leaving their luggage and passports behind in Mpulungu. On that day, the powerful Kapata wind was blowing in a north-easterly direction, i.e. towards the Tanzanian border, which is not far from Mpulungu. The four have been missing since 2 July 1983.

What approaches have the Ministers made to Tanzania and Zambia, which are both signatories to the Lomé Convention, to try to locate these people and with what results?

28.10.1983

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

44.

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?

5.7.83

45.

Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-285/83) (x)

Subject: Teaching of human rights in the Community

Will President Thorn, as the Member of the Commission responsible for cultural affairs and education, attempt to persuade his colleagues of the desirability of drawing up proposals for submission to the Council on the basis of the report adopted by the European Parliament on 18 October 1982 on the teaching of human rights in the European Community?

Is the teaching of human rights, particularly in civil service, military and police colleges, not considered sufficiently important to justify action by the Commission?

5.7.83

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

46. Question by Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-296/83)^(x)

Subject : Unfair trading practices

Would the Commission state the average length of time taken from the making of complaints of unfair trading practices to decisions being reached by DG 4 in 1980, 1981, 1982 and the longest and shortest time taken in those years.

7.07.1983

47. Question by Miss QUIN (H-300/83) ^(x)

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?

8.7.83

48. Question by Mr GERONIMI (H-329/83)^(x)

Subject: Pilot project for an operating subsidy for fares on ferries to Corsica

Following the adoption of the Harris report on the peripheral maritime regions and islands, will the Commission be putting forward appropriate proposals for a pilot project for operating subsidies for fares on ferries to Corsica?

9.8.83

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

49. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-330/83) (x)

Subject : Sunday Trading Laws

In which member nations of the Community, is Sunday trading forbidden or severely restricted by law; will the Commission consider harmonising legislation to prevent this type of restriction to free trade and customer choice?

9.8.83

50. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-338/83) (x)

Subject : European Companies in South Africa

A report has been published in a British newspaper, The Observer, stating that the following companies in South Africa are breaking the E.E.C. Code of Conduct, by paying wages below even the E.E.C.'s rather modest minimum recommendations.

British Electric Traction.

Quinton Hazell (Of which the British Prime Minister's husband is a director).

Dunlop.

GKN.

Lonhro.

Low & Bonar.

Turner & Newall.

Wimpey.

Does the Commission propose to take any action to remedy this disgraceful state of affairs?

17.8.1983

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

51. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-363/83)(x)

Subject: Imported polyethylene material

During 1982 Commission External Trade statistics show that Benelux imported 1984 tonnes of polyethylene material of less than 3 metres in length and bags from Taiwan against an agreed quota of 48 tonnes. Allowing for temporary imports for processing and re-export, the figure is still 816 tonnes or 1700 per cent of the agreed quota. What action is the Commission taking to rectify these excesses which are damaging to EEC producers?

13.9.83

52. Question by Mrs EWING (H-388/83) (x)

Subject : Fishery negotiations with Spain

Will the Commission comment on recent progress made in fishery negotiations with Spain ?

20.9.83

(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 GEROKOSTOPOULOS (H-281/83) *

Subject: Greek edition of the 1980-1981 annual report of
Eurydice

In the 1980/1981 annual report of 'Eurydice' (French edition), the end of the chapter headed 'Thèmes et répartition de l'intérêt' states: 'the Guide to school systems applying in Community member countries, which was to be published at the end of 1981, does not include any information about the Greek educational system; the Commission, however, will take the necessary steps to fill that gap'.

The same report also states, in the chapter on 'Effectifs et nouvelles unités', that 'work to establish a national information unit in Greece is proceeding satisfactorily'.

Can the Commission say:

1. If it has taken any steps and, if so, what steps it has taken, to fill the gap noted in the 'Guide to school systems etc.' as regards Greece (cf first paragraph);
2. If the national information unit has now been set up by Greece, and if it is operating, either in experimental or in fully-realized form, satisfactorily?

26.5.1983

* Former oral question without debate (O-38/83) converted into a question for question time.

54.

Question by Mr WEDEKIND (H-364/83) *

Subject : Helicopter crash caused by purifying agent

In September 1982, an American helicopter crashed near Mannheim in the Federal Republic of Germany. After investigations lasting several months, it appears that the accident was caused by a standard oil purifying agent that blocked the helicopter's oil jets. This oil contains minute particles of walnut shells.

Does the Commission know whether this lubricant, which is common in the USA, is also used in the Member States of the Community, in particular for passenger aircraft? Does the Commission agree that the product should be withdrawn from the market?

8.06.1983

* Former oral question without debate (0-44/83), converted into a question for question time.

55.

Question by Mr KAZAZIS (H-256/83) (x)

Subject: European Institute for the Craft Industry and SMUs

On a European Parliament initiative, a token entry was made in the 1983 budget for the establishment of an Institute for the Craft Industry and Small and Medium-Sized Undertakings (Article 7777 of the 1983 budget). The Commission, instead of activating Article 7777 of the budget and taking the necessary steps to establish this institute, saw fit (in the very year we have dedicated to the SMUs) to delete the article in question from the preliminary draft budget for 1984 and replace it with an irrelevant token entry on promoting the activities of the SMUs.

What were the reasons which prompted the Commission to delete Article 7777 on a European Institute for SMUs?

27.6.1983

(x) Will not be called if item 275 is kept on the agenda

56. Question by Mr Gérard FUCHS (H-271/83)

Subject: Mining project in Carajas

Can the Commission indicate the amount of financial aid which the EEC intends to provide for the Carajas mining project, when the funds will be released and what benefits the EEC expects to derive from its contribution to this project?

4.7.1983

57. Question by Mr SHERLOCK (H-433/83) *

Subject : Chemicals Inventory

By way of implementation of the 6th amendment to the Directive on the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances the Commission has entered into a contract with Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) in the United States. For UK producers this means that chemical substances must first be notified to the Health and Safety Executive, then passed to ISPRA in Italy, which in turn will pass the notification on to CAS in the USA. Will the Commission give details of the contract between itself and CAS, state the likely cost of each notification and indicate whether, given that UK manufacturers will have to make more than 20,000 different notifications, the Commission is satisfied that the procedure is a sufficiently efficient, prompt and cost-effective one ?

13.07.1983

* Former oral question without debate (O-58/83), converted into a question for question time.

58. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-333/83)

Subject: Direct elections to the European Parliament

What is the Commission doing in its preparations for the second direct elections to harness its authority, academic competence and organizing ability with the intelligence, originality and powers of persuasion to be found in the various Member States, and thus - by its wit and simplicity - impress on all the citizens of Europe that casting their vote is the biggest contribution they can make towards harmonious co-existence between the Member States?

16.8.1983

59. Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-493/83) (x)

Subject : Free movement of Capital within the Community

As the free movement of capital is one of the fundamental principles of the Community, can the Commission state which Community countries permit the free movement of capital between Member States?

16.8.1983

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-64/83) converted into a question for question time

60. Question by Mr HALLIGAN (H-491/83) (x)

Subject : "Common Agricultural Policy - Proposals of the
Commission"

In its communication to the Council on "Common Agricultural Policy - Proposals of the Commission" the estimated saving in expenditure for 1984/85 is put at 2,500 million ECUs in paragraph 7.6. Notwithstanding the complexity of the hypotheses upon which the saving was based will the Commission give a breakdown of this figure both by country and agricultural sector since there can be no agreed analysis of the impact of the proposals without such basic information. The Communication made no reference to job losses arising from the proposals either in agriculture or in the individual member economies, such as from the multiplier effect. Will the Commission state what direct and indirect job losses are likely to occur in each member state ?

Further, will the Commission state why it did not think it appropriate to copy Members of the European Parliament with the proposals in view of their importance and of Parliament's competence in the matter of the Budget ?

1.9.1983

(x) Former oral question without debate (O-71/83), converted into a question for question time

(xx) Will not be called if item 268 is confirmed on the agenda

61. Question by Mr KIRK (H-378/83)

Subject: Exports of chrysanthemums to Sweden

The Commission has previously confirmed that the Swedish ban on imports of chrysanthemums from Danish nurseries and elsewhere is contrary to the free trade agreement between the Community and Sweden.

Regardless of the fact that the Commission, through negotiations, has made this problem the subject of detailed discussions between the Danish and Swedish authorities, it must be pointed out that a continued ban on imports by Sweden will have a stifling effect on Danish nurseries. The ban is still operating in practice, and is clearly a protectionist measure on the part of Sweden.

What action does the Commission intend to take to bring about a rapid lifting of the Swedish import ban, with a view to ensuring free trade in chrysanthemums and the like between the Community and Sweden?

15.09.1983

62. Question by Mr COLLINS (H-384/83)

Subject : Representation of the retail trade on the Working Group
"Christmas Butter"

Of the ten experts composing the Working Group "Christmas Butter", three were representing the milk and milk product trades. These three representatives were nominated from the organizations EUCOLAIT and UNECOLAIT who have no direct connections with the retail trade and who are therefore unable to speak for the very people who will be affected by the decisions in respect of sales of reduced price Christmas butter.

Would the Commission not agree that as the retail trade is the body who will have to apply and carry out the management of any scheme in respect of sales of reduced price butter, then this body should be adequately consulted at the Working Group where these proposals are formulated and that last years disruption and confusion in the market could be avoided this year if the retail trade had been fully consulted at an early stage in the discussions ?

15.09.1983

63. Question by Mr MOORHOUSE (H-515/83) *

Subject : Air courier services

How far have investigations proceeded into possible means of achieving a harmonised and more liberal regime throughout the European Community in dealing with Air courier services ?

21.09.1983

* Former oral question without debate (0-81/83), converted into a question for question time.

64. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-395/83)

Subject: See-through vacuum-packing method of preserving meat

Is the Commission aware of, and in the context of the development of Community agri-foodstuffs industries, what does it think of the new see-through vacuum-packing method of preserving meat, which is reportedly faultless from the bacteriological point of view?

23.9.83

65. Question by Mr KEY (H-400/83)

Subject : Annex 1 of Directive 79/490

Has the Commission examined the need to update Annex 1 of Directive 79/490,¹⁾ what conclusions have been reached and when does the Commission intend to call a meeting of the Committee for the Adaptation to Technical & Scientific Progress of the Annexes to the Directive with a view to making proposals for the adaptation of Annex 1 ?

26.9.83

(1) O.J. L 128, 26.5.1979, page 22

66. Question by Mr CLINTON (H-418/83)

Subject : Distortion of Competition in the Ethyl Alcohol Trade

Can the Commission please say what additional measures will be taken to finally put a stop to the unfair competition arising from the exports from France of subsidised ethyl alcohol to other Member States, including Ireland, Germany, Great Britain and the Netherlands and, if the Commission are unable or unwilling to take effective action, does the Commission agree that action by the Member States concerned to prohibit the import of this subsidised commodity is in order?

28.9.83

67. Question by Mr MARCK (H-430/83)

Subject : Harmonization of rules on hormonal fattening

The Commission of the European Communities was given the task of examining ways of harmonizing the rules on hormonal fattening within the European Community as a whole and of formulating proposals.

The Commission requested a committee of independent experts to draw up a report on the subject. The committee was unanimous in its conclusions, which met with a broad consensus among both producer and consumer organizations. Objections were raised by the delegation of one Member State only, prompted by concern for its national trading interests.

What measures does the Commission intend to take with a view to implementing the proposed solution?

3.10.83

68. Question by Mr von WOGAU (H-431/83)

Subject : Exports of mineral water to France

Is the Commission aware that the French regulations governing the importation of mineral water into France stipulate that labels must be marked with the indication '1l' in characters 4 mm high, even when the indication of quantity is already imprinted on the bottle itself?

It is also compulsory for the importer's name to be given on the label.

Does not the Commission share the view that these conditions are incompatible with the free trade rules set out in the EEC Treaty?

4.10.83

69. Question tabled by Mr CECOVINI (H-437/83)

Subject : Increased taxation in the countries of the Community

Recent statistics show a striking increase in taxation in relation to the gross domestic product in almost all the countries of the Community. What steps does the Commission intend to take to encourage an easing of the tax burden ?

6.10.83

70. Question tabled by Mr GAWRONSKI (H-438/83)

Subject : Advertising via satellite in Europe

Has the Commission considered presenting proposals on TV transmissions received by satellite in other Community countries than the country of origin; in particular, how does it intend to resolve the problem of legislation on advertising ?

6.10.83

71. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-441/83)

Subject: Pilot project on accidents in the home

It has been established that more than 4 million domestic accidents occur each year in the Community, that there are at least 30,000 fatalities and almost 4 million cases of injury and that the majority of the victims are children, elderly people and women.

In the light of these figures, can the Commission say what action it intends to take on the Council's decision of 23 July 1981 on a Community domestic accidents information service designed to enhance the safety of European citizens in the home environment?

10.10.83

2. Question by Mr BOURNIAS (H-443/83)

Subject: Hydroelectric power in Greece

Concerning hydroelectric power in my country, since the Community is aware that Greece, in the field of exploitable waterfall power, is better off in kilowatt-hours per capita per annum not only than all the EEC countries but than all the other Western European countries apart from Norway and Switzerland (20 to 23 thousand million kilowatt-hours per annum), can the Commission say if the Community intends to finance the survey by Greek and foreign specialists, to avoid any further delay in a matter of such economic importance to Greece?

11.10.1983

73. Question by Mr OUZOUNIDIS (H-445/83)

Subject : Unacceptable discrimination against immigrants in the form of a special motorcar insurance tariff payable by foreign workers in the FRG

According to press reports, German motor insurance companies intend to introduce, at the latest from the beginning of 1984, a special car insurance tariff payable by foreign workers and particularly Turks, Greeks and Yugoslavs. The premiums to be paid by foreigners (Auslandertarif) would be up to 50% higher than those paid by German citizens.

The German car insurance companies have submitted a request for approval of this special tariff for foreigners to the responsible German state department (Bundesaufsichtsamt). This unacceptable discrimination against (European) foreigners and, particularly, against those from southern Europe is being practised by the insurance companies on the grounds that these persons cause more accidents than German citizens.

What measures does the Commission intend to take to protect foreign citizens living and working in Germany from this kind of discrimination, which is creating a climate of fear and fuelling racism in Europe, and what measures does it intend to take to prevent such action being taken in the future?

11.10.83

74. Question by Mr WELSH (H-450/83)

Subject : Preferential duties on imports of Virginia
type tobacco from India

Does the Commission consider that the Community is honouring its formal declaration of intent at the time of the Accession of the United Kingdom to the Community that it would provide for favourable treatment of Indian trade with the Community, under the GSP in lieu of Commonwealth Preferences; when under current circumstances, the preferential rate for Indian tobacco (7% subject to a minimum of 13 ECU per 100 kg and a maximum of 45 ECU per 100 kg) results in a higher charge than the non preferential rate of 30 ECU per 100 kg?

12.10.1983

75. Question by Mrs LE ROUX (H-451/83)

Subject : Butter exports

For several months the Commission refused to export butter to the USSR. Sales resumed a short time ago, but butter stocks remain high. Could the Commission say how much butter could have been exported without this ban and what has been its impact on the Community Budget ?

12.10.1983

76. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-453/83)

Subject : Grant from the European Regional Development Fund

Has a grant from the European Regional Development Fund been made towards the electrification of the railway from Garston to Hunts Cross in Merseyside and, if so, when was the grant made, how much was it and in what document was the information communicated to Parliament?

13.10.1983

77. Question by Mr NEWTON DUNN (H-456/83)

Subject : Fuel Subsidies for Fishermen

How many Member States give fuel subsidies to their fishermen?

13.10.1983

78. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-457/83)

Subject : Storm Damage

To ask the Commission what action they propose to take in respect of the claim submitted by the National Farmer's Union of Britain in respect of the widespread damage caused to the horticultural and farming interests of Cheshire by the violent storms which occurred on 7th January 1983?

13.10.1983

79. Question by Mr PROVAN (H-459/83)

Subject : Fisheries inspectors

Will the Commission please report on the work of its fisheries inspectors?

14.10.1983

80.

Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-463/83)

Subject : The Commission's interpretation of points 1.4.2
and 3.2 of the Stuttgart Declaration

Does the Commission take the view that the phrase 'co-ordination of the economic aspects of security' justifies a parliamentary debate on the co-ordination of arms production in the Community? Does the Commission take the view that this phrase refers to joint arms production? It was precisely this phrase that Commissioner Narjes referred to during the parliamentary debate on the Fergusson report on 11 October 1983, prior to supporting, on behalf of the Commission, the plans for Community armaments production and a Community armaments economy.

The Danish Government has already stated that economic aspects of security do not include such matters (in the Foreign Minister's reply on 1 June 1983 to a written question from the Folketing's Community Affairs Committee).

17.10.1983

81.

Question by Mrs BOSERUP (H-466/83)

Subject : Right of veto in an enlarged Community

Commenting on the Spinelli Report during the September 1983 part-session, President Thorn said with regard to decision-making in a Community of Twelve : 'The Commission believes that in this Community, in certain fields, unanimity should be replaced by a qualified majority in order to reduce the risk of blockage, which would be greater in a Community of Twelve than of Ten' (quote from Agence Europe, 14 September 1983). Does the Commission take the view that the right of veto ought to be restricted if Spain and Portugal accede ?

18.10.1983

82. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-471/83)

Subject: Red tape at the French frontier

A Danish citizen travelling by train from Brussels to Paris on 1 October 1983 was confronted with a new document that had to be completed at the French frontier.

It is an orange card, entitled Carte de Contrôle Entrée - Sortie, and bears the codes 0.006.5106 (ex o.13.1708) (TR 1 C 3). The traveller has to enter his/her name and where appropriate maiden name, date and place of birth, nationality, place of residence, occupation and date and place at which the frontier is crossed.

The orange card, which is for the use of the French police, has to be completed only by travellers not of French nationality.

How does the Commission intend to impress on the Member States that Community citizens are tired of costly and time-consuming trivialities at frontiers, and that the Member States must learn to remove rather than increase the formalities that complicate intra-Community travel?

19.10.83

83. Question by Mr BONDE (H-476/83)

Subject: Attendance by Commission officials at EPC meetings

Which EPC meetings and committee meetings connected with EPC have Commission officials attended since the October 1981 London declaration, and how many Commission staff are directly or indirectly involved with European political cooperation?

19.10.83

84. Question by Mrs NIKOLAOU (H-477/83)

Subject: Discrimination against Greece at the Galway conference in Ireland

As part of the conference of 29 and 30 September 1983 organized in Galway by the National Committee of Ireland in the context of the European Year of Small and Medium-sized Undertakings, there was an exhibition of products of SMUs whose main feature was the European Communities' stand.

Can the Commission state why the information material (tables, posters, comparative statistical data) referred only to the Europe of Nine and completely ignored the fact that Greece has been a member of the Community for two years, especially as the conference was held during the Greek presidency; and can it name those responsible?

20.10.83

85. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-480/83)

Subject: Development areas in Belgium; exemptions for certain local authorities, Ath and Huy in particular

As the Walloon Region has proposed to the Commission that there should be a general system of exemption for local authorities which are not priority areas for aid, could the Commission say whether it is actually in favour of a case-by-case investigation, in much more detail than is proposed by the Walloon Region, which thus refuses to consider parts of the areas in question to be deserving of general attention in view of their difficult situation?

20.10.83

86.

Question by Mr DELOROZOY (H-481/83)

Subject: Modification of the system for bearer securities

As from 3 November 1984, new provisions¹ on securities will come into force under French law, according to which both registered and bearer securities (stock exchange securities, unit trusts and unlisted securities) will be everywhere replaced by obligatory registration in an open account at a bank or an accredited agency. Since such measures affect the traditional right to secrecy inherent in the physical possession of securities, could the Commission state whether in the short or medium term it is considering a recommendation proposing procedure for modification of the securities along French lines throughout the Community?

20.10.1983

¹ See Article 94-11 of the 1982 Finance Law, Chapter 11; Section 11, Law of 3.1.83 on the development of investments and the protection of savings; Decree of 2.5.83 on rules for securities

87. Question by Mr ADAMOY (H-483/83)

Subject: The crisis in stockfarming in Greece

Stockfarming in Greece, which is the most backward sector of the backward Greek agricultural economy, accounting for 1/3 only of gross agricultural income, is in danger of ruin for the following reasons:

- a) abundant imports of cheaper stockfarming products from the Community (they rose from a value of 115 million dollars in 1980 to 365 million dollars in 1982),
- b) the high cost of animal feed (the price of maize has increased from 7.30 drachmas per kilo in 1980 to 16.5 per kilo in 1983),
- c) the high production costs of stockfarming products and the low prices fixed for the latter by the Community bodies.

The consequence of this situation has been a reduction in the number of bovines from 1,200,000 to 750,000.

What measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure the survival of stockfarming in Greece today and to create the necessary conditions for its further development, having regard to the exceptionally favourable conditions afforded by the Greek climate and soil?

21.10.1983

88. Question by Mr TYRRELL (H-485/83)

Subject : Commission Directive 83/463/EEC (Foodstuffs Labelling)

Can the Commission state which persons or bodies it consulted before making this Directive; how such bodies were constituted; and what advice it received?

24.10.1983

89. Question by Mr SKOVMAND (H-492/83)

Subject : Net Community imports of foodstuffs from the
developing countries

Can the Commission state how many tons of foodstuffs the
Community imports from the developing countries each year,
how many tons of foodstuffs the developing countries import
from the Community and whether it has any proposals to
reduce the preponderance of imports into the Community
from the developing countries ?

25.10.1983

90. Question by Sir Peter VANNECK (H-500/83)

Subject : Supplies of Australian uranium ore to the European
Community

Does the Commission expect Australian suppliers of uranium
ore to fulfil to term their contracts with Community
electricity undertakings ?

27.10.1983

91. Question by Mr BATTERSBY (H-502/83)

Subject : EURATOM Cooperation with the People's Republic of China

Now that the People's Republic of China is becoming a member
of the International Atomic Energy Agency, what steps is the
Commission taking to encourage cooperation between China and
the Community in nuclear technology ?

27.10.1983

92. Question by Mrs CASTLE (H-503/83/rev.)

Subject : Exclusive Purchasing Agreements

What guarantee of security of tenure can the Commission offer to tenants of tied houses who are victimised because they exercise their rights under the Regulation 1984/83 (1) to buy drinks other than beer from outside suppliers when supplies are available from them on more favourable terms and will the Commission ensure that the guidelines accompanying the Regulation make it clear that any such victimisation will be monitored and exposed by the Commission ?

27.10.1983

(1) O.J. No L 173 of 30.6.1983, p.5

93. Question by Mr PATTISON (H-508/83)

Subject : Community projects in favour of development in the South-East of Ireland

With reference to the projects on the Rosslare-Dublin-Belfast axis referred to in answer to my oral question Nr. 416/83 (1) of 12th October 1983, will the Commission state the precise nature of these projects, their exact location, at what stage of development they are, or when they will commence, and under what Community policies or funds they are being developed ?

27.10.1983

(1) Verbatim report of proceedings on 12.10.1983, page 207, question 82 (H-416/83)

94. Question by Mr VAN ROMPUY (H-511/83)

Subject: Belgian textile plan

Is the Commission willing to extend the Belgian textile plan in its present form to 1984?

28.10.1983

95. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-513/83)

Subject: The Greek memorandum

Can the Commission state whether, during the continuing talks on the Greek memorandum, it is proceeding on the basis that a derogation might be granted to Greece exempting it from the Community's rules of competition as has again been requested in the memorandum itself?

28.10.1983

