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ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 17 and 18 May 1983

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1. Question by Mr. NORMANTON (H-749/82)

Subject : The Lebanon

The European Community has consistently called for the total evacuation of all foreign forces from the Lebanon, recognising that both Israeli and Syrian troops are in the Lebanon against the wishes of the legitimate government of that country.

The EEC has a number of cooperation agreements with third countries, including with Israel and Syria, both of these agreements being identical.

Can the Council of Ministers give an assurance that the Community at all times adopts an even-handed approach when dealing with these two States engaging in the Lebanon conflict, and that this has applied and will continue to apply in particular to the two cooperation agreements and their financial protocol.

2. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-805/82)

Subject: Despatch to Members by certain Member States of documents justifying their policies

Does the Council consider that the despatch to every Member of the European Parliament of documents justifying the policies of certain Member States is an action compatible with the rules of discretion which governments must observe?

3. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-821/82)

Subject : Imports of low-carbon ferrochrome into the Community

Is the Council aware of the anti-dumping inquiry started by the Commission in respect of Turkish producers of ferrochrome? Given that this inquiry is detrimental to general consumer interests, does the Council not consider that it represents an unfair sanction against Turkey, inspired by certain private interests, which has serious implications for the Community's association with that country ?

4. Question by Mr PIQUET (H-5/83)

Subject: Sales of American wheat flour to Egypt

I am seriously concerned at the major incursion launched by the USA against Community agriculture in the form of the sale of one million tonnes of wheat flour to Egypt, a traditional Community market, which accounts for 50% of annual exports by the French flour industry alone. The price was set at \$25 per tonne below the world market rate and the contract included an exclusive dealing clause, which is incompatible with GATT rules.

This is an unmistakable affront and calls for countermeasures by the Community institutions commensurate with the scale of the encroachment and the economic issues at stake. The greatest firmness must be shown in repulsing this American offensive.

Clearly this transaction could not have been concluded if the Community had signed a long-term supply contract with Egypt as requested by the latter. We must learn the lesson from this and initiate a more dynamic export policy unhampered by any form of political discrimination. Is the Council prepared to adopt a policy of concluding multiannual agricultural supply contracts in the near future?

Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-7/83)

Subject: Next meeting of the Council of Ministers for Education

Will the Council of Ministers for Education meeting on 30 May include on its agenda the teaching of human rights in the European Community, and will it then have occasion to consider the report adopted by the European Parliament on 28 October 1982 on the same subject?

Question by Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-12/83)

Subject : European Monetary System

What steps is the Council taking if any to enable the United Kingdom to join the European Monetary System ?

Question by Mr SÄLZER (H-17/83)

Subject: Information on an attempt to abolish legitimate democracy in Greece

Both the international and Greek press have carried extensive reports of suspicious and unexplained mobilization in Greece on 26 and 27 February 1983 at the instigation of certain parties and directed at the legitimate democracy of this Member State.

Since the Greek Government has so far proved unwilling to inform the members of the Greek Parliament and interested European and international circles of what actually happened, can the Council, after consulting the Greek Government, indicate the dangers which have threatened and may still threaten the democratic parliamentary regime in Greece at the instigation of the armed forces or of certain fanatic supporters of political parties?

8. Question by Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU (H-21/83)

Subject: Threats to the freedom of the press in Greece

The freedom of the press is a fundamental principle in parliamentary democracies. This principle also governs the Treaty of Rome, which applies to all EEC Member States. Since the beginning of 1982 we have been treated to the unedifying spectacle of newspapers, especially those of the same political tendency as the present opposition, being pursued at law. For instance, representatives of the newspaper 'Vradini' which is well known for its campaign for the restoration of free institutions in Greece, have been repeatedly taken to court for publishing articles displeasing to the governing party and to members of the government.

When does the Council of Ministers intend to establish contact with the Greek Government with a view to informing the European Parliament of the dangers to which the freedom of the press is exposed in Greece?

9. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-758/82)

Subject: Cooperation between the Council and Parliament and the role of Parliament in the conclusion of agreements with third countries

In his statement to the European Parliament on 11 January, the President-in-Office of the Council said that in addition to the European Act itself two resolutions adopted by the European Parliament in 1981 on the improvement of the conciliation procedure between the Council and Parliament and the strengthening of the role of Parliament in the conclusion of agreements between the Community and third countries, would be considered by the Council; what are the initial results of this examination and, if none have emerged, why not?

10. Question by Mr. ALMIRANTE (H-106/83) *

Subject: Anti-pollution measures

Why is it that the EEC provisions on anti-pollution measures (EEC/78/176) which laid down that by 1 July 1980 all the Member States had to present general proposals to be implemented within six months of the presentation of a single draft to be made law through the European Parliament by 1987, have not been respected?

Two years have passed and not all the drafts have been submitted, thus penalizing those national firms which immediately implemented the anti-pollution measures by introducing expensive equipment.

11. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-794/82)

Subject : Personal checks at borders

In deliberating on the Commission's proposal for a resolution on the relaxation of personal checks at internal borders, did the Council urge the Member States to facilitate private travel by making wider use of their respective autonomous powers to restrict procedures to random checks and if not, why not and is information concerning experience with random checks available ?

* Former oral question without debate (O-169/82), converted into a question for question time.

12. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-59/83)

Subject: The problem of the financing of small and medium-sized undertakings in Greece

Much of the finance from EEC Funds and the EIB which is intended for small and medium-sized undertakings, in Greece goes to a great extent to undertakings and subsidiaries of multinational companies which by the standards of the Greek economy do not come into the category of small and medium-sized undertakings.

Is the Council aware of the need to take measures (for example, laying down criteria for defining small and medium-sized undertakings in relation to the economy of each Member State), and what measures are to be taken, to ensure that such finance is actually taken up and used by small and medium-sized undertakings?

13. Question by Mr EPHRAIMIDIS (H-61/83)

On 5.4.1977 in Luxembourg, the Council, the Assembly and the Commission signed a Joint Declaration, which was published in the Official Journal of the EC, and which states that, as has been recognized by the Court of Justice, Community legislation also embodies the general principles of law and fundamental human rights, to which, indeed, they attach prime importance.

By its Resolution No. 2200 of 1966, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted:

- a) the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,
and
- b) the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Can the Council tell us if there are any Member States and, if so, which they are, which have not yet ratified these two Covenants, and what reasons they put forward for this?

14. Question by Mr KLEPSCH (H-78/83)

Subject: Harmonization of excise duties

When does the Council intend to resume the negotiations on the increasingly necessary harmonization of excise duties on alcoholic beverages which reached stalemate in October 1981?

The argument made in the answer given to Written Question No. 1782/82¹ by Mr Müller-Hermann, that the outcome of the proceedings currently before the European Court of Justice relating to cases of tax discrimination must first be awaited, does not seem very convincing.

15. Question by Mr. ADAM (H-83/83)

Subject : Civil service inertia

In its statement on internal market problems to the European Council Meeting in Brussels (22/23 March 1983) the Commission concluded that the lack of progress was caused by "civil service inertia".

How far does the Council concur with this view ?

16. Question by Mr. SCHMID (H-89/83)

Subject : Political situation in Malta

Does the Council agree that the political situation in Malta has changed since the European Parliament's resolution of 10 March 1983 and that there are now no obstacles to an early agreement in Council for financial aid to Malta ?

¹ OJ No. C100, 13.4.83, p.29

17. Question by Mr. HUTTON (H-90/83)

Subject : Institutional preparations for enlargement

What discussions have the Council or COREPER held, and with what result, on the changes in the working methods of the Council, particularly in regard to voting procedures, which will be called for in preparation for the accession of Spain and Portugal to the Community ?

18. Question by Mrs WEBER (H-92/83)

Subject: Dangerous and toxic waste

How frequently and at what level has the Council considered the proposal for a directive on the transfrontier movement of dangerous and toxic waste?

Does the Presidency believe that it can reach a decision in June as promised?

19. Question by Mr. JOHNSON (H-97/83)

Subject : EEC Environment Fund

In view of the fact that the European Parliament approved on April 15, 1983 by a majority of 126 votes (10 votes against and no abstentions) the Commission's proposal (COM (82) final) for a regulation on action by the Community relating to the environment, thereby respecting its commitments under the tripartite agreement, will the Council confirm that it is the Council's intention to adopt the above regulation within the time-limits prescribed or, at the latest, at the meeting of EEC Environment Ministers on June 16 ?

20. Question by Mr WALTER (H-110/83)

Subject: Failure by the Italian authorities to incorporate
Directive 78/319/EEC into national law

The uncertainty as to the whereabouts of the dioxin drums from Seveso has revealed catastrophic shortcomings and negligence, particularly on the part of the Italian authorities, who have so far considered it unnecessary to incorporate Directive 78/319/EEC¹ into national law.

Will the Council urge Italy, and where appropriate other Member States, to do so as soon as possible; if not, what sense does it see in taking decisions which are not followed up?

21. Question by Mrs BOSERUP (H-114/83)

Subject: The European Act

Can the President of the Council confirm that the Council's deliberations on the draft European Act have resulted in agreement on a number of points, more specifically concerning:

- the strengthening of political cooperation and its extension to include certain political and economic aspects of security policy,
- the definition of new fields for European cooperation: culture, harmonization of legislation, combatting of international and trans-frontier criminal activities, and
- the integration of the Council's various Community and political functions, and, if so, can he provide further details?

¹ OJ No. L 84, 31.3.1978, p.43

22.

Question by Mr PETERSEN (H-118/83)

Subject: Sanctions against the USSR

At the European Parliament's April part-session, the Council President stated that the Council's decision to prolong the sanctions against the USSR was legally binding on Denmark. The Danish Foreign Minister had previously told the Folketing that this was not so. It subsequently emerged that the Folketing was not in favour of Denmark's prolonging the sanctions.

According to press reports, the Council has taken note of this. Will the Council President confirm that a new procedure has been introduced whereby legally binding Council decisions can subsequently be cancelled if they cannot be ratified in the country concerned? And if so, will the Council President acknowledge that a new interpretation or at least a new construction has been put on the Luxembourg Compromise - i.e., that a country's 'vital interests' are no longer determined by its government but by its legislative authority?

23.

Question by Mrs DESOUCHES (H-122/83)

Subject: Directive on asbestos

On 23 April 1982 the European Parliament adopted the report drawn up by Mrs SCRIVENER embodying its opinion on the asbestos directive.

How is it that this text, which is important for the health of workers in the asbestos industry, has not yet been ratified by the Council and what is the explanation for this delay?

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

24. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-834/82)

Subject : Meeting of the Palestinian National Council in Algiers
(14-21 February 1983)

In concluding their answer to Written Question No. 1463/82 of 29 October 1982¹, the Foreign Ministers declared on 10 February 1983 that:

the Ten considered that a forthcoming meeting of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) might be of decisive importance for the future development of the situation in that region.

Since the meeting in question was held in Algiers from 14 to 21 February 1983, do the Foreign Ministers consider that it was of decisive importance for the future development of the situation in the region ?

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

Subject: Decolonization of the Baltic States

What action have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation so far taken in accordance with the request made to them by the plenary assembly of Parliament to bring the problem of the Baltic States before the decolonization subcommittee of the UN and, if nothing has yet been done, when do they intend to address themselves to this problem and act in conformity with Parliament's request?

¹ OJ No. C 62, 7.3.1983, p. 4

26. Question by Mrs EWING (H-520/82)

Subject : The repression of trade unionists in South Africa

Will the Foreign Ministers condemn the South African regime's increasingly brutal repression of trade unionists in that country?

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

Subject : Amnesty International report concerning thousands of people condemned to death in IRAN

A recent Amnesty International report reveals that since the beginning of the revolution in Iran more than 4,500 people have been sentenced to death by courts and executed. They include forty-two adolescents, twelve pregnant women, an eleven-year-old boy 'who had been rude' to an Ayatollah, a student 'who smoked American cigarettes' and a thousand others found guilty of holding different views or of practising other religions, such as the Baha'i.

What do the Ministers intend to do, following this Amnesty International report, to break the silence and indifference to the plight of thousands of victims and to the constant violation of human rights in Iran, from torture to execution?

* Former oral question without debate (O-181/82), converted into a question for question time

28. Question by Sir JAMES SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-14/83)

Subject : Self-styled "peace movements" in the Community

Do the Foreign Ministers share my view that the self-styled "peace movements" in the Community whose aim is unilateral nuclear disarmament, make nuclear war more, rather than less likely, as a result of their desire to remove the most effective pillar of the deterrent defensive capability of those Community countries who possess nuclear weapons and thereby threaten the very existence of the Community itself ?

29. Question by Mr PENDERS (H-34/83)

Subject: Parliament's resolution on the situation in the Middle East

Have the Foreign Ministers discussed the resolution on the situation in the Middle East adopted by the European Parliament on 11 January 1983¹, and, if so, what action have they taken on the requests made in paragraphs 7, 12, 13 and 14 of that resolution?

¹ OJ No. C 42, 14.2.1983, p. 15

30. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-60/83)

Subject: Powers of the Member States acting as President in the context of European political cooperation

Having regard to the Council's supplementary answer to my Question No. H-811/82¹, and to the fact that in view of the forthcoming Greek Presidency a campaign of pressure has been started by Community circles with the aim of influencing and modifying the foreign policy of the Greek Government, will the Ministers for Foreign Affairs meeting in political cooperation tell us what the obligations and powers of the Member State acting as President in the context of political cooperation are, and to what extent the presiding State actually has the power not to put forward Community positions opposed to or different from its own policies?

31. Question by Mr EPHRAIMIDIS (H-62/83)

Subject: Suppression of human rights in West Berlin

On 11.6.1982, during the Reagan visit to West Berlin, the police arrested 5 individuals - 4 Germans and 1 Greek - on a charge of taking part in a 'prohibited' protest demonstration against the dangerous arms policy. Their trial is being conducted in conditions of terrorism, of which the chief features are that obstacles are put in the way of the defence and the defendants are being held in glass cages.

These actions by the West Berlin authorities are a flagrant violation of the human rights and democratic freedoms of the citizens of West Berlin.

What steps do they propose to take to halt the trampling of human rights against the 5 defendants, who are on trial because they exercised their basic democratic right?

¹ Provisional edition of the proceedings of the EP, 9.3. 1983

32. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-68/83)

Subject : National homelands created out of South African . .
territory

What are the necessary conditions for diplomatic recognition
by the EEC governments of the independent national homelands
created out of South African territory (Transkei, Ciskei,
Venda, Bophuthatswana) ?

33. Question by Mr. PRICE (H-88/83)

Subject : Middle East

Will the President-in-Office state what initiatives the Ten
intend to take in order to further the peace process in
the Middle-East ?

34. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-102/83)

Subject: The Lebanon

What steps have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political
cooperation taken to implement the decisions to promote a
rapid, negotiated solution to the Lebanese question reached
at their meeting in Bonn on 1 March 1983?

35. Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-111/83)

Subject: Strengthening the Communities and political cooperation

Would the Foreign Ministers refute the statement made by the Commission in 'Bulletin' No. 1 1983, p. 54, to the effect that agreement has been reached on 'strengthening the Communities and political cooperation (in particular in the defence sector), greater cohesion within the Communities and in political cooperation under the auspices of the European Council, including within this cultural and legal cooperation, strengthening the presidency (which provides the secretariat of political cooperation) and consolidation of the roles of the Commission and the Court'?

36. Question by Mr KYRKOS (H-123/83)

Subject: Statements by the United States Assistant Secretary of State
Mr BURT

Two days before his visit to Athens, the American Assistant Secretary of State Mr BURT made anti-Greek statements in Ankara, with the result that the Prime Minister of Greece cancelled his meeting with him and passed him on to the Director of a Directorate-General in the Foreign Ministry.

Will the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation take note of the disgraceful attitude of the Assistant Secretary of State, which concerns relations with a Member State of the Community and has a bearing on Greece's security problems?

37. Question by Mr. DAVERN (H-823/82)

Subject : EEC Aid for Irish TB Testing in Cattle

In view of the restrictions placed on public service recruitment, the Irish Department of Agriculture is unable to implement the EEC's subsidy of IRL£2.5 million a year for a scheme of free pre-movement testing for TB and brucellosis in cattle. This scheme would have to be matched £1 for £1 by the Irish Government.

Would the Commission permit a percentage of the EEC allocation for this testing to be used by the Department of Agriculture to recruit people to carry out this necessary scheme and if this is not possible what recommendations could the Commission put forward that would enable the Department of Agriculture to implement this scheme ?

38. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-830/82)

Subject: Bilateral textiles agreements

Has the Commission succeeded, notably through the efforts of the working party on reciprocity set up by Vice-President DAVIGNON, in obtaining the agreement of certain low-price countries to allow fair access to their markets for textile products exported by the EEC which are subject to prohibitive customs duties?

39. Question by Mr GAUTHIER (H-1/83)

Subject: Oil prices

In view of the current downward trend in oil prices and of the urgent need for appropriate proposals concerning EEC energy strategy, can the Commission indicate in what way and when it intends to take action on the European Parliament's resolution of 10 February 1983 on the OPEC Conference?

40. Question by Mr. PRAG (H-2/83)

Subject : Information regarding the disabled

Can the Commission say what progress has been made with regard to the collection of information and statistics on disablement in the European Community, particularly with regard to the extent of disablement, the effects of disablement particularly on employment and income, and the adaptation of job-training for disabled people, which was called for in the Eisma Report (1-541/82) ?

Have plans been made to include such information in the Commission's medium-term projection of social expenditure and financing, or in any other publication ?

41. Question by Mr MOUCHEL (H-20/83)

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 Commission 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?

42. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-30/83)

Subject: Imports of low carbon ferro-chromium into the Community

Following its extremely vague reply to oral question No. H-820/82¹, can the Commission clarify whether it is usual practice to initiate an anti-dumping proceeding that may put at risk strategic supplies to Europe and the interests of European consumers at the request of a single producer?

Is it true that the producer in question - the importance of which should be specified more clearly - was in fact competing with others for these imports and that, contrary to the 'apparent' evidence referred to by the Commission in its initial answer, the members of the advisory committee were, with one exception, against the proceeding?

43. Question by Mr BLUMENFELD (H-41/83)

Subject: Financial grant from the EC to a UN Institute in Namibia

Is the Commission now in a position to give a detailed account of the use to which the 10 m ECU is being put, it not having been possible to give an adequate answer to Written Questions Nos. 652 and 1082 addressed to the Commission² - particularly as to whether these funds are actually being used in the cultural sphere for the benefit of the population, in view of the fact that the Treasurer of SWAPO is, at the same time, empowered to decide how the resources of the Institute in question are used?

¹ Verbatim report of proceedings of 9.3.1983, p. 190

² OJ No. C 239, 13.9.1982, p. 10
and OJ No. C 305, 22.11.1982, p. 8

44. Question by Mr BONDE (H-39/83)

Subject: Embargo on Soviet goods coming into Denmark

Will the Commission confirm that the regulation placing an embargo on Soviet goods has not been legally valid in Denmark since 1 March; will the Commission also confirm that Denmark has not entered into any obligation to impose national sanctions from 1 March; and will the Commission in conclusion confirm that it is now quite lawful to import into Denmark from the Soviet Union upright pianos and other goods covered by the earlier embargo?

45. Question by Mr CALVEZ (H-66/83)

Subject: Tax on petroleum products

According to a French weekly, consultations are taking place at European level on the possibility of taxing petroleum products if oil prices fall sharply.

Can the Commission explain in detail how such 'consultations' are taking place and say whether in fact it is planning once again to tax energy in general and petroleum products in particular?

46. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-470/82)

Subject: Safeguarding STABEX

Does the Commission consider that the principle of STABEX should be preserved, and if so, what proposals will it be submitting to maintain the credibility of the scheme and to restore the confidence of our ACP partners?

47. Question by Mr LALOR (H-533/82)

Subject : Coastal protection pilot projects

Will the Commission give assurances that it is examining or will examine in detail the funding of pilot coastal protection projects in the inter-service working group that it has set up as referred to by Commissioner Richard last June?

48. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-589/82)

Subject: Monetary union

Does the Commission think that a European currency would contribute to strengthening the Community's economic power; when will it make appropriate proposals for moving forward in that direction, and by what stages would this occur?

49. Question by Mr ADAM (H-647/82)

Subject : German Second Energy Research Programme

It is reported that the Commission consider that certain aspects of the German second energy research programme are contrary to EEC Rules. What steps are the Commission taking to ensure that the implementation of the special energy development programme (COM(82) 727) will not contravene EEC Rules?

50. Question by Mr. WEDEKIND (H-778/82) *

Subject : Compulsory use of French in commercial transactions

Is the Commission aware that the Journal Officiel de la République française of 21 October 1982 published a circular of 20 October 1982 signed by the Prime Minister extending compulsory use of French in all transactions to all foreign goods, contracts, accounts, packing lists, certificates of origin, markings, directions for use, technical documentation, etc. and does the Commission view this measure as a means of simplifying trade in goods within the Community? Would the Commission consider it proper if the other Member States also insisted on the use of their own language in all documents in each case, e.g. if German imports from France were accepted with German documents only, and would the Commission wish to see this extended in world trade to Chinese, Japanese, Arabic or any other of the major languages?

51. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-754/82)

Subject: EEC-Turkey textile agreements

After the decision by Ankara to impose a 15% tax on imports of 45 Community products, following the limits imposed by the EEC on Turkish textile exports, can the Commission say whether the agreement with Turkish cotton thread exporters on a ceiling on exports to the EEC which was in prospect has finally been accepted by the Ten?

* Former oral question with debate (O-157/82), converted into a question for question time

52. Question by Mr KAZAZIS (H-765/82)

Subject: ERDF non-quota section - Greece

On 18 November 1982, in document COM(82) 658 final, the Commission proposed specific actions in the context of the European Regional Development Fund, non-quota section. These actions include a specific action in the textile industry sector. At the part-session in September 1982 (14 September 1982), during QUESTION TIME, Mr GIOLITTI assured me that action in the textile industry sector would be extended to cover the Greek regions as soon as the Commission had collected the necessary statistical data.

Why has the Commission not yet presented proposals to extend specific action in the textile industry sector to cover Greece; and when does it intend to present them?

53. Question by Mr. ALMIRANTE (H-107/83) *

Subject: Anti-pollution measures

Why is it that the EEC provisions on anti-pollution measures (EEC/78/176) which laid down that by 1 July 1980 all the Member States had to present general proposals to be implemented within six months of the presentation of a single draft to be made law through the European Parliament by 1987, have not been respected?

Two years have passed and not all the drafts have been submitted, thus penalizing those national firms which immediately implemented the anti-pollution measures by introducing expensive equipment.

* Former oral question without debate (O-170/82), converted into a question for question time

54. Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-38/83) ¹

Subject : E.M.S. and Economic Convergence

Can the Commission state how often members of the E.M.S. have had to readjust currency rates since it was set up ?
Can the Commission indicate what impact the E.M.S. has had in fostering economic convergence ?

55. Question by Mr. HUME (H-799/82)

Subject : Commission's response to Parliament's Resolution
on Community Regional Policy and Northern
Ireland

Will the Commission state what has been its response to the proposals contained in the Martin Report, ² adopted by Parliament in June 1981, ³ on Community Regional Policy and Northern Ireland ?

56. Question by Mr. SIMMONDS (H-829/82)

Subject : Price structures for Milk

In view of the divergence in payment and pricing for quality milk in Member States, will the Commission undertake a survey of the price structures in each Member State and their effect on the income of milk producers.

¹ Former oral question without debate (U-177/82), converted into a question for question time

² Doc.1-177/81

³ OJ C 172 of 13.7.81

57. Question by Mr. PURVIS (H-6/83)

Subject : Alcohol distillation

In reply to my written question 1362/82 ⁽¹⁾, the Commission said it intended to avoid disturbance to the alcohol market and yet to make alcohol distilled from agricultural products competitive, by way of subsidy, with industrial alcohol. How can these aims be compatible ?

58. Question by Mr. HARRIS (H-10/83)

Subject : European Coastal Charter

Will the Commission provide details on the progress which has been made to date on the implementation of the European Coastal Charter and in particular the elements of the Coastal Charter Action Programme ?

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

Subject : C.A.P. Payments

When will Commission take positive action to stop the apparant Frauds being carried out by citizens of the Republic of Eire in clandestine transportation of cattle and other livestock between Eire and Northern Ireland for the purposes of C.A.P. payments ?

(1) O.J. No. C 58, 02.03.1983, p. 5

60. Question by Mr GONTIKAS (H-24/83)

Subject: Obstructions to the production and circulation of pharmaceutical products in Greece

How does the Commission view the obstructions that Greece puts in the way of the free production and movement of pharmaceutical products and can it state whether the statements made by a Commission official in Greece on this subject reflect the views of the Commission?

61. Question by Ms QUIN (H-31/83)

Subject : Comparison between wages of shipyard workers in South Korea and in the EEC

Can the Commission confirm that in South Korea shipyard worker's wages are only about one fifth of the level of average shipyard workers' wages in the European Community ?

62. Question by Mr. HUTTON (H-42/83)

Subject : 1984 Election Information campaign

What plans does the Commission have for an information campaign for the 1984 elections for the European Parliament ?

63. Question by Mrs MARTIN (H-45/83)

Subject: Imports of UHT milk into the United Kingdom

Does the Commission not consider that the discretion now allowed to the United Kingdom to lay down a certain number of standards for the quality of imported UHT milk is incompatible with the decision by the Court of Justice of the European Communities on 8 February 1983 convicting that country of having imposed a system of prior individual licences for imports into its territory of milk and cream which have undergone 'Ultra Heat Treatment' in another Member State?

64. Question by Mr KEY (H-48/83)

Subject : Coal Stocks

In 1977 the Commission proposed to the Council stocking aid which would have meant part financing by the Community of pithead stocks representing between one and two months productions for a period of three years. Would the Council be willing to consider such a new proposal and would they act upon it in 1983/84 ?

65. Question by Mr EISMA (H-50/83)

Subject: European Parliament's resolution on the standardization of car bumpers

Can the Commission say whether it has carried out the study requested in the above resolution (Doc. 1-287/82), adopted by the European Parliament on 18 June 1982¹, and if so, what were the findings?

¹ OJ No. C 182, 19.7.82, p. 115

66. Question by Mr. MORELAND (H-55/83)

Subject : Information Technology

Could the Commission give an undertaking that it will use its own purchasing, and encourage Member States purchasing procedures, to strengthen the competitive capability of the truly European Information Technology and industry in the short term, as well as developing long term initiatives such as the ESPRIT programmes ?

67. Question by Mr. HALLIGAN (H-65/83)

Subject : Community aid for small and medium-sized enterprises

What are the guidelines for the granting of loans and other aid to small and medium-sized enterprises; what importance does the Commission attach to the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in under-developed regions, and is there any provision for special measures in their favour in the under-developed regions of the Community ?

68. Question by Mr. PATTERSON (H-69/83)

Subject : United Kingdom youth training scheme

The United Kingdom government is about to introduce its new youth training scheme to give school leavers foundation years of training and work experience. Can the Commission confirm that this scheme is fully in line with its own proposals in this field, and also that it will be eligible for support from the social Fund ?

69. Question by Mrs. CASTLE (H-73/83)

Subject : Travel coach operators

Will the Commission institute an inquiry into the way in which the Federal German authorities discriminate against coach operators from other member States by means of special road taxes on non-German coaches and by insisting on certification of coaches in Germany under the "Temp 100" Regulations in addition to the equivalent certification already obtained in the operator's own country and will it take steps to end this discrimination by making a special trip to the Federal Republic of Germany to seek the revocation of this unnecessary certification requirement ?

70. Question by Mr KIRK (H-75/83)

Subject: Observance of the steel agreements between Sweden and the EC

Is the Commission aware that the Swedish side is not complying with the agreements reached between the Community and Sweden on prices in the steel sector?

71. Question by Mr LAGAKOS (H-79/83)

Subject: Aid for flood victims in Katerini

On 18 November 1982, the European Parliament passed a resolution asking the Commission to act to help flood victims in Katerini, Greece.

Can the Commission say what action it has taken on that resolution and what steps it has taken to aid the flood victims in that region?

72. Question by Mr DONNEZ (H-80/83)

Subject: Urban by-pass financed out of the Regional Fund in the Nord-Pas de Calais region

As part of the capital road-building works provided for in the Nord-Pas de Calais road-building programme, the Commission, under the fourth tranche of aid from the ERDF (quota section) for 1982, gave approval to a project for the construction of an urban by-pass to motorway standards in the Nord department. Can it give details of this investment, stating where this by-pass will be built and the amount of the aid granted by the Community?

73. Question by Mr. HOPPER (H-82/83) *

Subject : Subsidies granted by British Airports Authority

Will the Commission inform the House what steps it has taken to investigate the subsidies granted by the British Airports Authority to Stanstead Airport, in accordance with the undertaking given by Mr. Contogeorgis to Parliament during the December part-session ?

74. Question by Mrs DE MARCH (H-84/83)

Subject : 1970 trade agreement between the EEC and Spain

The 1970 trade agreement between the EEC and Spain has been of much greater benefit to Spain than to the EEC because of the high customs duties levied by Spain.

Does the Commission not consider it necessary to renegotiate the agreement in order to remedy the fiscal discrimination which currently exists and restore normal conditions of competition ?

* Former oral question without debate (O-175/82), converted into a question for question time

75. Question by Mr PRANCHERE (H-85/83)

Subject : Imports of New Zealand Butter

In its resolution on farm prices for 1983/1984 the European Parliament opposed the extension of preferential arrangements for the import of New Zealand butter and requested that they be terminated by 1984.

Does the Commission intend to submit proposals to the Council in accordance with the wishes of the European Parliament ?

76. Question by Mr WALTER (H-91/83)

Subject: Toxic and dangerous waste

Is the Commission prepared to submit to the Council immediate proposals for comprehensive Community control - on a provisional basis - of the transportation, interim storage and disposal of dangerous and toxic materials and waste which could take effect forthwith, thus even before the Council reaches a final decision on the Proposal for a Directive submitted in January?

77. Question by Mrs LE ROUX (H-95/83)

Subject: Common Fisheries Policy

During Question Time for questions to the Council on Wednesday, 13 April, Mr Maffre-Baugé asked whether the Council intended adding social provisions to the Common Fisheries Policy. Mr Genscher replied that no proposal of this kind had so far been submitted to the Council.

Will the Commission take rapid action to remedy this situation and submit to the Council proposals aimed at bringing about the upward harmonisation of social conditions for fishermen, as provided for in Article 117 of the Treaty of Rome?

78. Question by Sir Peter VANNECK (H-96/83)

Subject : Reform of the ERDF

In his reply to oral questions (0-106/82) and (0-128/82) (1), Commissioner Giolitti indicated that the Commission was prepared to move gradually on certain aspects of the reform of the ERDF.

Where does achieving "additionality" now stand in the Commission's list of priorities ?

79. Question by Mr. SELIGMAN (H-98/83)

Subject : Photovoltaic Solar Energy

Rapid progress is being made in U.S.A. with the development of new Photovoltaic technology, based on new materials such as amorphous silicon.

Will the Commission state how much money is being spent on Community Research into this Solar technology, which is of vital interest to Developing countries and for the space programme ?

80. Question by Mr. PEARCE (H-99/83)

Subject : Improvement of the system of Christmas butter

Has the Commission any evidence that the system of Christmas butter at the concessionary prices, put into operation at the end of 1982, resulted in consumers actually receiving the subsidy provided out of Community funds and will it endeavour, if a similar scheme is operated in future, to take steps to ensure that the subsidy always does reach the final consumer and that disturbance of normal trade in butter sales is not unnecessarily caused ?

(1) Debates Nr. 1-293 of 13.01.1983

81. Question by Mr ADONNINO (H-101/83)

Subject: Establishment of the European Monetary System

Point 3.2 of the resolution of 5 December 1978 on the establishment of the European Monetary System and related matters called on the Commission to submit a proposal to introduce interest rate subsidies of 3% on loans to the less prosperous Member States effectively and fully participating in the exchange rate and intervention mechanisms, up to a ceiling of 200 m ECU per year, for a period of 5 years.

This five-year period is due to expire at the end of 1983.

In the light of these considerations and in view of the need to extend these special intervention measures, which have proved extremely effective during the period of their application, can the Commission say whether, in the context of its independent power of initiative or otherwise, it has submitted, or intends to submit, a proposal to extend the interest rate subsidies for the loans concerned and, if so, on what basis and with what arrangements?

82. Question by Mr. McCARTIN (H-103/83)

Subject : Oil prices

Recent investigations in Ireland have revealed that the price (excluding all taxes and retailers margin) charged for petrol is £ir. 0.20 per gallon higher than in Britain.

Has the Commission investigated the situation ?

Are the oil companies abusing their dominant position and are the Community competition rules being broken ?

83. Question by Mr. RYAN (H-104/83)

Subject : E.E.C Red Cross Liaison Office in Brussels

Will the Commission agree to supplement national relief aid via the International Red Cross Society and assist in developing cooperation between national Red Cross Societies within the European Community.

Furthermore, will the Commission make special effort to ensure that Community funds expended on the purchase of good for relief purposes are more equitably distributed between all member States.

84. Question by Mrs WEBER (H-105/83)

Subject: Toxic and dangerous waste

What means does the Commission have at its disposal to compel Italy finally to convert Directive 78/319/EEC¹ on toxic and dangerous waste into national law, what steps does it intend to take immediately and if none, why?

85. Question by Mrs. EWING (H-108/83)

Subject : Reduction of refunds on mackerel exports to third countries

Is the Commission aware that the reduction in refunds on exports of mackerel is imposing heavy losses on Scottish processors and exporters who bought mackerel for export on forward contracts on the basis that the refunds obtaining before 15 January 1983 would be maintained; if the original refunds will be restored and, if not, if arrangements will be made at least to ensure that processors who have committed themselves to purchase mackerel for export on forward contracts will benefit from the original level of refunds on the quantities specified in those contracts ?

¹ OJ No. L 84 of 31.3.78, p. 43

86. Question by Mr EYRAUD (H-109/83)

Subject: Agri-foodstuffs contracts between the USA and Egypt

On 10 March 1983, Parliament adopted a resolution calling on the Commission to take a harder line with the USA. All it has done so far is to bring the matter before the GATT committee with a view to reaching some measure of agreement. Meanwhile, the USA is continuing its 'aggressive export policy' by negotiating a further agreement with Egypt covering 25,000 tons of butter and 12,000 tons of cheese.

The Commission appears to prefer to disregard these negotiations, even going as far as to assure Parliament that they were only 'rumours'. Will the Commission at last decide to take the action called for by Parliament on 10 March 1983? Will it now respond to the USA's aggression with equal force?

87. Question by Mr PEDINI (H-112/83)

Subject: Aid and assistance to Latin America

Information provided in the Latin American countries concerning the often substantial aid and assistance promoted locally by the EEC is frequently inadequate, and worthwhile initiatives by EEC officials are sometimes insufficiently coordinated.

How does the Commission plan to improve coordination in this area between its Directorate-General for External Relations (DG I) and its Directorate-General for Development (DG VIII) ; and

how does the Commission plan to ensure that the official EEC representatives in Latin America are informed of all initiatives in good time to enable them to publicize them fully?

88. Question by Ms. HOOPER (H-115/83)

Subject : Commission information offices

What arrangements exist within the Commission to notify the Information Service and Commission Information Offices in the Member States of the participation by Commissioners and other Commission officials in conferences, seminars and other meetings throughout the Community ?

Is there any chance of co-ordinating the information about such visits for the benefit of Members of Parliament with constituencies or with interests in special topics and in order to maximise on the opportunity for publicising Community activities generally and distributing literature to target audiences ?

89. Question by Mr KYRKOS (H-117/83)

Subject: Discrepancies between Greek and Commission calculations of increases in agricultural incomes

According to Commission estimates, agricultural incomes in Greece increased by 4.3% in real terms during 1981 and by 5.8% in 1982. In contrast, according to calculations made by the competent Greek authorities, these increases were considerably lower. Would the Commission inform Parliament as to how the above increases were calculated so as to explain the considerable discrepancy between the Greek and the Community figures?

90. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-116/83)

Subject: Commission preliminary draft regulation (EEC) concerning the application of Article 85(3) of the EEC Treaty to categories of agreements relating to the distribution of and before- and after-sales services for motor vehicles

Can the Commission say what state has been reached in the work on the preliminary draft regulation relating to this matter and when it expects this regulation to be considered and adopted?

91. Question by Mr PETERSEN (H-119/83)

Subject : Groundwater pollution

It is a scientifically accepted fact that the large-scale use of artificial fertilizers in agriculture can lead to groundwater pollution.

Does the Commission have any knowledge of groundwater pollution in the various Community countries? If so, how serious a danger is it? If not, will the Commission initiate an investigation?

92. Question by Mr ADAMOY (H-120/83)

Subject: Protecting the poultry-farming sector in Greece

Poultry farming in Greece is threatened by ruin owing to strong competition from the EEC countries. A specific current example is that eggs to the value of 50 m drachmas and 5,000 t of frozen chickenmeat have been imported from the Community despite the fact that egg and poultry production in Greece exceeds consumer demand (cooperatives and private enterprise have stocks of 3,000 t of frozen chickenmeat and eggs to the value of 20-30 m drachmas).

The tremendous difficulties in finding market outlets for Greek poultry-farming produce owing to the EEC also severely hinders modernization in this sector and any improvement in productivity.

In view of this situation, does the Commission propose to take measures to deal with the above problem and, more general, to protect the Greek poultry-farming sector and improve its competitiveness?

93. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-121/83)

Subject: Protection of Greek immigrants' rights in the Member States of the Community

By its decision in the case of Anastasia Peskeoglou v. the West German authorities for their refusal to grant her a work permit, the European Court of Justice ruled that the fact of Greece's accession to the Community does not permit a Member State to implement less favourable measures after 1.1.1981 than had applied previous thereto for granting a work permit to a Greek citizen.

What action does the Commission intend to take to protect Greek immigrants from the West German government's recent anti-immigrant measures in all spheres, not only the refusal to grant work permits but also as regards Greek immigrants' living and working conditions in general, e.g. reunion of families, residence permits, the right to education, etc., which run counter to the letter and the spirit of the above ruling? What action will the Commission take to ensure that all Member States comply with the letter and the spirit of this ruling?

94. Question by Mr. MEGAHY (H-124/83)

Subject : EEC Commissioner -

To what extent is it permissible for any single EEC Commissioner to act within the Commission as an agent of outside private interests ?

95. Question by Mr. COLLINS (H-125/83)

Subject : Oxfam publication "Bitter Pills" concerning the export of medicines to the Third World

Has the Commission had an opportunity to read the Oxfam publication "Bitter Pills" concerning the export of medicines to the Third World ? Does the Commission agree with the aims of the Oxfam campaign and will they say what action they propose to take to give it support ?

96. Question by Mr. PATTISON (H-129/83)

Subject : Harmonisation in laws and practices on the length of the working week, and annual paid holidays

Will the Commission state what the position is in relation to the harmonisation of the length of the working week in the Member States, and also relating to provisions for paid annual holidays; in particular, will it state whether it is satisfied that the Council Recommendation (1) on the principle of the 40-hour week and the principle of four weeks' annual paid holiday is being implemented fully in all sectors of employment, in all Member States ?

(1) Recommendation (75/457/EEC) - O.J. L 199 of 30.7.1975

97. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-130/83)

Subject : Controls on imports into the EEC of cut flowers from third countries

Large quantities of the cut flowers imported at low prices onto the French market, particularly from the Netherlands which accounts for 90% of French imports, actually come from outside the Community, e.g. from Latin America.

In view of the difficulties facing the horticultural industry, particularly in the Mediterranean regions, can the Commission indicate whether current Community regulations allow for controls on the origin of cut flowers imported into the EEC and whether it will take the necessary steps to rectify the distortions of competition and the deflection of trade caused by these imports, which have serious consequences for producers ?

98. Question by Mr. TREACY (H-131/83)

Subject : Dumping of "Seveso Waste" of the Irish Coast

Is the Commission aware of the plans to dump the "Seveso Waste" in the Atlantic, only 370 nautical miles off the Irish coast; will it call for the immediate cessation of such dumping, with its terrifying implications for human health and life, and the marine environment, and state whether the measures at its disposal under the various Directives (1) are adequate to deal with the situation immediately and, if not, what other measures does it dispose of, or plan, to deal with this horrendous problem ?

(1) Directive 78/319/EEC on toxic and dangerous wastes
O.J.L 84 of 31.3.78, p.43

Directive of 4th May 1976 on pollution caused by dangerous substances in the aquatic environment - O.J. L 129 of 18.5.76, p.23

Directive on waste from the titanium dioxide industry
O.J. L 54 of 25.2.78, p.19

99. Question by Mrs GAIOTTI de BIASE (H-136/83)

Subject: Yugoslavia

At the end of April the President of the Federal Council of Yugoslavia held a series of meetings with the Commission.

Does the Commission not think it should inform Parliament, which has always taken a keen interest in the cooperation agreement, of the progress and outcome of these meetings?