

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 6 and 7 July 1982

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-663/81)

Subject : The Community's energy objectives

Did each Member State succeed in reducing the demand for oil in its total energy consumption during 1981 ?

2. Question by Mr JOHNSON (H-77/82) (x)

Subject: Importation of Seal Products into the Community

On 11th March, 1982, the European Parliament adopted by an overwhelming majority (160 votes to 10) a motion for a resolution which called upon the Commission, following the example of the United States, the Netherlands and Italy and taking into account the action of retail traders in France, to introduce, by means of a regulation, a ban on Community imports of all skins and products derived from young hooded and harp seals and on these and other products coming from seals whose stocks are depleted, threatened or endangered.

Bearing in mind the need for the Council to be able to adopt this regulation in time for it to be put into effect before next year's "seal hunt", can the Commission now indicate the precise timetable for the presentation of the draft regulation to the Parliament and Council?

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-4/82), converted into a question for QUESTION TIME.

3. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-114/82)

Subject: Reality of ECU use

Although the need to promote the use of the ECU is being urged by many people, does the Commission not consider that the reality is very different and that it is dangerous to design generous theoretical systems, especially in monetary matters, if no tangible results are produced?

4. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-115/82)

Subject: Means of harmonizing motor-vehicle prices as between Member States

Having regard to the considerable discrepancies in motor-vehicle prices as between European Community countries, has the Commission any means of intervening in price regulation so as gradually to secure reasonably uniform price levels?

5. Question by Mr PETERSEN H-127/82)

Subject: Returnable bottles system

Denmark has one of the best returnable bottles systems in the world. The ministerial regulations which underlie this system prohibit the selling of beer in cans. The Commission sees these regulations as a technical obstacle to trade in violation of Article 30 of the Treaty of Rome for which reason, according to reports received in Denmark, it is therefore now considering taking Denmark to the Court of Justice. Can the Commission not see that, on the contrary, this system, with the respect it shows for the environment and natural resources, the money it saves and the employment it provides, is in keeping with the general aims and spirit of the Treaty of Rome and with Member States' repeated undertakings to improve the quality of life at the same time as economic growth and, furthermore, does the Commission not feel that a purely quantitative interpretation of Article 30 of the Treaty of Rome, an interpretation which ignores qualitative aspects, is in the interests of the Community?

6. Question by Mr GONTIKAS (H-131/82)

Subject: Unacceptable conduct on the part of a Community official

On 3 May 1982 during an open discussion at the French Institute in Athens an official representing the Commission, attacked the European Parliament, saying that it hindered the work of the Commission.

He then went on to state that the union of Cyprus with the EEC was directly bound up with Turkish accession.

Does the Commission agree with these remarks by its representative, can he be regarded as truly representing the Commission in view of his grade and experience, and what does the Commission intend to do to restore the authority of the European Parliament?

7. Question by Mr PRICE (H-137/82)

Subject: Presence of Commissioners

Will the Commission ensure, in future, that at least half its members will be present in Parliament to answer questions during Question Time and so end the present contempt of Parliament by Commissioners who are answering on behalf of absent colleagues and are therefore totally unable to respond meaningfully to supplementary questions?

8. Question by Mr BORD (H-139/82)

Subject: Development of the common market in works of art

Can the Commission say what steps it intends to take in the coming months with a view to promoting a genuine European market in works of art and more especially in the direction of free trade in works of art, simplification of customs procedures and the harmonization of fiscal legislation?

9. Question by Mrs EWING (H-145/82)

Subject : Classification of roads

In view of the benefits which could be derived from the harmonization of road classifications - notably in tourism, road haulage and regional planning at Community level - what action, if any, has the Commission taken in this sector?

10. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-83/82)

Subject: Refunds to Member States

It would appear that in the 1980-1981 financial year a total amount of 40,000 million Bfrs was refunded to Member States from non-allocated appropriations earmarked for the common agricultural policy. What are the Commission's views on this refund system bearing in mind how difficult it is to find funds for the Community's regional policy? In other words, when such cases arise, would it not be possible to apply a system for the transfer of appropriations?

11. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-113/82)

Subject: Danger of increasing budget deficits

In view of the disturbing increase in the budget deficits of European countries, what recommendations are envisaged by the Commission? Does it not consider that urgent measures should be taken to secure greater rigour in the management of public funds in all Member States on the part of central and local authorities alike?

12. Question by Mrs LE ROUX (H-151/82)

Subject: Lifting of the ban on disposal of radioactive wastes into the sea by the United States

Was any mention made at the last meeting between the Commission and the United States Government of the lifting of the ban on disposal of radioactive wastes into the sea which had been in force for 12 years in the United States?

13. Question by Mr PRANCHERE (H-155/82)

Subject: Delay in the fixing of agricultural prices

What measures does the Commission intend to propose in order to compensate for the losses suffered, particularly by stock-farmers, because of the delay in the fixing of agricultural prices?

14. Question by Mr DALZIEL (H-183/82)

Subject: Rules on competition

In view of the fact that Porsche of Stuttgart in their dealings and contracts, including their standard importer agreements, does not consider itself obliged to sell in Germany the right-hand drive cars of UK specification which it supplies to its dealers in the UK, what investigations are being undertaken by the Commission concerning this and other breaches by motor manufacturers of the rules on competition in articles 85 and 86 of the EEC Treaty?

15. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-186/82)

Subject: Voting procedures in the Council

Is the Commission satisfied with current voting procedures in the Council, as being in the best interests of the Community and of each of the Member States?

16. Question by Mr BOYES (H-199/82)

Subject: Animal test - LD50

Would the Commission state which countries of the Community use the LD50 test and whether the Commission has any plans to encourage those countries that do use it to stop doing so?

17. Question by Mr BONDE (H-208/82)

Subject: Application of Regulation 1612/68

Is the right to acquire a holiday house a social privilege within the meaning of Article 7(2) of Regulation 1612/68?

18. Question by MR BERKOUWER (H-213/82)

Subject: Frontier checks

What steps does the Commission intend to take to put an end to the new delays occurring at the Dutch-Belgian frontier as a result of customs inspection of motorists' luggage?

19. Question by Dame Shelagh ROBERTS (H-214/82)

Subject: Advertisement of Public Supply Contracts

To what extent are the Commission satisfied that Member States are implementing the terms of Directive EEC/77/62 relating to the advertisement of Public Supply Contracts and do the Commission have evidence of any abuse of the Directive and, if so, what action is being taken to curb such abuse?

20. Question by Mrs DURY (H-215/82)

Subject: Participation of consumer organizations in the European Committee on Standards

In view of the role of the European Committee on Standards and the importance of its work for European consumers, does the Commission intend to arrange for representatives of consumer organizations to participate in the work of the Committee?

21. Question by Mrs WEBER (H-216/82)

Subject: Measures following the reports 'Global 2000' and 'Global future - time to act' to the United States President

In my oral question (0-54/81) of 29 October 1981 I called upon the Commission to take practical measures in response to the findings of the reports 'Global 2000' and 'Global future - time to act'. In the debate on 19 November 1981 Commissioner Narjes referred to the possible constitution of a committee of experts.

Has the Commission now defined in more detail the aims and tasks of such a committee of experts and have its members now been appointed ?

22. Question by Mrs VAYSSADE (H-217/82)

Subject: Relations between Vietnam and ASEAN

There have been reports of contacts between Vietnam and ASEAN and also certain ASEAN states. These reports also indicate participation by Vietnam in ASEAN working parties.

Have these reports reached the ears of the Commission ? What conclusions does it draw with regard to the resumption of its aid to Vietnam ?

23. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-220/82)

Subject: Financial charges

What steps does the Commission regularly take to keep itself aware of the number of types of financial charges that may be levied by Member States' customs services on intra-Community trade, and how many such types of charges are liable to be levied in each Member State and how far has this number been reduced in recent years?

24. Question by Mr WEDEKIND (H-223/82)

Subject: Air pollution from sulphur dioxide

According to scientists at the University of Göttingen, wide areas of forest in the southern part of Lower Saxony are threatened with total destruction within a few decades because of air pollution from sulphur dioxide (which combines with rain to form sulphuric acid).

The Lower Saxony Minister for Social Affairs claims that over 50% of this sulphur dioxide is carried by wind into the Federal Republic of Germany from other European States.

The problem of forest decay has now assumed European dimensions.

What immediate action does the Commission envisage to prevent further damage to trees and what pressure does it propose in the medium term to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions throughout Europe?

25. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-224/82)

Subject: Action programme in favour of equal opportunities for women

Can the Commission state which text of a resolution on the action programme in favour of equal opportunities for women was submitted to the Council, since it appears that the text on which the Parliament expressed its opinion was different from that submitted by the Council?

26. Question by Mrs CINCIARI RODANO (H-226/82)

Subject: Action programme in favour of equal opportunities for women

Can the Commission state which of the amendments adopted by the European Parliament on the action programme in favour of equal opportunities for women were recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Council of Ministers?

27. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-229/82)

Subject: Rehabilitation of the Falkland Islands

What support does the Commission believe can and should be given by the Community to assist the rehabilitation of the Falkland Islands?

28. Question by Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO (H-231/82)

Subject: Agreement by the Ten on the 25 pilot schemes designed to help young people adapt to adult life

The Education Ministers of the Community, meeting on 24 May 1982 in Brussels, approved 25 pilot schemes designed to help young people adapt to adult life.

Can the Commission state whether there are any pilot schemes specifically concerned with the social and professional training of young women and with the continuing education of adult women, and if so how many are there?

29. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-232/82)

Subject: Nicaragua

On 17 June 1982 Commissioner Pisani informed the European Parliament that Nicaragua had agreed to admit a commission of inquiry into human rights in that country. Does the Commission now intend to ask the Parliament to set up this delegation or does it wish Parliament itself to take the initiative?

30. Question by Mr SKOVMAND (H-236/82)

Subject: Distortion of competition in pig farming

What is the Commission's attitude to the present discrimination against Danish and certain other pig farmers?

They have to pay a high price for their grain, which other Community farmers avoid by buying feedstuffs derived from tapioca products from the developing countries, on which duties are very low.

31. Question by Mr CECOVINI (H-239/82)

Subject: Friuli-Venezia Giulia integrated operation

The Commission has received from the Italian Government plans for an integrated operation in the Friuli and Venezia Giulia regions which ought to qualify for assistance from the non-quota section of the European Regional Development Fund.

Does the Commission consider it useful and appropriate that the EEC should participate in the major infrastructure projects (building a tunnel under the Monte Croce Carnico, developing the Port of Trieste, laying a second track on the Pontebbana railway) that this integrated operation would entail?

32. Question by Mr CLUSKEY (H-240/82)

Subject: Neutrality and membership of the European Community

Can the Commission assure me that there has been no change in the Community since 1973 which would make a member state's position of neutrality incompatible with her membership of the European Community?

33. Question by Mr TREACY (H-241/82)

Subject: Community aid for the food-processing industry

In view of the significant contribution which can be made to employment creation through developing the food-processing industry, particularly in Ireland, will the Commission state what aid it can give to this industry, either within the framework of the Common Agricultural Policy, or from other sources?

34. Question by Mr PATTISON (H-245/82)

Subject : Community policies in favour of the elderly

Will the Commission outline the progress made to date in introducing and developing those policies in favour of the elderly, of which it spoke in the debate on the subject in Parliament in February last; in particular can it state what, if any, pilot projects are being planned or carried out ?

35. Question by Mr KAZAZIS (H-246/82)

Subject: ERDF Programmes in Greece

When does the Commission intend to put forward proposals for the implementation in Greece of programmes within the framework of the non-quota section of the ERDF and what are the reasons for this delay?

36. Question by Mr RIEGER (H-248/82)

Subject: EC loan to Sweden

Is there any truth to the report which appeared in 'Dagens Nyheter' on 18 May 1982 that the Community intends to grant a loan to Sweden for the development of the iron ore mines in Kiruna?

On what legal basis and with what purpose in mind does the Community grant loans to countries which are not Member States?

37. Question by Mr JUNOT (H-249/82)

Subject: North Sea gas

According to world experts, if an estimated 30,000 million dollars were invested in their exploitation, the natural gas deposits in the North Sea could provide the Community with a supply of gas equal to that which the Member States have negotiated with the Soviet Union.

Can the Commission provide further details in this connection? Does it not consider that there is an urgent need to carry out the requisite studies on the exploitation and medium-term yield of the natural gas deposits in the North Sea?

38. Question by Mr PAULHAN (H-250/82)

Subject: Photo-voltaic solar power station on the Greek island of Kythnos

Can the Commission provide information concerning the photo-voltaic solar power station which is now being built on the Greek island of Kythnos as a project partly subsidised by the Community?

Is the Commission planning any other projects of this type and, if so, are they to form part of a general plan for the medium-term development of solar energy in the Community?

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

39. Question by Mr BERKHOUWER (H-181/82)

Subject: Frontier checks

Does the Council consider it to be in keeping with the letter, spirit and tenor of all the Benelux treaties, the completion of the customs union in 1978, etc., that - as happened in my own case on 17 May 1982 - the luggage of individuals travelling by car is still inspected at frontier posts between the Netherlands and Belgium, travellers being asked by the Belgian customs officials whether 'they have anything else to declare'(sic)?

40. Question by Mr EISMA (H-192/82)

Subject: Action programme on the position of women

In what way were the amended action programme on the position of women and the associated resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 12 May 1982 and taken over by the Commission of the European Communities incorporated into the proposal discussed by the Social Affairs Council on 27 May 1982; did the Council adopt the proposal in its entirety and if not, what parts were amended?

41. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-198/82)

Subject: Connection between agricultural prices and the Community budget

Does the Council agree that there is a strong link between agricultural prices, the Community budget and the net contribution of Member States?

42. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-848/81)

Subject: Convergence in educational syllabi

What steps does the Council envisage to encourage a degree of convergence in educational syllabi and to foster a Community spirit in the younger generation?

43. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-55 /82)

Subject: Resolutions tabled at Parliament's July 1981 part-session on the improvement of inter-institutional relations and their operation

Will the Council say what progress has been made on this matter, having regard to the fact that an answer should have been given by 31 December 1981?

44. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-142/82)

Subject: Education in retirement

In view of the experience of the Danish authorities in "folk colleges" would the President-in-Office indicate whether he will bring forward proposals in his presidency for education in retirement?

45. Question by Mr BØGH (H-164/82)

Subject: Right of veto

It is a premise of Danish membership of the Community that the right of veto laid down in the Luxembourg compromise should be fully preserved.

Can the President of the Council give an assurance that during his term of office nothing will be done to the right of veto either directly or through a s' approach?

46. Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-165/82)

Subject: Elements contrary to the Treaty in Mr Fergusson's report on defence

Mr Fergusson's report contains sections on rearmament, joint arms production and civil defence. The Danish Government's attitude has always been that defence questions and military matters lie outside the terms of reference of the Community and its institutions. There is no authority in the Treaty for bringing such matters within the province of the Community institutions.

What is the Council's attitude to the fact that Parliament is discussing a report by Mr Fergusson which far oversteps the dividing line between security policy and defence policy?

47. Question by Mrs LE ROUX (H-201/82)

Subject: Aid for the modernization of fishing fleets

Does the Council not think that the granting of aid for the modernization of fishing fleets should be subject to compliance with the rules applicable in the social sector?

48. Question by Mr BONDE (H-209/82)

Subject: Legality principle

Does the Council agree that what is known as the legality principle holds good for all decisions in the EEC and that each and every Community decision has to be founded on a definite provision of the Treaties?

49. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-212/82)

Subject: Nuclear power stations

Can the President of the Council state whether he intends to resort to the very effective method which has just been applied in respect of agricultural prices in order to ensure the adoption of the proposal for a regulation setting up a consultation procedure in respect of nuclear power stations to be built in border areas?

50. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-221/82)

Subject: Proposals for regulations relating to customs procedures

Will the Council say how many proposals for regulations relating to customs procedures are awaiting consideration by the Council, how long they have been awaiting decision and, in respect of each, which particular aspects of the proposals are responsible for the delays?

51. Question by Mrs CINCIARI RODANO (H-225/82)

Subject: Action programme in favour of equal opportunities for women

Can the Council state which of the amendments adopted by the European Parliament on the action programme in favour of equal opportunities for women were adopted by the Commission and consequently recommended by the Commission for adoption by the Council?

52. Question by Mr SKOVMAND (H-235/82)

Subject: Distortion of competition in pig farming

What is the Council's attitude to the distortions of competition in pigmeat production?

Dutch and West German farmers in particular enjoy the substantial advantage of being able to import tapioca products from the developing countries almost dutyfree, while Danish farmers, for instance, are for the most part forced to use barley, which is subject to levies and therefore more expensive.

53. Question by Mr SCHMID (H-237/82)

Subject: The 'Genscher-Colombo Initiative'

Is there any truth in reports that the Danish Presidency is resolutely opposed to the 'Genscher-Colombo Initiative'? If these reports are not true, how many meetings of Community bodies does the Danish Presidency intend to convene in order to consider this matter?

54. Question by Mrs EWING (H-243/82)

Subject : Fisheries

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

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

55. Question by Sir Fred WARNER (H-227/82) (x)

Subject: LAOS

Will the Ministers in pursuit of their attempts to secure the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea and the restoration of the sovereignty of that country, on all occasions draw attention to the similar violations which are taking place on Lao territory and demand the restoration of full Lao sovereignty?

56. Question by Mr BALFE (H-99/82)

Subject: Plastic bullets used as a method of riot control

In which countries of the EEC are plastic bullets used as a method of riot control, and would the Member States have any objections if the Belgian Government used plastic bullets against demonstrators from the other EEC countries who were demonstrating against the Commission or the Parliament?

57. Question by Mrs BOOT (H-163/82)

Subject: Restrictions on Soviet Jewry

In view of the Parliament's resolution passed on the 13 May on Soviet Jewry what representations have the Foreign Ministers made to the Government of the Soviet Union on this subject?

(x) Former oral question with debate (O-43/82), converted into a question for question time

58. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-128/82)

Subject: Initiative on South Africa

Do the Foreign Ministers not consider that by taking the view that only economic affairs may be dealt with in the framework of the second Lomé Convention and that the problem of South Africa therefore may not, they are failing to take account of the deepest desires of the Community's ACP partners and of innumerable initiatives taken in international fora and do they therefore not agree that a new initiative concerning this problem is needed in order to restore shaken confidence?

59. Question by Mr HAAGERUP (H-149/82)

Subject: Cap Anamur

Could the Ministers report on the discussions held and the decisions taken during the EPC meeting of the 22nd March 1982 on the question of the refugees saved by the Cap Anamur, as requested by the Parliament's Resolution 1-1049/81?

60. Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-166/82)

Subject: Ignoring of the Haagerup report on Security

Mr Haagerup's report oversteps the line drawn by the Foreign Ministers between security policy, which is now a legitimate field for EPC, and defence/military questions, which fall outside the terms of reference of all the Community institutions.

The questions dealt with by the Haagerup report include nuclear weapons in Europe, armaments and arms control.

The current President of the Council has stated that there are primarily three Community issues on which we must stand firm: resisting any increase in powers, maintaining the right of veto and ensuring that the Community does not become a vehicle of military and security policy ('Politiken' of 1.11.1979).

Can the President of the Council confirm that the Foreign Ministers will ignore the conclusions of Mr Haagerup's report on security and will not spend time discussing them in political cooperation?

61. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-207/82)

Subject: South Africa

The item 'South Africa' is always included in the agenda of the relevant working party of the Ministers meeting in political cooperation.

Could the Ministers tell us whether extension of the code of conduct and of the accompanying measures has been considered in the formulation of new economic sanctions against South Africa?

62. Question by Mr BONDE (H-211/82)

Subject: Falklands crisis

Do the Foreign Ministers share the view of the Community's response to the Falklands crisis expressed by Eberhardt Rhein, a chef de cabinet, in 'EF-avisen' of 4 May 1982, according to which there is now agreement to use the Treaty to achieve foreign policy objectives, and can the Ministers confirm that the principal discussions were left to the Commission and the Ambassadors to the Community?

63. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-218/82)

Subject: Mr Tindeman's visit to Israel

During his recent visit to Israel, Mr Tindemans, the President of the Council, expressed his support for the so-called 'autonomy' of the Palestinians. This position is linked to the Camp David Agreement condemned by the Arab countries and amounts to a retraction of the Venice Declaration, which calls for full self determination for the Palestinian people and participation by the PLO negotiations.

Does this anti-Arab shift in EEC policy have the unanimous approval of the governments of the Member States? If not, why did the President-in-Office of the Council support a position of this kind which may harm relations between the Arab States and Member States, such as Greece, that recognize the PLO and are in favour of the Palestinian people being accorded their rights?

64. Question by Mr PRAG (H-219/82)

Subject: Contacts in capitals of the Ten

In which capitals have regular meetings between the nine Heads of Mission and host Political Director not taken place since October 13, 1981 in accordance with paragraph nine of the London report?

65. Question by Mr SEELER (H-222/82)

Subject: Arms exports by Member States of the European Community

The conflict over the Falkland Islands has once again made the arms exports of some Member States of the European Community, in particular France, a matter of topical importance. Member States of the European Community are suffering heavy losses of men and material from weapons systems exported from Europe.

Have the Foreign Ministers considered the arms exports of Member States of the European Community to non-member countries or will it consider this subject with a view to placing very strict limits on these exports to prevent the escalation of military conflicts in the world? If the answer to this first question is 'no', why do the Foreign Ministers not feel that they should work towards joint limitations on arms exports by the Member States of the Community?

66. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-228/82)

Subject: Neutralization of the Antarctic

Would it be possible to avoid future conflict over national mineral rights, by creating a neutral international zone in the Antarctic and will the foreign ministers initiate talks at the United Nations to this end?