

# European Communities

---

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1981 - 1982

---

29 October 1981

DOCUMENT 1-673/81/rev.

ORAL QUESTION (0-54/81)

with debate pursuant to Rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mrs WEBER, Mr GLINNE, Mrs FOCKE, Mr MUNTINGH, Mr BOMBARD, Mr COLLINS, Mr CLUSKEY, Mr COHEN, Mr SCHMID Mr VAN MINNEN, Mr SCHWENKE, Mr RIEGER, Mrs KROUWEL-VLAM, Mrs HOFF, Mr SEELER, Mr THAREAU, Mr FUCHS, Mrs VAYSSADE, Mr KEY, Mr ROGERS, Mr SEEFELD, Mrs SALISCH, Mrs FUILLET, Mr LEZZI and Mrs THEOBALD-PAOLI

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Action in response to the reports 'Global 2000' and 'Global Future - Time to Act' submitted to the American President

In July 1980 a report entitled 'Global 2000' was submitted to the American President, who had commissioned it in order to obtain an assessment of the future prospects of mankind in regard to population trends, supplies of raw materials and energy and the quality of the environment.

In the report the governments of the whole world are exhorted to act quickly, comprehensively and decisively.

Following on from this report an action programme was drawn up for the American Government, entitled 'Global Future - Time to Act'.

./.

1. What is the European Community doing to help avert the impending global catastrophe predicted in the two reports?

The Community and its Member States must bear a considerable share of responsibility for the imminent worldwide exhaustion of resources and deterioration in the natural environment through their economic activity, with its enormous demand for supplies of raw materials and energy, their large share in world production of chemicals, dangerous goods and waste, the relentless expansion of built-up areas and transport networks, the over-exploitation of agricultural land and high demand for scarce items of food and luxury articles.

2. How does the Commission propose to use the findings of the two reports for the purpose of its own activities, in particular as regards policies on economics, agriculture, development, energy and research, transport, environment and health?

The reports have made it clear that virtually all areas in which policy decisions have been taken have a direct or indirect impact on the major problems of the world-population, raw materials and energy supplies and the environment.

It therefore seems necessary to make a more careful assessment of the likely medium and long-term consequences of policies and funding arrangements than in the past.

The sooner the implications of the two reports for the European Community are acknowledged, the better the chance of protecting future generations from the harmful effects of human activity.