

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

11 October 1982

DOCUMENT 1-684/82

ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 12 and 13 October 1982

1. Question by Mr SEAL (H-262/82)

Subject: 245-T

In view of the findings of the Acheson report which links exposure to 245-T with soft tissue cancer, will the Commission now reconsider their recommendations on the use and manufacture of 245-T in the Community and produce a Regulation instituting a complete ban on such use and manufacture?

2. Question by Mr DURY (H-275/82)

Subject: Proposals concerning the rights of workers

Does the Commission intend to make new proposals concerning the rights of workers in industry and thus contribute to the further development of the European social area?

3. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-278/82)

Subject: Revival of investment by means of Community borrowing

Can the Commission state what measures it envisages taking with a view to reviving investment in the Community and whether it intends to make rapid use of the new resources which the Council has opened up by enabling the Community to borrow on the financial market?

4. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-288/82)

Subject: Holding of a 'Jumbo' Council

Does the Commission have plans for a 'Jumbo' Council during the Danish presidency?

5. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-314/82)

Subject : Changes in Commissioners' Portfolios

Does the President of the Commission envisage any changes in Commissioners' Portfolios ?

6. Question by Mr BORD (H-336/82)

Subject: Textile agreements

Can the Commission state what bilateral agreements have so far been concluded under the Multifibre Arrangement?

7. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-337/82)

Subject: The setting up of a permanent economic consultation between Europe and the United States

In view of the recent steep rise in interest rates, does the Commission intend to propose permanent economic consultation between the United States and Europe?

8. Question by Mr FLANAGAN (H-343/82)

Subject : Rational Use of Energy in the transport sector

Will the Commission give details of actions taken in the past or to be proposed in the future at Community level which have exploited or will help to exploit the Rational Use of Energy (RUE) in the transport sector, particularly since transport accounts for 25 % of Community consumption of petroleum products ?

9. Question by Sir RETER VANNECK (H-353/82)

Subject: Common Customs Tariff on Aeronautical Products

Is Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1535/82 of 17th May 1982⁽¹⁾ intended to apply to products originating in the United States of America for use in the construction, maintenance and repair of military aircraft, as distinct from civil aircraft?

10. Question by Mr MART (H-370/82)

Subject: Doubts cast on the decisions regarding Parliament's places of work

Is the Commission aware of the Val d'Or project, the aim of which is to concentrate all Parliament's services in BRUSSELS and, if so, can it confirm that it has never at any time lent its support to this initiative? Does it not feel that this proje could jeopardize the agreements on places of work, which specify in particular that the Secretariat of the European Parliament is based in LUXEMBOURG?

11. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-767/81)

Subject: Assured gas supplies

Given the latest knowledge of gas resources available to the Community's domestic and industrial consumers, in what timescale are proven industrial processes for coal gasification required in order to ensure gas supplies when natural gas supplies begin to decrease with the exhaustion of gas resources ?

1) O.J. L 175, 21.6.1982, page 1

12. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-96/82)

Subject: Setting up of free zones

Can the Commission state whether there are any rules to prevent the setting up in a Member State of industrial free zones, i.e. areas in which no taxes are imposed?

Has the Commission been obliged to define its position on this question in the past, and if so, what response did it give?

13. Question by Mr GONDIKAS (H-133/82)

Subject: Greek subjects refused permission to enter Denmark

On 21 November 1981 two Greek subjects, Nicolaos Vassias and Kostis Mavros, were refused permission to enter Denmark by the Danish authorities on the grounds that they were not carrying enough money. In fact, the two Greeks had brought with them the maximum foreign currency allowance permitted by the Greek state. Subsequently, they were refused permission to contact the Greek Embassy in Copenhagen and were then taken in handcuffs to Copenhagen Airport Police Station, where they were held for 38 hours and then forced to return to Budapest. No explanation was given.

This act on the part of the Danish authorities is a clear infringement of Community regulations and of the Treaty of Rome.

The incident was reported in the newspaper 'ELEFTHEROTYPIA' on 1 December 1981; Greek public opinion was justifiably outraged.

What measures does the Commission envisage taking to have the Danish Government pay compensation to these Greek subjects for the financial loss they suffered and also for the humiliation they underwent, and what can be done to prevent similar occurrences in future?

14. Question by Mr KAZAZIS (H-247/82)

Subject: Amending the ERDF Regulation

What progress has been made by COREPER as regards the prospects of the Council accepting in 1982 the Commission proposal on amending the regulation governing the functioning of the ERDF (COM(81) 589 final); and if the Council does not accept the Commission's proposal by 31.12.1982, will Regulation 214/79, which amended Regulation 724/75 and which at present governs the functioning of the ERDF, remain in force during 1983 as well?

15. Question by Mr PRANCHERE (H-255/82)

Subject: Reducing production costs in countries with a high rate of inflation

In its resolution on farm prices for the 1982/1983 marketing year, the European Parliament called on the Commission 'to propose supplementary measures enabling the increase in production costs to be reduced in countries with a high rate of inflation'.

Does the Commission intend to act on this recommendation and to propose practical measures at an early date?

16. Question by Mr BONDE (H-264/82)

Subject: Legal basis for Parliament's actions

Will the Commission, as guardian of the Treaties, indicate the legal basis for the European Parliament's adoption of a pension scheme and an invalidity pension scheme for its members and, if no legal basis exists, inform Parliament that the establishment of pensions and invalidity pensions for members is a domestic issue to be dealt with by the parliaments of the Member States?

17. Question by Mr SKOVMAND (H-284/82)

Subject: Abolition of the two-day rule in Denmark

Commissioner Tugendhat has stated that the Commission will endeavour to secure the abolition of the two-day rule in Denmark, whereby a person must leave the country for two days to be allowed to import spirits and more than three packets of cigarettes.

Does the Commission as a whole agree with this view, and has it considered what this change could mean in terms of more widespread alcoholism and a greater incidence of the diseases connected with increased tobacco consumption?

18. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-287/82)

Subject: Exports of African ivory

The experts responsible for protecting wildlife in Africa estimate that exports of 'white gold' in recent years have reached the record figure of 1,000 tonnes per year. There has been a continued increase in poaching in the majority of African countries:

- in Uganda, the elephant population was reduced from an estimated 30,000 in 1970 to 2,000 in 1980;
- in Kenya, half the elephant population has been wiped out.

In order to stem this sorry trade and to protect the elephant in Africa, would it be possible for the Commission to consider closing the Community's frontiers to all imports of ivory?

19 Question by Mr KIRK (H-298/82)

Subject: National aid to agriculture

According to information supplied by the Commission, the Member States' national expenditure on agriculture is about twice that of the Community; the number of national aid measures in the agricultural sector in 1977 was put at around 2,500. The Commission has also stated on several occasions that it finds the trend in this sector 'extremely worrying'. This suggests that the scale of the problem is increasing. In spite of this, only in very few cases has the Commission put into effect the procedures to counter specific aid measures, and between 1979 and 1981 it only formally declared aid measures to be incompatible with Articles 92 to 94 of the EEC Treaty on two occasions. Nor has the Commission put forward 'definitive guidelines for adapting various types of existing aid measures, but on the contrary regards a resumption of this work as impossible.

Does the Commission consider that in this sector it has made sufficient efforts to apply the provisions of the Treaty and to ensure the proper functioning and development of the common market?

20. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-305/82)

Subject: Strengthening of the European Monetary System

Does the Commission intend to submit proposals for the strengthening of the European Monetary System, and will these be new proposals or simply a restatement of the proposals already formulated in the past?

21. Question by Mr BALFE (H-312/82)

Subject: Directive on social Security and Sex Discrimination

Could the Commission state what progress and plans have been made by Member States respect of the implementation of the Directive on Social Security and Sex Discrimination?

22. Question by Mrs EWING (H-313/82)

Subject: ratification of international shipping conventions

Will the Commission state what progress has been made with regard to the ratification by Member States of the MARPOL Convention of 1973 (and protocol of 1978) and the STC Convention of 1978 which were identified as two of the three most important international shipping conventions at the Public Hearing on marine pollution which was held in Paris between 20th and 22nd of June 1978?

23. Question by Mr HOPPER (H-417/82) (x)

Subject: Thermal energy of the oceans

Does the Commission intend to include in its new programme for research into sources of alternative energy for 1983 - 1987 the field of thermal energy of the oceans?

If this is not the case, will the Commission give its reasons, in view of the benefit this research could be to ACP countries with tropical waters?

24. Question by Mr BOYES (H-330/82)

Subject: The use of X-ray inspection equipment at airport security check points

Is the Commission aware that there is evidence to suggest that X-ray inspection at airport security check points can cause damage to photographic equipment and materials; that airport security officials manning such check points within the Community often deny request from concerned individuals that such equipment be checked manually as an alternative?

Has the commission studied the varying attitudes of Member State Governments on this subject and if not is it prepared to initiate such a study in view of the growing concern being expressed by individuals and organisations on this subject?

(1) Former oral question without debate (U-72/82), converted into a question
for question time

25. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-342/82)

Subject: Information on grants from EEC

In view of the Commission's expressed desire that it would be in interests of the Community if more rapid and more detailed information on grants from EEC could be provided than is currently the case with notices in the Official Journal (answer to Oral Question No.H-75/82 by myself), ⁽¹⁾ will the Commission now (a) agree to publish aid granted under the Social Fund in the Official Journal and (b) will it agree to transmit direct to the Members of the Parliament concerned (by telex) the detailed information which it now intends to provide to journalists in Brussels so that a parliamentary reaction to the grants announced may be available to the press at the same time as the announcement of the grants itself?

(1) Debates 285

26. Question by Mr PRAG (H-344/82)

Subject: Community Action Programme of the social integration of disabled people

Will the Commission confirm that work in the network of the 15-20 districts under the Commission's Action Programme of social integration of disabled people will begin in 1983, and will not be postponed to 1984?

Will the Commission also state what work on this programme it expects to be complete (a) by the end of 1983, and (b) by the end of 1984?

27. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-351/82)

Subject: Energy prices paid by U.S. steel producers

Do U.S. steel producers pay world prices for their energy supplies and if not why not?

28. Question by Mr MØLLER (H-363/82)

Subject: Formalities for the EEC school milk subsidy

More than 200 local authorities in Denmark take advantage of the special subsidies provided by the Community for the purchase of school milk, but the system involves so many formalities that they often gain little real benefit. Most of the subsidy is spent on administration.

Will the Commission state the formalities that must be performed to obtain the EEC subsidy, and will it reduce them in order to stop the subsidies being swallowed up in this way?

29. Question by Mr NICOLSON (H-368/82)

Subject: Packaging industry

Could the Commission explain the objectives behind their arranging for an EEC delegation to present a Market Information Seminar on Packaging to the Members of ASEAN (7-11 June 1982) when there is so great a need to put the West European packaging industry into a better condition and to encourage innovation? Should not any available resources be directed to this latter end?

30. Question by Mr. HUME (H-373/82)

Subject : The Commission Review of Social Regulations in Road Transport
(Regulations 543/69 and 1463/70) ⁽¹⁾

Is the Commission in a position to report on its review of the Social Regulations in Road Transport, and are more realistic exemptions for farmers and retail traders in respect of Regulation 543/69 likely to be recommended ?

(1) O.J. L 77 29.3.69, p. 49 and L 164 27.7.70 p. 1

31. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-376/82)

Subject: The problem of unemployment in the Greek steel industry

The crisis in the Greek steel industry is having serious repercussions for the problem of unemployment, especially having regard to the magnitude of employment in the Greek steel industry.

Can the Commission state on whose authority and for whose benefit there has been no move to implement Article 56(2)(b) of the ECSC Treaty?

What amounts have been allocated for 1980-81 and having regard to Article 68(5) what is its attitude to the serious differences in subsidy policy and more generally the treatment of unemployed steel workers as between Greece and the other Member States such as Belgium and France?

32. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-378/82)

Subject: The market for Greek raisins

Greece is the only country in the EEC and in the whole of Europe that produces raisins. Today it has stocks of unsold raisins from last year's harvest (95,000 tonnes composed of 70,000 tonnes of sultanas and 25,000 tonnes of currants, ie 70% of the 1981 production) and it is expected that this year's harvest will amount to 150,000 tonnes. Since its accession to the EEC, Greece has been facing strong competition from the USA, Australia, Turkey, etc, which, by reason of the preferential agreements they have with the Community and the dumping prices which they apply, are ousting Community products in the EEC itself, which formerly absorbed 95% of Greek production.

In view of the alarming situation that has been created in the raisin-producing regions of Greece (Crete, Peloponnese) does the Commission intend taking immediate measures to put into real effect the principle of Community preference, and of protection from the imports of third countries, to provide premiums for exports to the socialist and other countries, and to finance programmes for the promotion of modern scientific methods of cultivation and processing in order to reduce the cost and to increase the production of Greek raisins?

33. Question by Mrs WEBER (H-382/82)

Subject: Council Directive on air quality limit values and guide values for sulphur dioxide and suspended particles¹

Had all the Member States adopted the necessary laws, regulations and administrative provisions by July 1982 to achieve the reduction in sulphur dioxide emissions and amounts of suspended particles required in the directive? Which countries have not yet adopted these provisions?

¹ 15.7.1980 (OJ L229/30)

34. Question by Mrs van den HEUVEL (H-384/82)

Subject: The situation of women in relation to unemployment

Because of the continued increase in unemployment the idea is gaining ground that in future a married couple will only be allowed one job. Cases are known where (local) authorities have applied this rule. In view of social traditions and women's generally lower standard of education, this will in practice amount to indirect discrimination against women. Is the Commission willing to point out to national governments that such a practice conflicts with the Directive on Equal Treatment and to keep the Committee of Inquiry into the Situation of Women informed of any action it may take?

35. Question by Mr GRIFFITHS (H-385/82)

Subject: Manpower Services Commission Vocational Training Schemes
in the United Kingdom

Bearing in mind the considerable contribution from the Social Fund to the Manpower Services Commission Vocational Training Schemes in the United Kingdom does the Commission have any assessment of the effectiveness of the courses and to what extent is it satisfied with them?

36. Question by Mr PEDINI (H-386/82)

Subject: Price controls for steel products

The crisis of the Community steel industry is becoming increasingly acute and, even though desirable, the measures to control production are not sufficient to ensure the transparency of the market and to guard against unfair competition. With adequate staff, does the Commission consider that it could formulate measures designed to control prices and, if so, can such measures be applied without excess bureaucracy, in particular with regard to the small and medium-sized undertakings?

37. Question by Mrs DE MARCH (H-393/82)

Subject: Emergency aid following the Mediterranean forest fires

The Mediterranean forests have been devastated by violent fires. Damage has been considerable to both persons and property. Attempts to provide protection and start reforestation are being threatened. Has the Commission, which I informed immediately, decided to grant the regions affected by the disaster substantial emergency aid, as specified under Community provisions for natural disasters?

38. Question by Mr ALBERS (H-396/82)

Subject: Falling asleep at the wheel

What action does the Commission intend to take on the findings of recent studies which show that falling asleep at the wheel is attributable more to hours spent at work than to hours spent driving?

39. Question by Mr PAULHAN (H-402/82)

Subject: Development of liquid substitutes for heavy fuel oil

Can the Commission provide information on the results of new combustion experiments on the development of liquid substitutes based on fuel oil/coal mixtures for use in power stations normally fired by heavy fuel oil, carried out inter alia by the BP company in France?

40. Question by Mr O'DONNELL (H-405/82)

Subject : Regulation on development of beef production

The conditions requiring the establishment of the common measure in Reg No 1054/81 (O.J. L 111 of 1981) still exist - low agricultural incomes and budgetary constraints in the Member State concerned. Will the Commission therefore propose a continuation of the scheme?

41. Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-406/82)

Subject: Easing of checks on travellers

Has the Commission conducted negotiations with the Norwegian and Swedish authorities in connection with the draft Council resolution on the easing of checks on travellers (COM(82) 400 final)?

There is a danger that the Scandinavian passport regulations which enable Scandinavian citizens to cross internal Scandinavian frontiers without showing their passports, will be undermined by the proposals that:

- (a) Community citizens should not be subjected to systematic checks at frontier posts if they can show a European passport,
- (b) special channels should be introduced for Community citizens at ports and airports.

42. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-408/82)

Subject: Participation by the Commission in the UN Assembly on Ageing

In paragraphs 23 and 24 of the resolution on the situation and problems of the aged adopted by the European Parliament last February, the Commission was asked to examine, at a full meeting of all its Members, both the resolution and the reasons on which it was based, prior to publishing its decision on the follow-up legislative action to be taken. Moreover, should the Commission refuse this request, it was asked to give its reasons before Parliament and also publish the relevant text in the Official Journal. Finally, the Commission was requested in paragraph 19(d) of the resolution to take part 'as actively ... as possible' in the Assembly subsequently held in Vienna from 26 July to 6 August.

Could the Commission state which of these measures it has taken, bearing in mind that the speech by the Commission representative before the UN Assembly did not refer to the demands made and the political guidelines proposed by the European Parliament?

43. Question by Mr DAVERN (H-412/82)

Subject: Deplorable state of farm incomes in County Kerry in Ireland

Is the Commission aware that only 15% of farmers in the County Kerry region of Ireland are generating a satisfactory income level, that 65% are not generating sufficient income to reach viability and that a further 12% are borderline cases and that such an intolerable situation is totally contrary to the aims of the Treaty and that the Community should take immediately steps to improve the incomes situation for all farmers?

44. Question by LORD BETHELL (H-418/82)

Subject: Harmonisation of postal and telephone charges within the Community

What measures do they propose to introduce to harmonise postal and telephone charges within the Community, so as to eliminate the distortion of trade presently prevailing?

45. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-419/82)

Subject: Current balance of trade between the Community and Taiwan

What is the current balance of trade between the Community and Taiwan?

Is the Commission satisfied with existing Taiwanese trading practices and in particular with the observance of copyright rules?

46. Question by Mr WELSH (H-420/82)

Subject: Council's answer to Oral Question No. H-340/82 (1)

Has the Commission studied the Council's answer to Oral Question No. H-340/82? Would it inform Parliament of the nature of the "new ideas on possible bases for solutions" put forward by its services and does it intend to submit a modified proposal in the light of the Council discussions?

(1) Verbatim report of proceedings on 15.9.1982 page 223 (provisional edition)

47. Question by Mr MAHER (H-422/82)

Subject: Breakdown of C.A.P. finance

What proportion of the finance used in the C.A.P. for the support of European Agriculture is going directly to farmers in the Member States and what proportion is being used under other headings, including administration, at European level and at the level of the Member States?

48. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-424/82)

Subject: Passport checks at the Community's internal frontiers/delays

In its answer of 13 May 1982 to Question No 58/82 by Mr PEARCE¹ concerning delays resulting from passport checks at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport, the Commission implied that passport checks of this kind and obstructions to the free movement of persons do not fall within the scope of Community law.

However, during the debate on my oral question to the Council on this subject on 15 September 1982², the Commission representative stated that obstructions to the free movement of persons were indeed covered by Community law.

Is the Commission therefore prepared to take action pursuant to Article 169 of the EEC Treaty in respect of delays caused by identity checks at the Community's internal frontiers, for example in the case of flights between Düsseldorf and Paris, on the grounds that these obstruct the free movement of persons?

¹ OJ No C 156 of 21 June 1982, P. 21

² Verbatim report of proceedings of 16 September 1982

9. Question by Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU (H-425/82)

Subject: Conclusion of a fisheries agreement between the EEC and Turkey

In view of the practical benefits which fishermen in the Member States have derived from previous fisheries agreements between the Community and third countries, can the Commission examine the possibility of concluding a similar agreement with Turkey?

10. Question by Mr LALOR (H-429/82)

Subject: Radioactive discharges in the Irish Sea

Is the Commission aware that the Irish Sea is now believed to contain the highest concentration of radioactive discharges of any area of similar size in the World and what responsibility does it accept for this situation in view of the standards created under the Euratom Treaty?

11. Question by Mr ADAMOPOULOS (H-434/82)

Subject : Restructuring of Greek tobacco plantations

Within the framework of the CAP the Community has decided that in certain regions of Greece (Etolia and Akarnania, Macedonia, Ipiros) plantations growing tobacco mainly for domestic consumption but also for eastern Cyprus must change over to Virginia and Burley tobacco or else to other crops entirely. However, the soil in those regions is poor and infertile and therefore entirely unsuitable for such crops, which can thrive only on fertile soil. Consequently, replacement of the crops currently being grown by Virginia and Burley tobacco or by any other crops would mean economic disaster and remove tobacco-growers completely from those regions.

What measures does the Commission intend taking in order to prevent the implementation of this decision which is inimical to farmers, and to avoid the uprooting of thousands of Greek agriculturists from these regions, particularly under present-day conditions when unemployment has become the No. 1 problem for all countries of the Community?

52. Question by Mr MOORHOUSE (H-436/82)

Subject : North sea gas supplies to Community

What discussions has the Commission had with the Government of Norway about gas supplies to Member States from the northern north sea in the light of the controversy surrounding soviet natural gas supplies to the Community?

53. Question by M. Christopher JACKSON (H-439/82)

Subject : The E.C. market for cars - UK car prices

As the Commission works towards its objective of a market for cars in which consumers are free to purchase where they wish, transitional problems will arise. In particular, it would be harmfully disruptive if U.K. cars were as a result of Commission action to fall, say, by 20% in a matter of months.

Will the Commission say what measures it is considering to permit a gradual alignment of pretax car prices in the EEC over a period of two or three years,

Will it consider negotiating a voluntary agreement with car manufacturers (who are under threat for competition infringements) such that an orderly alignment of prices may be obtained

and in the absence of this could 'transitional' national aids to British car companies be permitted under EEC regulations?

54. Question by Mr LAGAKOS (H-441/82)

Subject : Criteria and methods employed by the Commission in filling high-level post

As Commission figures show (Supplementary and Amending Preliminary Draft Budget - No. 1-1982-Administrative Appropriations), disproportionately fewer A1, A2, A3, A4, A5 and A6 posts are allocated to Greeks than to nationals of other Member States

Can the Commission state what methods and criteria are employed in allocating the above-mentioned posts according to nationality and subject area and what is its policy for recruiting Greek officials for the Joint Research Centre, given that out of a total staff of 2,219 there is only one official of Greek nationality?

55. Question by Mr CECOVINI (H-442/82)

Subject : Industrial research

Can the Commission state whether it is true that the European Community has decided to pool the research undertaken by European industries so as to examine the possibility of setting up new industries and developing existing ones?

56. Question by Mr PATTISON (H-443/82)

Subject : Community Support for the Development of Fish Farming

In view of the potential for development in fish farming in the Community, especially in Ireland, will the Commission state what policies it has for encouraging and providing financial support for fish farming?

57. Question by Mr CLUSKEY (H-444/82)

Subject : The Second Poverty Programme

Will the Commission comment on its recently expressed views that it may meet resistance from Council to the plans for a Second Poverty Programme, and outline what measures it intends to take to endeavour to overcome this resistance?

58. Question by Mr TYRRELL (H-445/82)

Subject : Proposed Greek legislation relating to pharmaceuticals

In view of the fact that there has recently been introduced into the Greek parliament a law imposing sweeping new rules in the pharmaceutical sector, including the creation of a national drug organization which would itself participate in the production and marketing of pharmaceuticals, provisions that would radically limit the range of products eligible for use in public hospitals and for reimbursement by social security organizations, and the imposition of drastic price controls on such products, and that the proposed legislation would appear to infringe articles 30, 90 and 92 of the Treaty of Rome, would the Commission say what steps it has taken and is proposing to take to ensure that any such legislation actually adopted in Greece will be consistent with the provisions of the Treaty ?

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

59. Question by Mr ANTONIOZZI (H-388/82) (x)

Subject: Decisions taken at the last meeting of the
Council of Foreign Ministers

Given the numerous conflicting reports of the disappointing and restrictive guidelines adopted by the Council and the relevant working party in respect of the Genscher-Colombo institutional initiative, does the Council of Ministers have the political determination actively to encourage the Community's institutional development, as has been claimed on so many occasions by the various Presidents of the Council, or does it intend to leave unfulfilled the aspirations expressed by the people of Europe when they voted in 1979 for the new directly elected Parliament, hoping that this would bring progress towards political union?

60. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-103/82)

Subject: European Act

Can the Council state whether it has followed up the proposals made by Mr GENSCHER and Mr COLOMBO concerning a European Act and, if it has done so, how?

61. Question by Mrs LE ROUX (H-202/82)

Subject: Fish used for animal feed

Catches are used to produce fish meal on a very large scale in some Member States.

Will the Council consider this matter without delay, as it is of crucial importance for the protection of the Community's fish stocks ?

(x) Former oral question with debate (0-56/82), converted into a question for question time

62. Question by Ms QUIN (H-316/82)

Subject: Resolution (Doc. 1-963/81) on EEC assistance to workers leaving the shipbuilding industry

What action has the Council taken following my resolution (Doc. 1-963/81) on EEC assistance to workers leaving the shipbuilding industry which received an absolute majority of the signatures of the members of the European Parliament, (under Rule 49 of the Parliament's Rules of Procedure) and which called on the Council both to take action urgently and report back to Parliament within three months?

63. Question by Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU (H-347/82)

Subject: Return of Greek antiquities to Greece

As is well known, a large number of Greek antiquities have, at various times in the past, been removed to foreign countries without the consent of the Greek governments and for reasons that vary according to the circumstances obtaining at the time. These monuments have subsequently been moved and are now on display in various museums, many of which are situated in countries of the European Community.

Worthy of note is the endeavour being made by the competent bodies of the European Communities with a view to achieving better coordination at Community level of national policies in the cultural sector and in respect of the various works of art.

In view of the above, does the Council intend to take the necessary measures - and, if so, how - to have the Greek antiquities gradually returned to their country of provenance?

64. Question by Mrs EWING (H-279/82)

Subject: Establishment of European Trade-mark Office

What discussions have taken place-and with what result-in the Council as regards the establishment of a European Trade-mark Office? and in view of the facts that no Community institute or body has been set up in the United Kingdom, and that the problems of Scotland in regard to unemployment and economic recession are much greater than those of England. will the Council seek to assist Scotland by agreeing to site the European Trade-mark Office there?

65. Question by Mr SKOVMAND (H-283/82)

Subject: Level of tax on spirits and cigarettes

Can the Council confirm that the high level of tax on spirits and cigarettes in Denmark has clear benefits in terms of health, and that in the light of this it would be undesirable to abolish the two-day rule - as proposed by Commissioner Tugendhat - which enables Denmark to maintain a higher level of taxation than, for example, the Federal Republic of Germany?

66. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-306/82)

Subject: Trialogue between Parliament, Council and Commission

What are the Council's views on the necessity of bringing to a conclusion the triologue between Parliament, the Council and the Commission in order to eliminate the difficulties in drawing up the Community budget?

67. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-352/82)

Subject : Energy prices paid by U.S. steel producers

Is the Council aware that U.S. steel producers do not pay world prices for their energy supplies, a critical cost factor in an energy intensive industry?

68. Question by Mr BONDE (H-354/82)

Subject: Essay competition in schools in the Member States

Has the Council authorized the Commission to conduct an essay competition for 12-14 year olds, with a week in Paris as the prize, and if so, will it state which article of the Treaty of Rome empowers it to authorize such competitions in schools in the Community?

69. Question by Mr TREACY (H-361/82)

Subject: Discussions with U.S. administration

Will the Foreign Ministers initiate discussions with the U.S. administration as a matter of immediate urgency in order to avoid economic conflict on a global basis between the EEC and the U.S.?

70. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-369/82)

Subject: Mandate of 30 May 1980

At the European Council meeting held in London in November 1981, agreement was reached on a number of Community guidelines concerning the first section of the Mandate of 30 May with respect to the restructuring of the Community budget.

In view of the persistent economic crisis and the ever-increasing rate of unemployment, does not the Council feel that practical measures with a sound financial basis are now urgently required to develop a genuine social, industrial and regional policy with the emphasis on the battle against unemployment, and, if so, how does it account for the decisions taken on 28 July by the Council of Ministers for Budget Affairs?

71. Question by Mr MART (H-371/82)

Subject: Challenges to the decisions taken on the places of work

Is the Council aware of the Val d'Or project, whereby all the European Parliament's services would be located in BRUSSELS?

If so, does not the Council feel that this project might well contravene the agreements on the places of work which lay down in particular that the Secretariat of the European Parliament shall be based in LUXEMBOURG?

72. Question by: Mr ADAMOU . (H-374/82)

Subject: The deficit on the Greece-EEC trade balance in agricultural products

Traditionally the largest part of Greek exports related to agricultural products and these exports to the other Member States of the Community represented a positive balance for Greece. However, in 1981 - the first year of Greece's accession to the EEC - its trade balance in agricultural products with the other Member States showed for the first time a deficit. To be exact, in that year Greek imports in agricultural products from the EEC countries amounted to 40,100,000,000 drachma while the corresponding exports of agricultural products amounted to only 30,100,000,000 drachma. Consequently the trade balance in agricultural products showed a deficit for Greece of 10,000,000,000 drachma.

What measures does the Council intend taking to remedy this serious development to the detriment of the Greek agricultural economy?

73. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-377/82)

Subject: The problem of the Greek steel industry

In an earlier written question Number 1701/81¹ on the serious negative effects of Greece's accession to the EEC on the Greek steel industry (closure of blast furnaces etc), the Council replied among other things that it wished to develop a healthy and competitive iron and steel industry in Greece and that Community measures in the iron and steel sector can take into consideration the special characteristics of the Greek economy.

Since then production in the Greek steel industry has continued to stagnate and at the same time the problem of unemployment has become more acute (imports from the EEC of more than 50% of national requirements, production quotas).

How does the Council envisage the problem of the Greek steel industry especially as regards full exploitation of the internal market, the problem of aid quotas and of increasing productivity in the Greek steel industry (whose capacity is less than 1% of the Community's) and the full exploitation of investment possibilities as mentioned in Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty?

74. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-379/82)

Subject: Greek footwear production

From January until May 1982 more than 6,000,000 pairs of shoes had been imported into Greece while another 3,000,000 pairs are still with the customs. These imports were effected under preferential arrangements (there is a duty of 25% on shoes which will be removed entirely next year, whereas materials imported for the manufacture of Greek shoes bear a duty of 50%).

Has the Council considered the problem of Greek footwear production and what measures is it planning to take to protect it from imminent disaster and to remedy the tremendous social problem created for Greek shoe manufacturers?

75. Question by Mrs WEBER (H-383/82)

Subject: Asbestos directives: Protection of workers¹
Restrictions on use²

When will the Council adopt the two directives on the restriction of the use of asbestos and on the protection of workers from the health risks of asbestos; does it intend to speed up the process as a result of the British Government's decision to enact its own law to reduce the amount of asbestos dust in places of work from 1 January 1983?

76. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-392/82)

Subject: Operation of the European Monetary System and the divergence indicator

In relation to the numerous monetary adjustments which have taken place during recent months within the European Monetary System, can the Council state whether the divergence indicator has played an effective role in the measures taken by the national and European monetary authorities?

77. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-404/82)

Subject: Functioning of the European Monetary System

Could the Council state whether the margins of fluctuation of currencies in the European Monetary System seem reasonable in view of the adjustments carried out in recent months?

78. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-397/82)

Subject : Coal

Does the Council agree with the Parliament's May resolution on the Commission's proposals on coal?

79. Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-407/82)

Subject: Easing of checks on travellers

What is the Council's view of the Commission's draft Council regulation on the easing of checks on travellers (COM(82) 400 final)? Does the Council support the idea that there should no longer be any systematic checks on Community citizens who show a European passport at frontiers between Community countries, and the idea that special channels should be introduced for Community citizens at ports and airports?

Has the Council looked into how such a relaxation of checks on travellers will affect the existing Scandinavian passport union?

80. Question by Mr DAVERN (H-413/82)

Subject: CAP and the Danish presidency

Can the President of the Council indicate the plans that the Danish Government wishes to see put forward during its Presidency for the CAP?

81 Question by Mr LALOR (H-432/82)

Subject: Plastic Bullets

Will the Council give due reason why it has not discussed the European Parliament's Resolution "on a ban on the use of plastic bullets" which was adopted by a large majority on 13 May last?

82. Question by Mr MOORHOUSE (H-437/82)

Subject : Natural gas policy for the Community

Will the Council put natural gas policy for the Community on the agenda of the next meeting of the Council of energy Ministers in the light of the controversy surrounding soviet natural gas supplies to the Community?

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

83. Question by Mr LALOR (H-261/82)

Subject: EEC/Latin America ties

Do the foreign ministers believe that the Falklands/Malvinas crisis has seriously damaged the traditionally good ties between Europe and Latin America?

84. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-339/82)

Subject: Construction of gas pipeline by political prisoners in the USSR

Are the Foreign Ministers aware of reports to the effect that the USSR may be using prison labour to construct the pipeline intended to convey gas supplies to certain countries of the Community?

Should it emerge that individuals considered in the West to be political prisoners are also being employed on this project, will the ministers call on the countries in question to react appropriately to this policy which is incompatible with the Community's conception of human rights?

85. Question by Mrs EWING (H-293/82)

Subject: New measures to combat apartheid

Given that the South African Government has shown few indications of relaxing its inhuman policy of apartheid, and that the Pretoria Government recently announced the cession of Kangwane and Ngwaruna to Swaziland, despite the wish of their inhabitants to remain South Africans, what new steps will the Foreign Ministers take to register the Ten's unqualified opposition to this recent trend?

86. Question by Mr ADAMO (H-375/82)

Subject: EEC-Israel protocol

At the last part-session of the European Parliament in July 1982 there was a debate on the Commission's proposal for the conclusion of a protocol between the EEC and Israel since the accession of the Greek Republic to the Community which, among other things, provided for Greece's removal of customs tariffs for many products originating in Israel and indirectly posed the question of the diplomatic recognition of Israel by Greece. Since this question, especially after Israel's criminal invasion of Lebanon, is not a technical but a political one and since it would be unacceptable indirectly to reward Israel for its actions instead of severely condemning it, what is the attitude of the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation to the problem of the EEC-Israel protocol?

87. Question by Mr MEGAHY (H-380/82)

Subject: Deportation of Iranian students from EEC Countries

There have been reports of Iranian students either deported from their countries or returning voluntarily to Iran being executed by the present Iranian regime. Have the Community countries acting in political cooperation formulated a joint policy to prevent such deportations and to provide political asylum for those students who are threatened?

88. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-398/82)

Subject : Grenada

Do the Foreign Ministers believe that the current Government of Grenada should in no way be seen to have the approval of the European Community?

89. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-415/82)

Subject: Violation of human rights and disappearance of a Haitian political refugee in the Dominican Republic

Have the foreign ministers been apprised of the disappearance, in June 1982, of Mr Samuel ROCH, a Haitian who had been a political refugee in the Dominican Republic since 1970? Samuel ROCH, who was kidnapped in Santo Domingo by persons unknown, with the connivance of the Haitian and Dominican Republic police, was first imprisoned in Port-au-Prince and is now being kept prisoner in the Dominican Republic, near the Haitian border. Since the new president of the Dominican Republic, Mr Gorge BIANCO, claims to be a 'dyed-in-the-wool democrat who respects the traditions of our Christian civilization', do the ministers of Foreign Affairs intend to lodge a protest with the Government of the Dominican Republic calling for the provisions of the Geneva Convention on the status of political refugees to be respected and for the immediate release of Mr Samuel ROCH?

90. Question by Mr RIEGER (H-426/82)

Subject: CSCE follow-up conference in Madrid

During their preparations for the resumption of the CSCE follow-up conference in November 1982, have the foreign ministers of the European Community taken up contacts with other participant countries, particularly those in Eastern Europe, and what significance was attached in this connection to the communiqué issued by the meeting of the foreign ministers of the neutral and non-aligned countries, which calls for the continuation of the CSCE process?

91. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-435/82)

Subject: Relations between the EEC and the odious Chilean Junta

Commission Regulation No. 2424/82 abolished countervailing charges on apples imported into EEC countries from Chile as from 7.9.82.

This is not merely a technical matter - indeed, it is above all a political one since it poses the more general question of relations between the Community and the odious Chilean Junta.

Why the Foreign Ministers pass over in silence the mass crimes committed by the Chilean Junta and why are they extending relations with the Junta rather than taking measures against it, especially since after 9 full years of fascist dictatorship it is common knowledge that the human, democratic and trade union rights of the Chilean people are being openly violated and all the Junta has achieved is the death of 30,000 opponents of the regime?