

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1980 - 1981

12 January 1981

DOCUMENT 1-778/80

Oral Questions

Pursuant to Rule 47a of the Rules of Procedure

**for QUESTION TIME
on 12 and 14 January 1981**

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1. Question by Mr STEWART-CLARK (H-532/80)

Subject: Poultry industry

Is the Commission satisfied that Community regulations in the poultry industry are being observed properly in all countries of the Community, and in particular, is inspection being carried out uniformly, are birds being correctly graded, is water content properly controlled, and are low interest rates and exemptions for Social Security Benefits giving unfair advantage to any Member States?

2. Question by Mr WELSH (H-527/80)

Subject: Review of the operation of the Multifibre Arrangement

Will the Commission make a statement to Parliament on the results of its discussions in Geneva on 21-23 October and the timetable for renegotiation of the Multifibre Arrangement?

3. Question by Mr PAISLEY (H-536/80)

Subject: Integration scheme in Belfast

Will the Commission make a statement upon what proposals it has received from the United Kingdom Government for the integration scheme in Belfast and in response to the offer of £100 million for Belfast made by Commissioner Burke in Belfast in October 1980?

4. Question by Mr BERKHOUWER (H-538/80)

Subject: Summertime

Will the Commission do all in its power to encourage the Nine and as many of their European neighbours as possible to retain in 1981 the uniform system of summertime, which was at last introduced in 1980, in spite of the summertime blackmail practised by the GDR?

5. Question by Mr WALTER (H-541/80)

Subject: Reduction in the discharge of waste from the titanium dioxide industry into the sea

The aim of the Council Directive of 20 February 1978 on waste from the titanium dioxide industry is to prevent and gradually reduce pollution caused by such waste with a view to eliminating it altogether. What are the Commission's targets, with regard to the time-scale and the quantities involved, for reducing the discharge into the sea of waste from the titanium dioxide industry?

6. Question by Mrs WEBER (H-542/80)

Subject: Disposal of waste from the titanium dioxide industry

The Council Directive of 20 February 1978 on waste from the titanium dioxide industry refers to the 'discharge into surface water, ground water and the sea, and dumping at sea'. What quantities of such waste are at present disposed of in this way each year by the Member States of the Community?

7. Question by Mr WETTIG (H-543/80)

Subject: Significance of the directives on waste from the titanium dioxide industry

Member States of the European Community are repeatedly granting authorization for the discharge of waste from the titanium dioxide industry into the sea. Does the Commission consider that this authorization by the Member States is compatible with the directive on waste from the titanium dioxide industry and with the Oslo and London Conventions, and how does the Commission view in this context the provisions of the German law of 11 February 1977 on the disposal of substances at sea, according to which authorization may also be granted, on the grounds that it is essential to the public interest, for the discharge of substances which constitute a possible threat to the marine ecosystem?

8. Question by Mr van MINNEN (H-544/80)

Subject: Commission proposal on the surveillance of the environment affected by the titanium dioxide industry

Article 7 of the directive on waste from the titanium dioxide industry instructs the Commission to submit to the Council, within one year of notification of the directive, a proposal on the procedures for the surveillance and monitoring of the environments concerned. The directive came into effect on 20 February 1978. Has the Commission submitted the proposal referred to, and if not, why not?

9. Question by Mr SCHMID (H-545/80)

Subject: Programmes to reduce pollution caused by waste from the titanium dioxide industry

The directive on waste from the titanium dioxide industry requires the Member States to draw up programmes for the progressive reduction and eventual elimination of pollution caused by waste from existing industrial establishments. Which Member States submitted their programmes to the Commission by the specified deadline of 1 July 1980?

10. Question by Mr MUNTINGH (H-546/80)

Subject: Damage caused to fishing resources by waste from the titanium dioxide industry

There has recently been increasing scientific evidence of the damage caused to fishing resources by the discharge of waste from the titanium dioxide industry into the North Sea. In view of this situation, is the Commission prepared to take steps to urge the Council of Ministers to put a stop to the discharge into the sea of environmentally harmful waste from the titanium dioxide industry by the beginning of 1982?

11. Question by Mrs LENTZ-CORNETTE (H-589/80)

Subject: Seismological research at European level

In view of the most recent earthquake catastrophe in Italy, can the Commission state what consideration has actually been given up to now at Community level to forecasting such catastrophes and how far it has considered coordination of seismological research, particularly in the Mediterranean area?

12. Question by Mr ADAM (H-436/80)

Subject: Regional Policies

Has there been any joint discussion between the Commission and the British Government regarding the proposals to modify regional status within the United Kingdom and in particular the proposal to downgrade the regional status of the North East of England?

13. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-500/80)

Subject : Proposals on forestry

Why were no proposals on forestry presented to this Parliament by the end of 1980 as the Commission promised last March?

14. Question by Mrs NIELSEN (H-528/80)

Subject: Income support for workers in the shipbuilding industry

With reference to Article 1(1) of the proposal from the Commission (COM (80) 410 final)¹, will the Commission please state whether this proposal will include workers employed in yards where ships are built both for military and civil use, and if not, which yards in Denmark fall outside the scheme and how the Commission plans to distinguish between different types of workers with regard to this question in particular?

¹ Doc. 1-370/80

15. Question by Mrs CASTLE (H-562/80)

Subject : Publication of a list of the sub-programmes
in the United Kingdom

To ask the Commission if they will publish each month a list of the sub-programmes in the United Kingdom approved by the Commission under Regulation 2744/80, giving the nature of the programme, where it is situated, its total estimated cost, its estimated date of completion, the percentage grant given by the Community and the date on which the project was originally planned?

16. Question by Mr LOUWES (H-566/80)

Subject : Anti-dumping measures against imports of
soyabean meal from Brazil

With reference to the letter of April 2nd 1980 from FEDIOL with a request to introduce anti-dumping measures against imports of soyabean meal from Brazil would the Commission please inform of the reasons for not yet having taken any initiatives more than 8 months after and what plans the Commission has for solving the problem at the earliest possible moment?

17. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-571/80)

Subject: Observance of international standards on working conditions

Can the Commission reveal why it has not taken action on the proposal contained in the memorandum of 16 February 1978 on the renewal of the Lomé Convention which was to make concessions by the Community, particularly in the trading sphere, conditional on the observance of certain basic international standards concerning working conditions in all the developing countries, including those belonging to the Lomé Convention?

18. Question by Lord BETHELL (H-578/80)

Subject: Air tariffs in the Community

Is the Commission aware that my complaint against the fixing of airline tariffs for flights within the European Community, contrary to Article 90 of the Treaty of Rome, was issued under the Form 'C' procedure on 2 May 1980? Is it normal for the Commission to take more than six months to reply to such complaints; are they able to announce now when my complaint will be answered, what other discussions have they had on this question of air tariffs and what action do they propose?

19. Question by Mr HUME (H-577/80)

Subject : Milk production in the Community

Will the Commission comment on the effect on milk production within the Community, of the increasing import on non-levy high protein ingredients for the production of animal feedstuffs, and indicate what steps are being proposed to deal with this problem?

20. Question by Mr COLLINS (H-591/80)

Subject : Compensatory finance for the loss of Colleges
in Scotland

Scotland is recognised by the Commission as an area of acute deprivation, but is the Commission aware that the British Government intends to close certain Colleges of Education in Scotland and can they provide any hope of compensatory finance for the loss of these Colleges?

21. Question by Mr KIRK (H-601/80)

Subject: Labelling of prepacked bread and cakes

Is the Commission aware of the problem which has arisen for thousands of small independent bakers in Europe who do not have the financial, technical or manufacturing resources to comply with the labelling requirements for their modest, but for them financially crucial production of prepacked bread and cakes, which they sell either locally or in their own shops, and how would the Commission propose to solve this problem?

22. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-602/80)

Subject: Strengthening of the EMS

In view of the statement issued by the European Council, meeting in Luxembourg from 1 to 2 December, to the effect that it will 'continue to seek to strengthen the EMS until, "at the appropriate time", it can proceed to the institutional phase', can the Commission state what its attitude is towards this manifest delay?

23. Question by Mr MEGAHY (H-604/80)

Subject : Textile unions

What is the reaction of the Commission to the recent walk-out by European textile unions from talks in Brussels?

24. Question by Mr NICOLSON (H-605/80)

Subject : Information retrieval Service

Can the Commission say whether it has any plans to provide an inexpensive practical retrieval service to allow MEP's their staffs and interested parties to obtain information regarding existing and proposed legislation on any subject.

25. Question by Mr PRICE (H-607/80)

Subject : Possible New Gas Reserves

Are the Commission investigating the theory put forward by Professor Thomas Gold, Director of the Center for Radiophysics and Space Research and Professor of Astronomy at Cornell University, USA, that abundant supplies of methane gas could be found by deep drilling and, if so, will they consider proposing Community financial support for the cost of just over 30 m EUA required to drill 10 experimental deepwells?

26. Question by Mr PATTERSON (H-609/80)

Subject : Transfer of nationality

Will the Commission carry out a study of the interaction between the different nationality laws in Member States as they affect the transmission of nationality? In particular will it consider the possible effects of the proposed changes in British nationality law as they could affect 'non-patrial' children born in Belgium to UK parents (i.e. third generation born outside the UK)?

27. Question by Mr BETTIZA (H-610/80)

Subject: Satellite transmission of radio and television programmes

Individual Member States of the Community are planning to transmit radio and television programmes by satellite and the Commission is looking into a proposal to introduce a European channel.

Does the Commission consider that it would be desirable to arrange news broadcasts to provide objective information about the European Community to the citizens of Eastern Europe?

28. Question by Mr HARRIS (H-611/80)

Subject : Herring landings in Boulogne

On December 10th in Brussels, I presented formally to the Commission a dossier, including photographs, which had been compiled by one of my constituents, Mr A. Besley, on the large scale landings in Boulogne on December 1st of herring which is alleged to have been caught illegally by French boats. On that day, 960 boxes, each weighed out to hold 50 kilos of herring, were stacked on the market, the fish having come from the stern trawler Otter Bank. Smaller boats were also unloading herring. What action has the Commission taken to investigate this specific complaint and what is the Commission doing generally to see that the herring ban is enforced by all Member States?

29. Question by Mr CURRY (H-612/80)

Subject : EEC food manufacturing industry

What plans has the Commissioner for Agriculture to meet representatives of the EEC food manufacturing industry (Commission des Industries Agricoles et Alimentaires)?

30. Question by Mr van AERSSSEN (H-614/80)

Subject: Revision of the OECD export credit scheme

What progress has been made with the reform of the export credit arrangements, and what ideas does the Commission have for reducing the serious disparities which exist between the USA and Japan on the one hand and the EEC countries on the other?

31. Question by Mrs PUILLET (H-617/80)

Subject: Selection of non-quota section projects for the special five-year ERDF programme

Why has the Commission not included the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region in its special five-year programme, since this region has to cope with the very problems used as selection criteria, namely vulnerability of the agricultural sector, weakness of the industrial sector, unemployment and a low level of economic activity?

32. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-618/80)

Subject: Exchange rate levels and problems with exports

Is the Commission aware that many exporters in certain European countries are finding it difficult to compete on international markets because of the high value of certain currencies and would it not agree that this is an unfortunate effect of the European monetary system?

33. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-620/80)

Subject: Common strategy towards Japan

In the light of Japan's commercial expansionism does the Commission not think that a political response should be envisaged which would enable the Community interests to be protected?

34. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-621/80)

Subject: Industrial cooperation strategy

Has the Commission observed any progress in intra-Community industrial cooperation in recent months?

If so, in which sectors has this progress made itself most felt?

35. Question by Mr ENRIGHT (H-622/80)

Subject: Proposed British Nationality Law

Is the Commission aware that the British Government has made proposals in a White Paper on Nationality Law which would deprive the children, born of British citizens living abroad, of British nationality and would also create five different forms of nationality?

As this is clearly against the Convention on Human Rights to which the British Government is a signatory and also against the principles of free movement and establishment as laid down in the EEC Treaties, is the Commission prepared to ask the British Government to reconsider these proposals?

36. Question by Sir Peter VANNECK (H-627/80)

Subject: Article 2(1) of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2527/80

Article 2(1) of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2527/80 (1) states that 'it shall be prohibited to use or to haul any trawl, etc.....'. Is the Commission aware that, under this Regulation, the carriage of nets with meshes smaller than the specified minimum sizes is not rendered illegal and that therefore the enforcement of the minimum mesh sizes in this Regulation can only be effected by inspections of vessels at sea while fishing, and, in view of this, with Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2527/80 having expired on 20 December 1980, will the Commission, in any Regulation which replaces it, propose to outlaw the carriage of nets with meshes smaller than the specified minimum sizes so that the enforcement of minimum mesh sizes can also be carried out on vessels in harbour or at sea while not fishing?

¹ O.J. No. L 258, 1.10.1980, p. 1

37. Question by Mr CECOVINI (H-629/80)*

Subject: Improved information on Community measures and facilities

Does the Commission intend to improve its information service, particularly to small communities, on Community measures directly affecting the people of Europe and on the procedure for obtaining Community funds?

* Will not be called if item 320 is kept on the agenda.

38. Question by Mrs EWING (H-630/80)

Subject: Multi-Fibre Agreement

Will the Commission comment on the present state of the Multi-Fibre Agreement negotiations?

39. Question by Mr BALFE (H-634/80)

Subject: Beef held at EEC intervention stores

Can the Commission state how many tons of beef are currently held at EEC intervention stores, what proportion do they expect to be exported with subsidies and can the Commission state the comparable figures for one year ago?

Does the Commission accept that this meat could be better used by making provision for it to be supplied cheaply to those education authorities who provide school meals?

40. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-635/80)*

Subject: Community cooperation in pollution control of the North Sea

In the light of the fact that the North Sea and bordering coastal regions are facing increasing dangers from oil pollution, what action does the Commission intend to take in order to harmonise Member States pollution control systems and improve North Sea shipping traffic regulations and standards and will the Commission now seek "special status" for the North Sea in line with that now in force in the Baltic and Mediterranean Seas?

* Will not be called if items 303, 304, 305 and 306 are kept on the agenda.

41. Question by Mr VIE (H-638/80)

Subject: Freedom of establishment for gynaecologists

Can the Commission explain the criteria on which the introduction of freedom of establishment for medical practitioners, and more particularly gynaecologists was based?

Is it aware that by this action it is causing the disappearance of the speciality of general gynaecology, which numbers 900 practitioners in France and does not exist in all other EEC countries?

42. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-639/80)

Subject: Commission portfolios

Does the Commission agree that its role as a 'powerhouse of ideas' for the Community would not be well served if Commissioners hold the same portfolio for more than four years?

43. Question by Mr CALVEZ (H-643/80)

Subject: Internal monitoring of production pursuant to
Article 58 of the ECSC Treaty

The provisions of Article 58 of the ECSC Treaty have been in application within the European Community since 1 October 1980, following a Council decision on a proposal from the Commission.

This article provides for the institution of a number of procedures for the internal monitoring of production, to make the anti-crisis measures fully effective.

The firms which have been given quotas are required to provide the Commission with their production records, to enable it to analyse the statistics properly.

We should like to ask the Commission how many firms have in fact provided this information to date, and which firms?

44. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-645/80)

Subject: Euro-Arab dialogue and the energy problem

How does the Commission account for the fact that, within the context of the Euro-Arab dialogue, no committee has been set up to deal with the crucial problem of energy, either as a general issue or more specifically in terms of energy supply?

45. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-646/80)

Subject: Allocation of Community funds to butter

Will the Commission allocate Community funds to enable the retail price of butter in the United Kingdom to be cut by 33,3% for a twelve month period in order to establish what relationship exists there between the price of butter and its consumption, to avoid further subsidised sales of butter to the Soviet Union and to let the British people have some of the benefit of 'taxpayers' money spent on disposing of surpluses?

46. Question by Mr TURCAT (H-647/80)

Subject: Energy saving in industry

What results have been achieved by the Commission's measures to promote energy saving in industry, either through waste heat recuperation or through the use of new, less energy-consuming processes and the modification of existing processes?

47. Question by Mrs DE MARCH (H-652/80)

Subject: Sheep exports

Attempts are being made by the United Kingdom to have its exports of sheep to third countries indirectly subsidized by the European Community. The concessions demanded by the United Kingdom, which are in blatant contradiction with EEC Regulation No. 1873/80, would have serious repercussions for French sheep breeders.

Will the Commission reject these demands which give an unfair advantage to British exporters?

48. Question by Mr PRANCHERE (H-653/80)

Subject: Exports of beef and veal to Greece

Even before Greece officially becomes a member of the Common Market, some third countries are calling for preferential arrangements for their exports of beef and veal to Greece.

Given that the concessions granted to certain third countries for beef and veal have cost the Community budget 423m EUA in lost levy revenue, will the Commission, in order not to penalize French breeders, ensure that the principle of Community preference is observed in the case of beef and veal exports to Greece from third countries?

49. Question by Mrs POIRIER (H-654/80)

Subject: Tobacco stocks in Greece

Greece currently has 125,000 tonnes of tobacco in stock, to which a further 30,000 tonnes will be added from the 1980 crop.

What steps does the Commission intend to take to prevent these stocks being sold on the Community market, which would have serious consequences for French tobacco producers.

50. Question by Mr FRISCHMANN (H-656/80)

Subject: Economic crisis in Europe

In view of the increasingly serious manifestations of poverty as a result of the worsening economic crisis in Europe, does the Commission intend to update the study which was conducted at its request in 1976 on poverty in Europe?

51. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-658/80)

Subject: Closure of customs posts used for steel imports into Italy from other Community countries

Has the Commission been informed of the recent decision by the Italian government to close two-thirds of the customs posts used for Italian imports of steel? Although the ostensible purpose of this measure was to monitor imports from third countries more effectively, it affects a number of the customs posts through which steel from other Community countries is exclusively or mainly imported. Has the Commission made representations to the Italian government - or does it intend to do so - to put a stop forthwith to this administrative protectionism, which undermines one of the very foundations of the ECSC Treaty, namely the freedom of movement of steel products within the Community?

52. Question by Sir Fred WARNER (H-662/80)

Subject : Aid for hurricane damage

What is the approximate proportion of money committed under the above headings, in 1980, to non-associated territories, ACP countries, French Departments d'Outremer, areas of Europe within the Community?

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

53. Question by Mr DAVERN (H-479/80)

Subject: Beef Market

Does the Council agree with the views expressed in a recent study by the German Ministry of Agriculture, which states that the EEC beef market is now close to self-sufficiency and that concessions on imports in future should only be granted in extreme cases?

54. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-480/80)

Subject: Aid to the wood processing and construction industries

Since the Council has not been asked to consider any proposal from the Commission on possible financial aid to the wood processing and construction industries, does it have any proposals in mind for this sector, which is of fundamental importance to the future of the European economy?

55. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-493/80)

Subject: Hormones in feedingstuffs

Can the Council indicate whether the problem of hormones in feedingstuffs had already been raised earlier at Council level, in particular when the Directive of 23 November 1970 concerning additives in feedingstuffs was adopted?

56. Question by Mr CRONIN (H-502/80)

Subject: Dangerous and illegal chemical waste being dumped off the Irish coast

Will the Council take immediate steps to ensure that the Irish seas are not used as a dumping ground for highly dangerous and illegal waste by other European countries, particularly chemical waste including PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) which can be passed through the food chain and into humans?

57. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-636/80)

Subject: Community cooperation in pollution control of the North Sea

If the Council is aware of the growing threat to the North Sea, ecologically and economically caused by oil pollution, what action is the Council intending to take in order to facilitate greater safety in shipping movements, greater integration of pollution control in Member States, and greater accountability of offending ships flying flags of convenience dumping oil ballast outside the territorial limits of Member States bordering the North Sea?

58. Question by Mr CLEMENT (H-553/80)

Subject: Outline programme for the improvement of agricultural structures

Why at its last meeting did the Council reject the specific programmes proposed by the Commission for the improvement of agricultural structures? Would it not agree that the resulting delay will be damaging to the agricultural structures of the regions concerned?

59. Question by Mrs FOURCADE (H-556/80)

Subject: Terms of oil agreements concluded between individual governments

Can the Council state whether the oil agreements concluded between certain Member States and certain Persian Gulf States contain clauses prohibiting the resale of oil to other Community countries? Are such clauses compatible with the Treaty of Rome?

60. Question by Mr VIE (H-558/80)

Subject: Negotiations with the Comecon countries

In view of the present deadlock in the negotiation of a cooperation agreement between the Community and Comecon, is it proposed to resort to bilateral agreements either in the agricultural sector or in the industrial sector?

61. Question by Mr DE LIPKOWSKI (H-569/80)

Subject: Timetable for increases in agricultural prices

When does the Council intend to adopt the measures to increase agricultural prices for the 1981-1982 market year?

62. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-574/80)

Subject: Urgent need for measures in the field of temporary employment abroad

With a view to combating recently noted abuses, does the Council intend to adopt specific measures so that the practice may be stopped of sending temporary employees to an EEC country other than their own without any guarantee of the social security cover to which they are entitled? If it is unable to do this, could it not at least recommend to the Member States that they keep a close watch to ensure that their legislation is properly applied to temporary employees, even non-nationals?

63. Question by Mrs EWING (H-631/80)

Subject: The return of the Elgin Marbles to Greece

Will the Council use its good offices to persuade the British Government that it would be an appropriate - and long overdue - gesture to return the Elgin Marbles to Greece in the spirit of the Cultural Committee of Lome's recommendation that objects of art should be returned to their country of origin?

64. Question by Mr SEAL (H-548/80)

Subject: Textile Labelling

In the light of Mrs Oppenheim's recent paper on compulsory country of origin marking covering a wide range of consumer goods, would the Council accept that it contravenes Article 30 of the Treaty of Rome, and, given the extent of fraud since 1978 and the importance of the paper (based upon the views of numerous Consumer Associations), would it now admit that there is sufficient case for origin marking? Would the Council be in favour of uniform criteria requiring all clothing to carry a clear indication of country of manufacture?

65. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-552/80)

Subject : Monthly Council report to Parliament

In order to inform the directly-elected European Parliament of the impact of its resolutions on Council decisions, will the Council agree to make a monthly report to Parliament, as is done by the Commission, on the action it has taken on Opinions and Resolutions adopted by Parliament?

66. Question by Mr ADAM (H-603/80)

Subject : Rural areas

Considering the particular problems of sparsely populated rural areas; would the Council accept that a valuable extension of financial support in such areas would be the inclusion of small capital schemes and the extension to provide for revenue assistance, particularly where additional employments is created; does the Council also agree that the criteria for such aid should be revised bearing in mind that not all such areas are currently eligible for assistance and will the Council request appropriate proposals from the Commission on these lines?

67. Question by Mr PRICE (H-608/80)

Subject : EAGGF Stocks

Which Member States show stocks of agricultural produce, purchased by their intervention agencies on behalf of the EAGGF, in their national accounts as assets of the Member State and what view does the Council take as to whether, in the event of such stock being destroyed by fire or similar hazard, the owners of the stock upon whom the loss would fall would be the Member State concerned or the European Community?

68. Question by Mr PEDINI (H-615/80)

Subject: European passport

Can the Council tell the European Parliament when it proposes to introduce a European passport, given that it had intended to do so on 1 January 1978?

69. Question by Mr HABSBURG (H-616/80)

Subject: European passport

Will the Council explain why it has so far failed to comply with the demands of the European Parliament for the introduction of a European passport?

70. Question by Mr BERKHOUWER (H-660/80)

Subject: European passport

May we hope that 1981 will see the introduction of the European passport, in line with the decision taken by the European Council at its meeting at the end of 1974, some six years ago?

71. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-623/80)

Subject: Proposed British Nationality Law

Is the Council aware that the British Government has made proposals in a White Paper on Nationality Law which would deprive the children, born of British citizens liven abroad, of British nationality and would also create five different forms of nationality?

As this is clearly against the Convention on Human Rights to which the British Government is a signatory and also against the principles of free movement and establishment as laid down in the EEC Treaties, is the Council prepared to ask the British Government to reconsider these proposals?

72. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-625/80)

Subject: Regulation on the siting of nuclear power stations
on borders

Can the Council indicate what steps it intends to take to expedite the adoption of this regulation for which Parliament has demanded priority treatment and which the Council, under the Luxembourg Presidency, has promised on many occasions to deal with but has not done so?

73. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-640/80)

Subject: Commission Portfolios

At it is the responsibility of the Commission to produce proposals for Council and Parliament consideration and be the 'powerhouse of ideas' for the Community does the Council believe that the Community is well served if a Commissioner retains a portfolio for too long, for example, over four years?

74. Question by Mr BØGM (H-642/80)

Subject: Respect for human rights in Spain

From a report just published by Amnesty International, it appears that torture is still being practised in Spain during interrogations in prisons run by the police and the civil guard, that prisoners are being detained without judicial sanction and that the complaints of those who are ill-treated are being ignored by the authorities.

With reference to the joint declaration by Parliament, the Council and the Commission of 5 April 1977 on the Member States' commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms, I would like to ask whether the Spanish Government has been apprised of this declaration, and what effects the abovementioned report will have on future negotiations regarding Spain's accession?

75. Question by Mr TURCAT (H-648/80)

Subject: European industrial market

Following the rather vague discussions and declarations of principle of the European Council of 1 and 2 December 1980 on the fragmentation of industrial markets within the European Community, what more specific guidelines does the Council intend to lay down in order to create a European industrial market, both by encouraging closer links between industrialists from the various Member States and by promoting a favourable financial and legal climate and possibly also by adopting a number of joint protection measures?

76. Question by Mr PAISLEY (H-650/80)

Subject: Northern Ireland textile industry

In view of the extremely serious situation in the entire textile industry in Northern Ireland, which has been severely aggravated by cheap imports from non-EEC countries, what progress has been made in agreeing measures to protect our textile industry?

77. Question by Mrs LE ROUX (H-655/80)

Subject: The EEC's trade deficit with the United States

The EEC's trade deficit with the United States in agricultural products has worsened considerably in the recent past.

Will the Council take steps to obtain the lifting of the restrictions introduced by the United States on imports of agricultural products from the EEC and also to limit exports from the United States to the EEC at preferential tariffs?

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

78. Question by Mrs CARETONI ROMAGNOLI (H-624/80)

Subject: The EEC and Turkey

The press has reported that the EEC and Turkey have decided to organize discussions on a permanent basis between the heads of their political departments.

Does the Council not feel that initiating political consultations at this time in the context of political cooperation with Turkey which is governed by a military regime that has abolished the constitutional rights of its citizens and dissolved Parliament, would be a purely negative act which would conflict with the democratic spirit of the EEC and the Member States and the concern expressed by Parliament?

Does the Council not feel, furthermore, that initiating such talks might be construed by outside observers as giving encouragement to the Turkish regime, on which pressure should be brought to bear in every possible way with a view to restoring democracy?

79. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-626/80)

Subject: Thorn initiative on the Middle East

Will the foreign ministers explain in detail how they intend to follow up the initiatives taken by Mr Thorn and translate them into specific proposals?

80. Question by Mrs EWING (H-632/80)

Subject: Disappearance of former Ethiopian Education Minister

Will the foreign ministers use their good offices to raise with the government of Ethiopia the case of a prisoner who disappeared in July 1979 namely Seifu Mehetme Selassie aged 53 who was the minister of education, arrested with other government officials in 1974 detained without charge or trial and of whom no trace can now be found despite enquiries made by Amnesty International?

81. Question by Mr PAISLEY (H-633/80)

Subject: Extradition

What progress has been made in securing a common system of extradition throughout the Community?

82. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-641/80)

Subject: The Release of Rudolf Hess

Do the foreign ministers support the release from Spandau jail of Rudolf Hess and place pressure on the Government of the USSR to obtain his release?

83. Question by Mr CHAMBEIRON (H-657/80)

Subject: Four-Power Agreement of 3 September 1971

Under the terms of the Four-Power Agreement of 3 September 1971 the Western sectors of Berlin do not constitute part of the Federal Republic of Germany. Do the foreign ministers consider that the holding of working meetings by the European Parliament in West Berlin is in keeping with the terms of the quadripartite agreement to which two Member States of the Community are signatories?

84. Question by Mr HAAGERUP (H-651/80)

Subject: Information about the deliberations of the foreign ministers meetings

Are Governments of non-Member States provided with special information about the deliberations of the ministers meeting in political cooperation, and what form does this information take?

85. Question by Mr BERKHOUWER (H-659/80)

Subject: Diplomatic relations between Greece and Israel

Do not the Foreign Ministers agree that it is incumbent upon the Greek Government, now that Greece - since 1 January 1981 - is a full member of the Community, to normalize its diplomatic relations with Israel so that all Member States of the Community maintain identical diplomatic relations with Israel, a country which is linked with the Community through a cooperation agreement? If so, are they prepared to take initiatives to bring about this normalization?

86. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-667/80)

Subject: The value of pursuing Community initiatives on the Middle East

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation believe that it is still possible for them to follow up their initiatives on the Middle East, when the nine Member States of the Community cannot even manage to vote the same way, notably in the debates of the United Nations General Assembly?
