

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTION (0-37/80)

with debate pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr PININFARINA, Mr BERKHOUWER, Mr CALVEZ,  
Mr IRMER and Mr BETTIZA

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: European Community policy for the motor  
vehicle industry

In view of the serious crisis already affecting  
some Community countries and expected shortly in  
others:

1. What information does the Commission possess  
that bears out the expectations of a crisis in  
the European motor industry on a scale similar  
to that now being experienced in the United  
States of America?
2. How does the Commission view the challenge to  
the European industry posed by Japanese and  
American car manufacturers, who enjoy favourable  
treatment and assistance from their governments  
and a more stable social, political and  
industrial relations climate?

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3. Is the Commission concerned at the speed with which Japanese and US manufacturers have adjusted, through heavy investment, to the demands and distinctive features of the European market?
4. Does the Commission not feel that the European motor industry should be given the opportunity of rationalizing production and overcoming the present difficulties before being fully exposed to the challenge from these two countries?
5. Does the Commission intend to draw up a plan, or at least a coherent programme of action, to provide the necessary support to strengthen the European motor industry?
6. Does the Commission agree that it is especially necessary to initiate and give sustained support to the coordinated research programmes already embarked on by the main Community motor manufacturers?
7. Does the Commission feel that action should therefore be taken as a matter of priority to streamline the components industry by relaxing competition policy in this field and persuading individual governments to adopt a less nationalistic policy, and to establish a number of production plants, which might be sited in the least developed areas of the Community, with a view to achieving economies of scale, lower costs, greater competitiveness on world markets and new jobs?