

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1975-1976

5 May 1975

DOCUMENT 71/75

ORAL QUESTION (0-12/75)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr FELLERMAIER, ALBERTSEN, BROEKSZ, DONDELINGER and GIRAUD,

on behalf of the Socialist Group

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject : Economic discrimination against EEC nationals and firms by the countries of the Arab League and the companies and firms established in those countries

1. Can the Commission give some idea of the extent to which economic discrimination is being practised by the Arab League against EEC nationals and firms ?
2. Can the Commission answer the above question with special reference to the countries of the Arab League with which the Community is at present conducting negotiations (i.e. Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia) or is to open negotiations in the near future (i.e. Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria) on new trade agreements in the framework of the overall Mediterranean policy ?
3. If the Commission is unable to give a full answer

to the above questions, is it prepared to launch an investigation into these questions ?

4. Has the Commission discussed, in recent years, in the joint committees with Morocco and Tunisia, the question of economic discrimination, and what was the outcome of any such discussion ?
5. Is the Commission of the opinion that there has been no further discrimination between the Member States, their nationals or firms in the trade arrangements applied by Egypt and Lebanon to products originating in the Community or to products destined for the Community since the relevant trade agreements came into effect ?
6. If the Commission is unable to reply in the affirmative to Question 5, does it then still believe that the unilateral declarations regarding economic discrimination attached to the relevant trade agreements by Egypt and Lebanon are fully offset by the Community declarations which are also attached to those agreements ?
7. If the Commission is unable to reply in the affirmative to Question 5, has it raised the question of economic discrimination in the joint committees with Egypt and Lebanon, and has this given rise to serious and persistent differences of opinion ?
8. Can the Commission confirm that it recently submitted to the Council a proposal for a mandate to open negotiations with Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria and Israel, containing a proposal that encouragement should be given to economic cooperation between industries in the Community and in the above-mentioned countries and to investments ?
9. If the Commission's reply to Question 8 is in the affirmative, is it aware of the contradiction inherent in such a mandate as long as Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria 'blacklist' industries and investors that have connections with Israel ?
10. Is the Commission prepared to declare that, in its negotiations with Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Lebanon and Syria, it will stand by the inclusion in these agreements of provisions prohibiting any discrimination between Member States, their nationals and their firms, and that these provisions will in no way be extenuated by exchanges of letters or the like ?