

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1974-1975

11 February 1975

DOCUMENT 478/

ORAL QUESTION (O-80/74)

with debate pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mrs ORTH

on behalf of the Socialist Group

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Improvement of safety conditions in coal mines

The recent mine disaster in Lievin near Lille has again tragically **focussed** attention on the problem of modernizing numerous coalmines in the Community.

The mining companies often keep investment down to the minimum. The result is that miners have to work in the pits under unsuitable conditions similar to those prevailing at the beginning of the century. This at a time when coal is becoming an increasingly important source of Community energy and the number of miners is being raised.

The Socialist Group puts the following questions to the Commission:

1. What is the role of the Mines Health and Safety Commission in the Lievin district, and what measures has it taken in respect of the mine concerned?

2. What steps does the Commission intend to take in order to standardize the accident prevention and safety regulations in all mines in the European Community, taking as its model mines considered to have the highest standards?
3. What type of legal acts will the Commission draw up to this end in order to prevent the national bureaucratic machines responsible for supervising safety measures from treating any more recommendations simply as pious wishes?