

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

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Oral Question (0-39/75)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure  
by Mrs BOOTHROYD, Mrs ORTH and Mr FELLERMAIER  
on behalf of the Socialist Group,  
to the Council of the European Communities

Subject: Policy in the field of consumer protection

On the basis of several provisions of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community the Community's highest authorities have on various occasions pointed out the need for the Community institutions to strengthen and coordinate measures to protect and inform consumers. The European Parliament, the Commission and the Economic and Social Committee have often drawn attention to this necessity. In 1972 the Heads of State and Government made a statement to the same effect and called for an action programme which was adopted by the Council on 14 April 1975.

The Council is therefore asked the following questions which concern important problems of consumer protection.

1. The Council has before it a number of Commission proposals - some of which date back to 1968/69 - which include consumer protection measures. These proposals chiefly concern the following sectors:
  - pesticides
  - wines
  - fruit juices

- fertilizers
- cosmetics

Could the Council explain why it has not yet taken action on these proposals and state the prospects of legislation being adopted in these fields?

2. Why has the Council not acted on the proposal submitted by the Commission in 1972 concerning motor vehicle safety glass? Does the Council not agree that adoption of this regulation would make an effective contribution towards improving road safety?

As regards food products of agricultural origin, could the Council state what proportion of consumer prices is attributable to processing, packing and distributing food products, i.e. the margin between producer and consumer prices?