

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1 9 8 3 - 1 9 8 4

11 April 1983

DOCUMENT 1-116/83

ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 12 and 13 April 1983

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-684/82)

Subject : Community Coal Policy

What steps is the Council taking to implement Community Coal Policy in the light of conclusions reached at its meeting

2. Question by Mr BALFE (H-710/82)

Subject : European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

In response to Question H-553/82 (1), the Council stated that it had no position on the matter of the accession of the Communities to the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms "as it has not had occasion to discuss the substance of this matter".

Can the Council state when it expects to have a discussion on the matter ?

3. Question by Mr SCHWENCKE (H-717/82)

Subject: Community offices in the Federal Republic of Germany

Is the Council prepared to support the call for establishing two more Community offices in the Federal Republic of Germany, specifically in the capital of Lower Saxony, Hanover, where an important trade fair is held, and in Stuttgart?

4. Question by Mr. FLANAGAN (H-730/82)

Subject : European Monetary Fund

Has the Council held any discussions aimed at reviving the call for establishing the second stage of the European Monetary System, namely a European Monetary Fund which would have some of the functions of a Euro-bank ?

5. Question by Mrs. EWING (H-732/82)

Subject : Common Fisheries Policy Negotiations

Will the President - in - Office comment on recent progress made in the Common Fisheries Policy negotiations ?

6. Question by Mr. NORMANTON (H-749/82)

Subject : The Lebanon

The European Community has consistently called for the total evacuation of all foreign forces from the Lebanon, recognising that both Israeli and Syrian troops are in the Lebanon against the wishes of the legitimate government of that country.

The EEC has a number of cooperation agreements with third countries, including with Israel and Syria, both of these agreements being identical.

Can the Council of Ministers give an assurance that the Community at all times adopts an even-handed approach when dealing with these two States engaging in the Lebanon conflict, and that this has applied and will continue to apply in particular to the two cooperation agreements and their financial protocol.

7. Question by Mr SCHINZEL (H-753/82)

Subject: European passport

In the debate on Question H-545/82¹ by Mr Schön, the President of the Council claimed that the introduction of a European passport would facilitate border checks and reduce waiting times. Members from all groups questioned the seriousness of this view.

Can the Council explain in detail how the intolerable waiting times - especially at German border crossing-points - can be shortened by means of the European passport, without the passport merely being an aid to supra-national cooperation by surveillance agencies?

8. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-760/82)

Subject: Border controls and the movement of persons and goods

What discretionary powers do border control officials possess in the Member States with regard to spot checks, etc. and what can the Council do to ensure that such powers are used to help speed the flow of goods and passenger traffic between the Member States?

9. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-784/82)

Subject : Implementation of Resolutions on Institutional Questions

When will the Council reply to those of the proposals, contained in the resolutions on relations between the institutions adopted in July 1981, December 1981 and February 1982, which are neither covered by the letter of Mr. de Keersmaeker of 8 April 1982 to the President, nor by the Genscher-Colombo Act, in view of the fact that the Commission has already replied to most of those proposals which concern its relations with Parliament ?

¹ Verbatim report of proceedings, sitting of 11 January 1983

10. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-805/82)

Subject: Despatch to Members by certain Member States of documents
justifying their policies

Does the Council consider that the despatch to every Member of the European Parliament of documents justifying the policies of certain Member States is an action compatible with the rules of discretion which governments must observe?

11. Question by Mr de FERRANTI (H-701/82)

Subject : Establishing Community preference in the
non-tariff field

What progress has been made towards reaching agreement on the thirty Internal Market Directives on which the European Council ordered a decision by March 30 specifically on the vital central question of the testing, and granting type approval of imports from third countries ?

12. Question by Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK (H-827/82) (x)

Subject: Aid to shipbuilding

The Council decided¹ to extend for two years the provisions of Directive 81/363/EEC² on aid to the European shipbuilding industry, while the Commission had proposed a three¹ year extension.

Why did the Council decide to extend the period of aid for two years only and not for three years as proposed by the Commission?

13. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-757/82)

Subject: 1983 as the 'Year of the Craft Industry and Small and Medium-Sized Undertakings'

With reference to the preliminary statement on the above subject which the President-in-Office made in his address to the European Parliament on 11 January 1983, could the Council state what initiatives it has in mind for the Commission's opinion and proposal ?

¹ OJ No. L 371, 30.12.1982, p. 46

² OJ No. L 137, 23.5.1981, p. 39

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-152/82), converted into a question for Question Time

14. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-795/82)

Subject : Luxembourg Compromise

Mr. Gaston Thorn, the President of the Commission, in his address to the European Parliament on 8 February said it was time to turn our back on the "Luxembourg Compromise" which gives a Member State the right to veto a proposal if it is against that country's vital interests.

Does the Council of Ministers agree with the President of the Commission ?

15. Question by Mr GRIFFITHS (H-819/82)

Subject : Spanish and Portuguese entry into the EEC

Given the continuing commitment of investment from the E.R.D.F, non quota section, to help France, Italy and Greece prepare for the further enlargement of the Community, can the Council guarantee that the date for Spanish and Portuguese entry will be set before the first of these programmes is completed ?

16. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-821/82)

Subject : Imports of low-carbon ferrochrome into the Community

Is the Council aware of the anti-dumping inquiry started by the Commission in respect of Turkish producers of ferrochrome? Given that this inquiry is detrimental to general consumer interests, does the Council not consider that it represents an unfair sanction against Turkey, inspired by certain private interests, which has serious implications for the Community's association with that country ?

17. Question by Mr ANTONIOZZI (H-832/82)

Subject : Working hours

In the light of similar recent proposals by the Italian Employment Minister, does the Council not feel that the Ministers for Social Affairs of the European Community should hold an extraordinary meeting to consider the reorganization of working hours with a view to submitting practical proposals at a forthcoming meeting of the European Council at which the Heads of State and Government could agree on common approaches in an area which is so important for economic, commercial and social harmonization in the context of progress towards European economic and political union ?

18. Question by Mr PIQUET (H-5/83)

Subject: Sales of American wheat flour to Egypt

I am seriously concerned at the major incursion launched by the USA against Community agriculture in the form of the sale of one million tonnes of wheat flour to Egypt, a traditional Community market, which accounts for 50% of annual exports by the French flour industry alone. The price was set at \$25 per tonne below the world market rate and the contract included an exclusive dealing clause, which is incompatible with GATT rules.

This is an unmistakable affront and calls for countermeasures by the Community institutions commensurate with the scale of the encroachment and the economic issues at stake. The greatest firmness must be shown in repulsing this American offensive.

Clearly this transaction could not have been concluded if the Community had signed a long-term supply contract with Egypt as requested by the latter. We must learn the lesson from this and initiate a more dynamic export policy unhampered by any form of political discrimination. Is the Council prepared to adopt a policy of concluding multiannual agricultural supply contracts in the near future?

19.

Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-7/85)

Subject: Next meeting of the Council of Ministers for Education

Will the Council of Ministers for Education meeting on 30 May include on its agenda the teaching of human rights in the European Community, and will it then have occasion to consider the report adopted by the European Parliament on 28 October 1982 on the same subject?

20.

Question by Mr SEAL (H-8/83)

Subject : Deaths of Tourists in Portugal

There have been at least sixteen deaths of tourists in the Portugese Algarve, due to carbon monoxide poisoning from faulty heating systems.

In view of the fact that the Portugese government has failed to respond effectively to these deaths, would the Council of Ministers inform the Portugese government that discussions regarding Portugal's entry to the EEC cannot continue until they have effectively remedied the situation ?

21.

Question by Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-12/83)

Subject : European Monetary System

What steps is the Council taking if any to enable the United Kingdom to join the European Monetary System ?

22. Question by Mr RUMOR (H-15/83)

Subject: Information on an attempt to abolish legitimate democracy in Greece

Both the international and Greek press have carried extensive reports of suspicious and unexplained mobilization in Greece on 26 and 27 February 1983 at the instigation of certain parties and directed at the legitimate democracy of this Member State.

Since the Greek Government has so far proved unwilling to inform the members of the Greek Parliament and interested European and international circles of what actually happened, can the Council, after consulting the Greek Government, indicate the dangers which have threatened and may still threaten the democratic parliamentary regime in Greece at the instigation of the armed forces or of certain fanatic supporters of political parties?

23. Question by Mr VON WOGAU (H-16/83)

Subject: Information on an attempt to abolish legitimate democracy in Greece

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24. Question by Mr SALZER (H-17/83)

Subject: Information on an attempt to abolish legitimate democracy in Greece

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Since the Greek Government has so far proved unwilling to inform the members of the Greek Parliament and interested European and international circles of what actually happened, can the Council, after consulting the Greek Government, indicate the dangers which have threatened and may still threaten the democratic parliamentary regime in Greece at the instigation of the armed forces or of certain fanatic supporters of political parties?

25. Question by Mr KYRKOS (H-35/83)

Subject: The position of the Council with regard to the question by Mr RUMOR¹ on the mobilization of forces against democracy in Greece

In a question to the Council of Ministers, Mr M. RUMOR, MEP, seems to espouse the view of right-wing circles in Greece to the effect that a mobilization of supporters of Greek parties including the government party occurred and that these events amounted to a threat to democracy in Greece.

Does the Council intend refusing all discussion of this issue which, as it concerns exclusively Greek political parties, would clearly constitute interference in the internal affairs of a Member State of the European Communities?

¹ Oral Question (H-15/83)

26. Question by Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU (H-21/83)

Subject: Threats to the freedom of the press in Greece

The freedom of the press is a fundamental principle in parliamentary democracies. This principle also governs the Treaty of Rome, which applies to all EEC Member States. Since the beginning of 1982 we have been treated to the unedifying spectacle of newspapers, especially those of the same political tendency as the present opposition, being pursued at law. For instance, representatives of the newspaper 'Vradini' which is well known for its campaign for the restoration of free institutions in Greece, have been repeatedly taken to court for publishing articles displeasing to the governing party and to members of the government.

When does the Council of Ministers intend to establish contact with the Greek Government with a view to informing the European Parliament of the dangers to which the freedom of the press is exposed in Greece?

27. Question by Mr MÜLLER-HERMANN (H-23/83)

Subject: Composition of the Council of Ministers

Can the Council give an assurance that the proceedings of the Council of Ministers will in future be attended by politically responsible representatives of the governments of the Member States and not by high-ranking officials who have no authority to reach political decisions which inevitably complicates the course of the negotiations?

28. Question by Mrs WEBER (H-27/83)

Subject: Dangerous waste

Article 16 of Directive 78/319/EEC on toxic and dangerous waste requires the Member States to submit at intervals of 3 years and for the first time 3 years after publication of the directive, a report to the Commission on the elimination of toxic and dangerous waste in their respective countries. The Commission then forwards the report to the other Member States. It must also report to the Council and the European Parliament every 3 years on the implementation of the directive. Have the Member States and the Commission complied with these requirements and what, if any, results has the Council arrived at in its consideration of the Commission's report?

29. Question by Mr DENIS (H-28/83)

Subject: Resumption of food aid to Vietnam

In answer to the question of 8 March 1983 on the subject of discrimination by the EEC against Vietnam, Mr Genscher gave no commitment as regards the resumption of emergency food aid.

Was the President of the Council speaking on behalf of the Ten or not, given that 3 Member States, including France, have already resumed emergency aid to Vietnam?

30. Question by Mr BONDE (H-40/83)

Subject: Embargo on Soviet goods coming into Denmark

Will the Council confirm that the regulation placing an embargo on Soviet goods has not been legally valid in Denmark since 1 March; will the Council also confirm that Denmark has not entered into any obligation to impose national sanctions from 1 March; and will the Council in conclusion confirm that it is now quite lawful to import into Denmark from the Soviet Union upright pianos and other goods covered by the earlier embargo?

QUESTIONS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE TEN MEMBER STATES OF THE EUROPEAN
COMMUNITIES MEETING IN POLITICAL COOPERATION

31. Question by Mrs EWING (H-296/82)

Subject : Reduction in Community trade with South Africa

In view of the fact that over 1000 Community-based companies operate in South Africa and that the South African Government shows no signs of abandoning the abhorrent policy of apartheid, will the Foreign Ministers now recommend to national governments and to such companies a reduction the Community's economic presence in South Africa by withdrawing investments and seeking alternative trade markets?

32. Question by Mr ALBERS (H-770/82)

Subject: Relations with Israel

Does the President-in-Office of the Council of Foreign Ministers feel that the Ten's disapproval of Israel's settlement policy in the occupied territories will cause the Israeli Government to change this policy and, if not, what measures does the Council intend to take in its relations with Israel in order to give more forcible expression to its disapproval?

33. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-755/82)

Subject: An international conference for Afghanistan

On the third anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan Mr GENSCHER, Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, called again on the USSR to withdraw its troops from that country and to allow the Afghan people to exercise freely its right to independence and autonomy. Mr GENSCHER also revived the proposal made by the Commission of the European Communities for an international conference which he saw as the only realistic way of finding an acceptable solution.

Do the ministers intend to associate themselves with this renewed proposal and, if so, in what way?

34. Question by Sir WARNER (H-793/82)

Subject : South East Asia

To ask the Foreign Ministers acting in Political Cooperation what discussion took place during their meeting with the Foreign Ministers of the ASEAN countries about a settlement for Cambodia and Laos ?

35. Question by Mr KYRKUS (H-777/82)

Subject: Missiles and nuclear weapons in Europe

On the critical question of Euro-missiles, public opinion in the Community countries has come out clearly in favour of a solution which would lead to mutual, balanced pull-back and destruction of medium-range missiles and a radical agreement which would make it impossible to turn Europe into a theatre for nuclear confrontation.

What is the view of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation of the specific idea of disengagement from Reagan's zero option and looking for a compromise solution embracing both the British and the French nuclear weapons, and of the proposal that the Community countries too should adopt the principles of not using nuclear weapons first?

36. Question by Mr ANTONIOZZI (H-802/82)

Subject: Invasion of Thai territory

What is the Council's reaction to the widespread reports of the invasion of Thai territory by Vietnamese troops and what political initiatives does it intend to take to encourage the parties to reach a negotiated settlement of this situation which could become a threat to peace in the Far East?

37. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-834/82)

Subject : Meeting of the Palestinian National Council in Algiers
(14-21 February 1983)

In concluding their answer to Written Question No. 1463/82 of 29 October 1982¹, the Foreign Ministers declared on 10 February 1983 that:

the Ten considered that a forthcoming meeting of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) might be of decisive importance for the future development of the situation in that region.

Since the meeting in question was held in Algiers from 14 to 21 February 1983, do the Foreign Ministers consider that it was of decisive importance for the future development of the situation in the region ?

38. Question by Mr ADAMOU (H-4/83)

Subject: Statements by the Minister of the Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany

In a speech given on 2.2.83 in Munich, the Minister of the Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany, Mr Zimmerman, stated that the government coalition in Bonn had not reduced its claims as regards the unification of the two parts of Germany and was also examining the border problem posed by the ODER and NEISSE rivers (which form part of present-day Poland) and that Germany as a unified state had never signed a peace treaty at the end of the Second World War.

How do the Foreign Ministers of the European Communities meeting in political cooperation view these statements by Mr Zimmerman, which disregard the treaties signed by the Federal Republic of Germany at the beginning of the 1970s with Poland, the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union?

¹ OJ No. C 62, 7.3.1983, p. 4

39. Question by Mr BALFE (H-9/83)

Subject : Release of Nelson Mandela and David Kitson

Are the foreign Ministers willing to make representations to the South African government concerning the release of Nelson Mandela and David Kitson ?

40. Question by Mr HABSBURG (H-29/83)

Subject: Decolonization of the Baltic States

What action have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation so far taken in accordance with the request made to them by the plenary assembly of Parliament to bring the problem of the Baltic States before the decolonization subcommittee of the UN and, if nothing has yet been done, when do they intend to address themselves to this problem and act in conformity with Parliament's request?

41. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-32/83)

Subject : Zimbabwe

Are the Ministers concerned about the current political situation in Zimbabwe particularly in Malabeleland and about the reports of atrocities ?

42. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-33/83)

Subject: Civil defence

In view of the impact of a nuclear attack on social and medical facilities in each member state and between member states, will the Foreign Ministers place this matter on their agenda, (see my previous question H-790/82)⁽¹⁾ in order to ensure the best possible contingency planning among them?

43. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-36/83)

Subject: Baha'i community in Iran

What is the current position of the Baha'i community in Iran and what action are the Ministers taking to bring pressure on the Iranian authorities to respect their right to life and liberty?

44. Question by Mr ROMUALDI (H-51/83)

Subject: Objectives of the mission of the international peace-keeping force

What view do the Foreign Ministers take of the military and political situation in Lebanon following the attacks on the Italian and American contingents of the international peace-keeping force, and, in the light of this situation, do the conditions prevailing still justify the objectives of the mission of the international peace-keeping force?

(1) Verbatim report of proceeding on 9.3.1983, p.171 (prov. edition)

45.

Question by Mr PATTISON (H-53/83)

Subject : Deportation of Irish priest from Chile

Are the Ministers aware of the recent expulsion from Chile of some Irish priests, and has any action been taken to condemn these, and the many other deportations from Chile, and what action is proposed to bring home to the Chilean authorities the repugnance felt in the Community at the continued arrests and deportations which are in infringement of basic human rights and freedom ?

46. Question by Mrs. THEOBALD-PAOLI (H-721/82) (x)

Subject: Emergency aid for a region hit by drought

1. Since the beginning of the year the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region of France, particularly the department of Var, has been experiencing an acute drought.
2. The economic consequences are disastrous for agriculture and industries drawing on available water supplies and for the Mediterranean forests, which are being ravaged by fire.
The tourist industry may also suffer as a result of the drought.
3. In recent years the Commission has demonstrated Europe's solidarity by granting specific aid to regions hit by natural disasters.
4. Will the Commission now grant emergency aid to this drought-affected region?

(x) Former oral question without debate (O-66/82) converted into a question for Question Time

47. Question by Mr GONTIKAS (H-622/82)

Subject: Dismissal of a member of the local staff employed in the
Commission's Athens Office

Mr N. KERAMIDAS was recruited on 15 June 1977 as a member of the local staff and has worked continuously until now; as the reports from his superiors in his personal file indicate, his work was considered first-class. His contract was terminated by the Commission as from 1 January 1983 without any reason being given.

Can the Commission state why Mr KERAMIDAS was dismissed since at the same time four (4) more officials are being recruited as well as a large number of hourly-paid workers?

48. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-697/82)

Subject : Directives on Lorry Weights and Diversions

As at least one Member State has made it clear that it cannot accept the Commissions proposals if the maximum allowable gross weight is 40 tons and if certain axle weights are not altered, will the Commission now propose a fresh directive either in terms of a range of key weights and dimensions, determined by what Member States are prepared to accept, or in the form of model rules rather than a mandatory requirement?

49. Question by Mrs EWING (H-731/82)

Subject : EEC Fisheries Agreements with third Countries

Will the Commission state what progress has been made on fishery agreements with third countries for 1983 following the Council's failure to conclude an agreement on a Common Fisheries Policy before the 1st of January 1983 ?

50. Question by Mr SCHWENKE (H-769/82)

Subject: Community information offices in the Federal Republic of Germany

When will the Commission submit its proposal on the setting up of one or possibly two, additional Community information offices in the Federal Republic of Germany and will priority be given to Hanover in view of that city's role as 'Land' capital and trade fair centre?

51. Question by Mr BALFE (H-785/82)

Subject : Invalidity arrangements at the European Commission

Will the E.E.C. Commission comment on reports that a growing number of its officials are taking advantage of the very generous invalidity arrangements which allow for premature retirement on about 70 % of salary in cases of persistent sickness ?

Will the Commission state how many Commission staff have been granted invalidity and is it correct that as many as 50 or 60 cases occurred last year ?

Will the Commission also give an assurance that all those receiving invalidity pensions are given proper medical examinations at intervals after leaving E.E.C. employment ?

52. Question by Mr SEAL (H-786/82)

Subject : Employment Zones

In view of the Commission decision to examine each of the proposed "employment zones" put forward by the Belgian government and to veto the one proposed for Brussels, can it now be assumed that Article 92 of the EEC Treaty will be used for all Member States who set up "employment zones" ?

Do all the British "enterprise zones" give aid which is considered compatible with Article 92 of the EEC Treaty ?

Were the proposals for these British "enterprise zones" examined individually before they were allowed to be established ?

Are the Commission to examine any proposals to give measures of aid to industry by a future British Labour government to ensure that they too will be compatible with Article 92 of the EEC Treaty ?

53. Question by Mr EISMA (H-817/82)

Subject: Medical training

When did the Commission ask the Advisory Committee on Medical Training and the Committee of Senior Officials on Public Health for their opinions? When were these opinions delivered, or when can they be expected, and when will the Commission submit a proposal to the Council?

54. Question by Mr DENIAU (H-469/82)

Subject: Development policy with regard to the LDCs

What action does the Commission intend taking on the commitment given by the European Community at the Paris Conference on the LDCs to consider the establishment of a system along the lines of STABEX for the benefit of the LDCs?

55. Question by Mr LALOR (H-532/82)

Subject : Coastal protection pilot projects

Will the Commission state why it failed to gather any information on Member States expenditure on coastal protection projects over the last ten years¹ and will it now give assurances that it will carry out this request so that an evaluation of this problem can be fully seen at Community level?

56. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-617/82)²

Subject : The Commission's public relations work

How does the Commission account for the fact that most people confuse the European Community with the Council of Europe and does the Commission think it can improve its public relations in the Member States, and, if so, how?

57. Question by Mr PEDINI (H-767/82)³

Subject: Infringements of Article 30 of the Treaty

By circular of 20 October 1982 amending the circular of 14 March 1977 on the Law of 31 December 1975 laying down provisions on the use of the French language, the French Government made the use of the French language compulsory in connection with any document relating to imported goods or goods intended for sale on the internal market.

Does the Commission intend to complain to the French Government that these provisions are incompatible with Article 30 of the Treaty of Rome, which prohibits Member States from imposing quantitative restrictions on imports and all measures having equivalent effect?

Is the Commission aware that the provisions adopted by the French Government are particularly harmful to the Italian toy industry, which has always occupied a considerable place on the French market?

¹ OJ No C 259/82, p. 17

² Former Oral Question without debate (O-124/82), converted into a question for Question Time

³ Former Oral Question without debate (O-135/82), converted into a question for Question Time

58. Question by Mr ADAM (H-646/82)

Subject : Liquefaction of coal

According to the International Energy Agency, "the liquefaction of coal is of strategic interest to industrial countries if they wish to reduce their dependence on oil even if this process is unlikely to become competitive by the year 2000". Does the Commission accept this view, and what proposals do the Commission have to reverse the current trend in the Community of abandoning liquefaction projects?

59. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-670/82)

Subject: Holding-up of used oil at European frontiers

Has the Commission been informed that at the end of November the French Customs were ordered by the Government to hold up lorries and railway wagons transporting used oil to EEC countries?

Does the Commission not think that such measures are contrary to the fundamental principles of the Treaty of Rome on the free movement of goods?

60. Question by Mr FLANAGAN (H-676/82)

Subject : Medical Consumer Safety Measures

In view of the considerable worldwide public concern aroused by the death of seven people in the United States caused by a criminal act of poisoning resulting from the introduction of cyanide into inadequately sealed bottles, does the Commission intend to propose any safety measures such as the obligatory sealing of all medicines, prescribed or otherwise in the Community ?

61. Question by Mr SIMMONDS (H-828/82) ¹

Subject: Import tariffs on trade between the European
Community and Spain

Recognizing the gross imbalance of import tariffs on trade
between the European Community and Spain;

Recalling the British Prime Minister's demand at the European
Council on 3 and 4 December for 'quick and effective action
to ensure more equal access in our trade with Spain';

What action does the Commission now propose to redress this
imbalance?

62. Question by Mr WEDEKIND (H-777/82) ²

Subject: Border formalities

As border formalities for intra-Community trade do not differ
in principle - despite the degree of harmonization already
attained - from those applied to trade with third countries
(according to one Community exporter 'it is easier to export to
Samoa than to France'), the Commission has now submitted a
proposal for simplifying these arrangements, according to which
the various forms currently required would be replaced by a
single standard form. Is the Commission of the opinion that a
standard form of this kind will actually facilitate the free
movement of goods or might it be expected that, because of the
various special national features involved, this standard form
will add to the difficulties, especially as it may not be
possible to use electronic data processing owing to the variety
of supplementary information required for each country?

¹ Former Oral Question without debate (0-145/82), converted into a question for Question Time

² Former Oral Question without debate (0-156/82), converted into a question for Question Time

63. Question by Mr KAZAZIS (H-766/82)

Subject: USA-Egypt agreement

On 17 Decmeber 1982 it was announced that the USA had signed a trade agreement with Egypt under which the USA would sell 1m. tonnes of wheat flour on very favourable terms (subsidizing part of the cost), thus cornering the Egyptian market in an unacceptable manner. Since at the same time EEC-USA talks were going on at the highest level in the search for a 'framework of conduct' for trade between them, particularly in the agricultural sector, and as the Commission's reaction to the Americans was very 'lukewarm', does the Commission consider that appealing to GATT will be its only response, or: are additional measures going to be taken if the USA takes sudden action of this kind again; and what steps are to be taken against Egypt, which agreed to the conclusion of this agreement?

64. Question by Mr KYRKOS (H-49/83) (1)

Subject: Study on the 'strategy for agro-industrial development in the Mediterranean regions of the Community'

Can the Commission confirm that it has commissioned a study on the 'strategy for agro-industrial development in the Mediterranean regions of the Community' from an American research organization directed by Professor Dale E. Hathaway, Under-Secretary for Agriculture in the Carter Administration?

If so, can it explain the reasons which induced it to entrust this research project to a political figure from a country outside the Community? Does the Commission believe that nowhere in the Community is there a research centre capable of examining the agro-industrial problems of the Mediterranean areas?

How much does it plan to spend on this research?

(1) Former oral question without debate (O-166/82), converted into a question for Question Time

65. Question by Mrs DURY (H-771/82)

Subject: Attitude of the Lebanese Government to the Palestinian refugees

In connection with its proposed measures regarding the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon can the Commission indicate what, as far as it is aware, the Lebanese Government intends to do for these refugees in the way of protection and assistance?

66. Question by Mr. PURVIS (H-772/82)

Subject : Self-ignition of coal

Can the Commission say what current EC safeguards exist regarding the self-ignition of stockpiled coal and are any such safety measures proposed by the Commission ?

67. Question by Ms QUIN (H-780/82)

Subject : Visit of Commissioner HAFERKAMP and
Commissioner DAVIGNON to Japan

During their visit to Japan in February, did the Commissioners discuss the subject of machine tools and if so, what was the outcome of their discussions ?

68. Question by Mrs POIRIER (H-781/82)

Subject: Restriction on imports of cereals substitutes

In its answer to my Oral Question No. H-256/82¹ concerning imports of substitutes, the Commission stated that negotiations were to be started with the United States very probably towards the end of September or the beginning of October.

Can the Commission provide the European Parliament with regular information on the content and outcome of these negotiations?

69. Question by Mr. SELIGMAN (H-789/82)

Subject : Payment in kind System Favour Support Scheme

Does the Commission consider that the newly introduced PIK system in U.S.A., could be usefully applied in the EEC, to reduce agricultural surpluses ?

70. Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-37/83) ²

Subject : Airport Facilities

Is the Commission aware that at London Heathrow airport there are special facilities at passport control for Community citizens ? What other Community countries provide such facilities ?

1

Annex to the O.J. No. 1-288, debates of the European Parliament

2

Former oral question without debate (0-176/82), converted into a question for question time

71. Question by Mrs DESOUCHES (H-825/82)

Subject: Price imbalances in the pig sector

What measures does the Commission feel it could take to solve the problem of price imbalances in the pig sector? Does it intend to propose to the Council an adjustment to the system of calculating MCAs in the pig sector and to ask third countries to produce import certificates?

72. Question by Lord BETHELL (H-822/82)

Subject : Landing cards

Is the Commission aware that Greece is now the only Community member state that demands landing cards from visitors arriving from other member states and what efforts has the Commission made to persuade the Greek Government to abolish this requirement ?

73. Question by Mr DAVERN (H-823/82)

Subject : EEC Aid for Irish TB Testing in Cattle

In view of the restrictions placed on public service recruitment, the Irish Department of Agriculture is unable to implement the EEC's subsidy of IRL£2.5 million a year for a scheme of free pre-movement testing for TB and brucellosis in cattle. This scheme would have to be matched £1 for £1 by the Irish Government.

Would the Commission permit a percentage of the EEC allocation for this testing to be used by the Department of Agriculture to recruit people to carry out this necessary scheme and if this is not possible what recommendations could the Commission put forward that would enable the Department of Agriculture to implement this scheme ?

74. Question by Mr TYRRELL (H-824/82)

Subject : Structural surplus of butter in the Community

Can the Commission outline the measures it is taking to encourage the use of intervention butter by the food manufacturing industries of the Community and what further measures are envisaged to encourage internal consumption, thereby obviating the necessity of subsidising exports to third countries ?

75. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-826/82)

Subject : United Kingdom Youth Opportunities Programme

Will the Commission state the amount of Social Fund money applied to the United Kingdom Youth Opportunities Programme in 1982, the percentage which this represents of spending on schemes eligible for Social Fund spending and the increase of this expenditure over the corresponding figure for 1981 ?

76. Question by Mrs BARBARELLA (H-831/82)

Subject: Direct-dial telephone numbers at the Commission

Can the Commission explain why the direct-dial short numbers given in its telephone directory include private organizations such as the Federazione italiana Consorzi agrari (Italian federation of farmers' cooperatives), Federolio and Deltafina, and does it not feel that, if this were found to reflect a real, demonstrable need for information and advice, all the most representative organizations in the relevant sectors should be included?

77. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-830/82)

Subject: Bilateral textiles agreements

Has the Commission succeeded, notably through the efforts of the working party on reciprocity set up by Vice-President DAVIGNON, in obtaining the agreement of certain low-price countries to allow fair access to their markets for textile products exported by the EEC which are subject to prohibitive customs duties?

78. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-838/82)

Subject: Inflammable and toxic plastics

A fire in a Turin cinema caused the deaths of sixty-four people suffocated by toxic gases released by plastics in the fittings. Since similar tragedies have occurred in other Community countries, does the Commission not feel that it is time to investigate the question of the toxicity and inflammability of certain plastics by encouraging and coordinating research in this field, introducing Community provisions concerning the most dangerous substances and ensuring that the citizens of the ten Member States are protected by fire regulations determined in accordance with the highest standards?

79. Question by Mr GAUTHIER (H-1/83)

Subject: Oil prices

In view of the current downward trend in oil prices and of the urgent need for appropriate proposals concerning EEC energy strategy, can the Commission indicate in what way and when it intends to take action on the European Parliament's resolution of 10 February 1983 on the OPEC Conference?

80. Question by Mr PRAG (H-2/83)

Subject : Information regarding the disabled

Can the Commission say what progress has been made with regard to the collection of information and statistics on disablement in the European Community, particularly with regard to the extent of disablement, the effects of disablement particularly on employment and income, and the adaptation of job-training for disabled people, which was called for in the Eisma Report (1-541/82) ?

Have plans been made to include such information in the Commission's medium-term projection of social expenditure and financing, or in any other publication ?

81. Question by Mr LAGAKOS (H-3/83)

Subject: Increasing the number of Greek-speaking interpreters

The Commission places as few as eleven Greek-speaking interpreters at the disposal of the Council. The lack of Greek-speaking interpreters has already been felt at meetings of the various committees and working parties within the Council.

Does not the Commission believe that, in view of Greek presidency of the Council of Ministers in the second half of 1983, the number of Greek-speaking interpreters should be increased and, if so, what steps has it taken to improve the situation?

82. Question by Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-11/83)

Subject : Additional resources in the U.K.

What additional resources does the Community hope to be able to commit during 1983 in the U.K. towards countering the adverse environmental impact of the 38 tonne heavy lorry.

83. Question by Mr GALLAGHER (H-18/83)

Subject : Council Directive 72/464 EEC on taxes other than turnover taxes

Does the Commission consider that the Social Security Surcharge on tobacco products, to be implemented in France from 1 April 1983 further to article 26 of Law 83/25 will be in conformity with the provisions of Council Directive 72/464/EEC on taxes other than turnover taxes which affect the consumption of manufactured tobacco ?

84. Question by Mr MOUCHEL (H-20/83)

Subject: Economic relations between Europe and Israel

Following publication of the report by the Committee of Inquiry in Israel and now that peace negotiations between Israel and Lebanon seem to be moving ahead, does the Commission intend, as it should, to normalize economic relations with Israel in respect both of trade relations and of the financial aid which has been frozen since June 1982?

85. Question by Mr MÜLLER-HERMANN(H-22/83)

Subject: Greenland's withdrawal from the Community

How far have negotiations progressed on Greenland's request to leave the Community? Will the Commission make sure that, if Greenland does withdraw, it will not be rewarded by major concessions from the EEC in the sense that its rights as a member might remain unimpaired while it would at the same time escape the commitments resulting from membership?

86. Question by Mrs WEBER (H-26/83)

Subject: Dangerous waste

Article 16 of Directive 78/319/EEC on toxic and dangerous waste requires the Commission to report to the Council and Parliament every 3 years on the application of this directive.

When can that report be expected and does the Commission interpret Article 16 to mean that the report must contain details covering, e.g., the place at which residual material from Seveso was disposed of and is the Commission prepared to make available to the EP or in an appropriate form to its Committee on the Environment, the reports from the Member States referred to in Section 1 of Article 16?

87. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-30/83)

Subject: Imports of low carbon ferro-chromium into the Community

Following its extremely vague reply to oral question No. H-820/82¹, can the Commission clarify whether it is usual practice to initiate an anti-dumping proceeding that may put at risk strategic supplies to Europe and the interests of European consumers at the request of a single producer?

Is it true that the producer in question - the importance of which should be specified more clearly - was in fact competing with others for these imports and that, contrary to the 'apparent' evidence referred to by the Commission in its initial answer, the members of the advisory committee were, with one exception against the proceeding?

88. Question by Mr BONDE (H-39/83)

Subject: Embargo on Soviet goods coming into Denmark

Will the Commission confirm that the regulation placing an embargo on Soviet goods has not been legally valid in Denmark since 1 March; will the Commission also confirm that Denmark has not entered into any obligation to impose national sanctions from 1 March; and will the Commission in conclusion confirm that it is now quite lawful to import into Denmark from the Soviet Union upright pianos and other goods covered by the earlier embargo?

89. Question by Mr BLUMENFELD (H-41/83)

Subject: Financial grant from the EC to a UN Institute in Namibia

Is the Commission now in a position to give a detailed account of the use to which the 10 m ECU is being put, it not having been possible to give an adequate answer to Written Questions Nos. 652 and 1082 addressed to the Commission² - particularly as to whether these funds are actually being used in the cultural sphere for the benefit of the population, in view of the fact that the Treasurer of SWAPO is, at the same time, empowered to decide how the resources of the Institute in question are used?

¹ Verbatim report of proceedings of 9.3.1983, p. 190

² OJ No C 239, 13.9.1982, p. 10 and OJ No C 305, 22.11.1982, p. 8

90. Question by Mr HARRIS (H-43/83)

Subject : Citizen Band radio

What steps, if any, are being taken to rectify the disparity between the United Kingdom citizen band radio system and that of the other countries of the Community and what consideration has been given to the requests for a common European CB users' licence with the 40 channels F.C.C. and all modes of communication available ?

91. Question by Mr O'DONNELL (H-44/83)

Subject : Irish Flour Milling Industry

With reference to previous questions on the problem of the Irish Flour Milling Industry and in view of the representations already made by the Irish government, what action has the Commission taken and with what results;

Would the Commission now assist the Farmers-Workers Co-operative, which is being organised to take over Ranks Flour Mills at Limerick with a view to maintaining employment; providing a market for Irish Wheat growers and reducing Ireland's dependence on imported flour ?

92. Question by Mrs WALZ (H-46/83)

Subject : ACP-EEC cooperation in energy

When will the Commission publish its new initiative on ACP-EEC cooperation in energy promised by Commissioner PISANI at the meeting of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly held in Rome from 3 to 5 November 1982 ?

93. Question by Mr KEY (H-47/83)

Subject : Coal Industry

The Commission's working programme on solid fuels considers that there is a need for a high level of investment in the coal industry of the Community with a view to modernising economic production capacity (or capacity that is, at present, only marginally uneconomic).

What actions are the Commission proposing to take to fulfill this aspiration ?

94. Question by Mr PATTISON (H-52/83)

Subject : Health and Social Welfare of the Elderly

Will the Commission state whether it participated in the recent W.H.O. meeting in Dublin which discussed aspects of health care for the elderly and, if so, what was its contribution; and, in the light of this meeting and the colloquium it held in Luxembourg in September 1982 on "policy issues in the health and social welfare of the elderly", will it outline the policies it believes should be pursued in this area, both at national and Community level, and any concrete proposals it intends to make ?

95. Question by Mr TREACY (H-54/83)

Subject : Drainage programmes for the Munster region

Will the Commission state what programmes have been implemented in Ireland for river drainage, and how much has been spent to date; how much of this has gone to the province of Munster, and for what projects; and what further plans are there for arterial drainage for rivers in Munster ?

96. Question by Mr ADAMOY (H-57/83)

Subject: Commission proposals on dried grapes and dried figs

In a recent proposal to the Council, the Commission proposes abolishing the Community intervention system for dried grapes and dried figs and, moreover, in the case of dried grapes, imposes an upper limit on production. How does the Commission justify taking measures which will adversely affect the income of dried grape and dried fig producers and, indeed, reduce the areas under cultivation for dried grapes, which are produced almost exclusively in Greece, given that the proposed 'minimum prices' to the producer and those of imported products are not enough to balance out the existing consequences of earlier Community measures?

97. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-58/83)

Subject: Delayed response by the Commission to the 'Greek Memorandum'

According to information in the press, there will be a further delay in the Commission's response to the so-called 'Memorandum' of the Greek Government. Since the impact of Greece's accession to the EEC is seriously affecting many groups of workers and the national economy without any measures being taken to protect them, what is the Commission's general attitude in response to the 'Memorandum', particularly as regards the application of Community rules on competition, the uniform customs tariff, production quotas etc.?

98. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-63/83)

Subject: Imports of cotton goods from Turkey

At the beginning of March 1983, the Commission reached a decision on imports of cotton goods from Turkey.

Can the Commission explain why, despite the severe crisis in the Greek textile industry, it compels Greece to import cotton goods from Turkey while, at the same time, ignoring the political aspect of the matter, namely the existence of the oppressive regime in Turkey?

99.

Question by Mr HALLIGAN (H-64/83)

Subject : Economic sanctions against the USSR

Given the fact that the Danes have agreed to lift economic sanctions against the Soviet Union, does the Commission agree that it would now be opportune to cease these sanctions on a Community-wide basis, and will it take the necessary steps in this direction ?

100. Question by Mr CALVEZ (H-66/83)

Subject: Tax on petroleum products

According to a French weekly, consultations are taking place at European level on the possibility of taxing petroleum products if oil prices fall sharply.

Can the Commission explain in detail how such 'consultations' are taking place and say whether in fact it is planning once again to tax energy in general and petroleum products in particular?

101. Question by Mr PATTERSON (H-67/83)

Subject : Commission reaction to Parliaments amendments on
5th Directive

Will the Commission state whether or not it now intends to accept Parliament's amendment to the draft 5th Directive on Company law to increase the threshold number of employees for its application of the Directive from 500 to 1,000 in each unitary societe anonyme ?

Commissioner Narjes assured Parliament in september that this Amendment was to be included in the new draft. He specified however that dependent companies' employees were to be included in the 1,000. This puts employees of dependent companies - which are not societe anonymes in their own right - in a position of being "counted in" but denied any rights under the 5th Directive provisions.

Does the Commission consider such a situation is fair to the employees of subsidiary companies ?

102. Question by Mr PRICE (H-70/83)

Subject : Venue of Commission Press Conferences

In view of the fact that Commissioners spend most of their time in Strasbourg during Parliament's plenary weeks and that many of the same journalists wish to cover both Commission and Parliamentary activities will the Commission change the venue of their daily press conference from Brussels to Strasbourg during Parliament's plenary sittings ?

