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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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6 June 1983

DOCUMENT 1-389/83

ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 7 and 8 June 1983

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-643/82)

Subject: Amendment of the Social Fund arrangements

Can the Council state what progress has been made as regards amendment of the Social Fund arrangements so as to render more effective efforts to combat unemployment in Europe?

16.12.1982

2. Question by Mr. MARSHALL (H-836/82)

Subject : Spanish accession to the Community and Spanish recognition of Israel

In view of the Association Agreement between the Community and Israel does the Council not agree that full diplomatic recognition of Israel by Spain should be a precondition of Spanish accession to the Community ?

04.03.1983

3. Question by Mr KALLIAS (H-147/83)*

Subject : Problems of the European younger generation

It is obvious that the future of Europe and of the whole world depends on the coming generations, but the future of European unity, in particular, depends on the attitude the European younger generation adopts to the question.

Steps must, therefore, be taken to tackle the burning problem of youth unemployment, on the one hand, and, on the other, the question of a psychological rapprochement with young people.

Both problems are extremely difficult to solve. Unfortunately, however, efforts are being devoted only to the first of them, a wide range of efforts which, it is to be hoped, will very shortly lead to specific measures. There is an urgent need, though, for the second problem, that of a psychological rapprochement with the European younger generation, to be confronted, so that the knowledge and experience of older people can be channelled towards the young, for them to use on their own responsibility and initiative. For these reasons, the Commission must urgently address itself to this serious problem.

Can the Council say :

- (a) if it has attached particular importance to the dangers inherent in the generation gap, and
- (b) what action, if any, it has taken, or intends to take, to bridge the psychological gap between those at the decision-taking age and those at the age which is coming, or up-and-coming, and what the results of its actions have been ?

7.3.1983

*Former oral question without debate (0-185/82), converted into a question for question time

4. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-87/83)

Subject : Free circulation of ECU coins

In its answer to Written Question No. 1810/82¹ by Mr Rogalla the Commission indicated that it had submitted a proposal for the creation and free circulation of ECU coins minted in accordance with national procedures.

Since this first fungible European currency would be of great symbolic value for the process of European unification is the Council prepared to adopt and possibly implement this idea advanced by the Commission ?

12.04.1983

(1) OJ No C 78 of 6.4.1981, p. 27

5. Question by Ms. QUIN (H-94/83)

Subject : Obligation of the Council to respond to European Parliament Resolutions tabled under Rule 49 of the Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Does the Council consider that it has no obligation to respond to resolutions addressed to it and sent to it by the European Parliament, resolutions which were tabled under rule 49 of the Parliament's rules of procedure and which received the support of an absolute majority of MEPs ?

14.04.1983

6. Question by Mr van MINNEN (H-128/83)

Subject: Elimination of the butter mountain

How does the Council view the proposal that, as a means of eliminating the butter mountain, each EC citizen should be given half a kilo of intervention butter free of charge on purchasing one kilo of fresh butter?

2.5.1983

7. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-132/83)

Subject: European Parliament - Council liaison group

At the meeting of 24 January this year between the enlarged Bureau of the European Parliament and the Foreign Ministers of the Member States it was agreed that a Parliament-Council liaison group should be set up quickly to consider what action might be taken on the resolutions on institutional matters drawn up by the Political Affairs Committee and adopted by Parliament. Specific proposals for this have been put forward by Parliament.

Could the Council say:

- why this liaison group has not yet been set up;
- when it will hold its first meeting;
- at what juncture, in the Council's view, it should report on the results of its work?

3.5.1983

8. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-134/83)

Subject Installation of a nuclear reactor at the frontiers of
a Member State

Can the Council state what progress has been made with regard to the proposal for a regulation on setting up a compulsory consultation procedure in the event of the installation of a nuclear power station at the frontiers of a Member State?

3.5.1983

9. Question by Mr von WOGAU (H-137/83)

Subject: Proposal for a 14th Directive on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to turnover taxes (Doc. COM(82) 402 final)

The aim of the Commission proposal for a 14th Directive on the harmonization of turnover taxes is to simplify the VAT procedures and formalities in intra-Community trade and, in conjunction with other measures, to achieve further progress towards creating an internal market.

Is the Council likely to adopt the 14th Directive on the harmonization of turnover taxes in the near future and, if not, why not?

4.5.1983

10. Question by Mr MARTIN (H-140/83)

Subject: Mediterranean fisheries

Has the Council decided to supplement the common fisheries policy with a chapter on 'Mediterranean fishing' as requested by the European Parliament?

6.5.1983

11. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-150/83)

Subject: JSSR observer at GATT

The Soviet Union has approached GATT with a request to be granted observer status.

What is the European Community's position on this?

17.5.1983

12. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-153/83)

Subject : Questions on activities of COREPER

In view of the fact that the Council has agreed that a delegation of the Political Committee of Parliament should meet members of COREPER, will the Council extend the Parliamentary accountability of COREPER so that the Presidency will in future answer questions by Members on the activities of COREPER ?

17.05.1983

13. Question by Mr KALOYANNIS (H-158/83)

Subject: Censorship of speech, democratic dialogue and the press by the Greek Government by means of the mass media

Last week in Greece, the government controlled television network refused to allow the leader of the official opposition, Mr Evangelos Averof, to appear and state his party's opinions on Greek issues of general interest. Moreover, the same week, the government controlled radio station in its programme 'Review of the Press' grossly distorted the leader of the newspaper Kathimerini which read 'Disagreement between ministers Arsenis and Varfis on EEC memorandum' (in the radio broadcast the following headline only was given: 'Disagreement on EEC memorandum'). The subheading which said that the Prime Minister had refused to accept the resignation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs was also left out. Does the Council intend to seek an explanation from the Greek Government or, at least, from its minister responsible and inform the European Parliament on the matters referred to above?

18.5.1983

14. Question by Mr O' MAHONY (H-167/83)

Subject : Integrated operations in favour of Dublin

In view of the adoption by Parliament of the von der VRING Resolution (1) on Integrated Development Operations, will the Council call on the Commission to draft proposals immediately for the implementation of the policies called for, particularly in relation to Dublin, as proposed in the CLUSKEY Resolution (2) on Community aid for Dublin, and will Council adopt these proposals as rapidly as possible?

24.5.1983

1. Doc. 1-104/83
2. Doc. 1-953/82

15. Question by Mr PROVAN (H-169/83)

Subject: The Carajas project in Brazil

It would appear that the £35 billion industrial and mining development - the Carajas project in Brazil - is running into a certain local difficulty. The local indigineous people, who are the occupiers of the land the -'posseiros' - are being driven off their land often with the backing of special military government in the region. What is special about the Carajas project in Goias is that it is financially backed by the European Community.

Will the Council, therefore, give a statement regarding the use of the European Community funds in this project and the consequences for the local people, who are obviously violently opposed to the project and demonstrated this in the recent elections in Brazil where the Goias region elected a Governor from the parties in opposition to the military government?

24.5.1983

16. Question by Mr PINTAT (H-172/83)

Subject: Dumping of copper sulphate by the East European countries

Is the Council of Ministers aware of the problems faced by European firms in the copper sulphate sector as a result of steadily increasing imports of copper sulphate from the East European countries at very low prices; this is creating a particularly serious situation in FRANCE where imports in January and February accounted for 90% of the amount imported annually; in view of the anti-dumping complaints lodged with the EEC, what steps does the Council intend to take to put an end to this anomalous situation?

25.5.1983

17. Question by Mr PATTISON (H-175/83)

Subject: Results of recent Social Affairs Council meeting and Social-Education Jumbo Council meeting

Will the Council outline the results of the recent Social Affairs Council meeting and the Social-Education Jumbo Council, particularly in relation to the Social Fund and action to combat youth unemployment?

25.5.1983

18. Question by Mrs SCHLEICHER (H-127/83)

Subject: Bitterfeld (GDR) 'Death Squad'

Are the Foreign Ministers familiar with reports concerning the Bitterfeld (GDR) 'Death Squad' which indicate that inhuman demands are made on the 25,000 people who work in the chemical plant under extremely dubious conditions because of the absence of industrial protection measures? These reports include an eye-witness account from Jürgen Sprenger, a typesetter, who states, 'I have known many cases of comrades collapsing with acute poisoning and being taken away to an unknown destination'. Are the Foreign Ministers prepared to inform the GDR authorities that this situation has come to their notice and produced a sense of outrage among the population and will they point out that it places a strain on the special relations between the Community and the GDR?

2.5.83

19. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-160/83)

Subject: Agreement between Israel and Lebanon

Do the Ten intend to express the satisfaction and relief felt by the European Community following the conclusion of an agreement between Israel and Lebanon ending the state of war between the two countries and providing for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon?

Do the Foreign Ministers of the Ten plan to make any diplomatic approach to Syria to ensure that the troops from Damascus and their PLO allies also agree to withdraw from the territory of ill-fated Lebanon?

Would such a diplomatic initiative not be the most constructive action that could be taken at the present stage?

19.5.83

20. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-163/83)

Subject: Agreement between Lebanon and Israel

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation duly welcomed the agreement reached between Israel and Lebanon on the cessation of hostilities and have they modified their policies on relations with Lebanon and Israel accordingly?

19.5.83

21. Question by Mr KALOYANNIS (H-173/83)

Subject: Threat by Turkish Cypriot leader Mr Denktas to proclaim independent state in occupied northern section of Cyprus

As is known, Cyprus, as a sovereign state with a single recognized government, has had links of cooperation with the EEC for years. However, since the recent United Nations resolution, which was completely objective but unfavourable to the Turkish side, Mr Denktas, with Members of Parliament from the Turkish Community, is now threatening to proclaim the northern section of Cyprus, which is occupied by Turkish troops, a separate state, and to make the Turkish pound legal tender in that area. In view of the fact that if these threats are carried out it will, apart from anything else create complications in the cooperation agreement between Cyprus (under the official Cypriot Government) and the European Community, as well as provoking a dangerous upheaval in the S.E. Mediterranean, can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation state what steps they propose to take to prevent such occurrences?

25.5.1983

22. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-644/82) (x)

Subject: Strengthening the Community's internal market

Given that the Council has agreed that a series of appropriate work programmes should be drawn up in the fields of technical standards, company law, certain services and formalities at the Community's internal frontiers, how does the Commission intend to contribute towards this strengthening of the internal market?

16.12.82

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.1976

23. Question by Mr HOPPER (H-82/83) * (x)

Subject : Subsidies granted by British Airports Authority

Will the Commission inform the House what steps it has taken to investigate the subsidies granted by the British Airports Authority to Stanstead Airport, in accordance with the undertaking given by Mr. Contogeorgis to Parliament during the December part-session ?

11.02.1983

* Former oral question without debate (O-175/82), converted into a question for question time

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.1976

24. Question by Mr. MARSHALL (H-835/82)^(x)

Subject : The Arab Boycott

In view of the fact that the Arab strikes at two Community principles, non-discrimination in trade and religious freedom, what proposals has the Commission to counteract this policy which has been counteracted so effectively by the United States ?

04.03.1983

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.1976

25. Question by Mr GONTIKAS (H-24/83)^(x)

Subject: Obstructions to the production and circulation of pharmaceutical products in Greece

How does the Commission view the obstructions that Greece puts in the way of the free production and movement of pharmaceutical products and can it state whether the statements made by a Commission official in Greece on this subject reflect the views of the Commission?

10.3.83

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.1976

26. Question by Mr EISMA (H-50/83)

(x)

Subject: European Parliament's resolution on the standardization of car bumpers

Can the Commission say whether it has carried out the study requested in the above resolution (Doc. 1-287/82), adopted by the European Parliament on 18 June 1982¹, and if so, what were the findings?

24.3.1983

¹ OJ No. C 182, 19.7.82, p. 115

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.1976

27. Question by Mr. MORELAND (H-55/83)

(x)

Subject : Information Technology

Could the Commission give an undertaking that it will use its own purchasing, and encourage Member States purchasing procedures, to strengthen the competitive capability of the truly European Information Technology and industry in the short term, as well as developing long term initiatives such as the ESPRIT programmes ?

25.03.1983

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.1976

28. Question by Mrs DE MARCH (H-84/83) (x)

Subject : 1970 trade agreement between the EEC and Spain

The 1970 trade agreement between the EEC and Spain has been of much greater benefit to Spain than to the EEC because of the high customs duties levied by Spain.

Does the Commission not consider it necessary to renegotiate the agreement in order to remedy the fiscal discrimination which currently exists and restore normal conditions of competition ?

12.4.83

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.1976

29. Question by Mr PRANCHERE (H-85/83) (x)

Subject : Imports of New Zealand Butter

In its resolution on farm prices for 1983/1984 the European Parliament opposed the extension of preferential arrangements for the import of New Zealand butter and requested that they be terminated by 1984.

Does the Commission intend to submit proposals to the Council in accordance with the wishes of the European Parliament ?

12.4.83

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.1976

30. Question by Mrs LE ROUX (H-95/83) (x)

Subject: Common Fisheries Policy

During Question Time for questions to the Council on Wednesday, 13 April, Mr Maffre-Baugé asked whether the Council intended adding social provisions to the Common Fisheries Policy. Mr Genscher replied that no proposal of this kind had so far been submitted to the Council.

Will the Commission take rapid action to remedy this situation and submit to the Council proposals aimed at bringing about the upward harmonisation of social conditions for fishermen, as provided for in Article 117 of the Treaty of Rome?

14.4.83

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.1976

31. Question by Mr ADONNINO (H-101/83) (x)

Subject: Establishment of the European Monetary System

Point 3.2 of the resolution of 5 December 1978 on the establishment of the European Monetary System and related matters called on the Commission to submit a proposal to introduce interest rate subsidies of 3% on loans to the less prosperous Member States effectively and fully participating in the exchange rate and intervention mechanisms, up to a ceiling of 200 m ECU per year, for a period of 5 years.

This five-year period is due to expire at the end of 1983.

In the light of these considerations and in view of the need to extend these special intervention measures, which have proved extremely effective during the period of their application, can the Commission say whether, in the context of its independent power of initiative or otherwise, it has submitted, or intends to submit, a proposal to extend the interest rate subsidies for the loans concerned and, if so, on what basis and with what arrangements?

15.4.83

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.1976

32. Question by Mrs. EWING (H-108/83) (x)

Subject : Reduction of refunds on mackerel exports to
third countries

Is the Commission aware that the reduction in refunds on exports of mackerel is imposing heavy losses on Scottish processors and exporters who bought mackerel for export on forward contracts on the basis that the refunds obtaining before 15 January 1983 would be maintained; if the original refunds will be restored and, if not, if arrangements will be made at least to ensure that processors who have committed themselves to purchase mackerel for export on forward contracts will benefit from the original level of refunds on the quantities specified in those contracts ?

21.04.1983

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.1976

33. Question by Mr PEDINI (H-112/83) (x)

Subject: Aid and assistance to Latin America

Information provided in the Latin American countries concerning the often substantial aid and assistance promoted locally by the EEC is frequently inadequate, and worthwhile initiatives by EEC officials are sometimes insufficiently coordinated.

How does the Commission plan to improve coordination in this area between its Directorate-General for External Relations (DG I) and its Directorate-General for Development (DG VIII) ; and

how does the Commission plan to ensure that the official EEC representatives in Latin America are informed of all initiatives in good time to enable them to publicize them fully?

25.4.83

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.1976

34. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-130/83) (x)

Subject : Controls on imports into the EEC of cut flowers from third countries

Large quantities of the cut flowers imported at low prices onto the French market, particularly from the Netherlands which accounts for 90% of French imports, actually come from outside the Community, e.g. from Latin America.

In view of the difficulties facing the horticultural industry, particularly in the Mediterranean regions, can the Commission indicate whether current Community regulations allow for controls on the origin of cut flowers imported into the EEC and whether it will take the necessary steps to rectify the distortions of competition and the deflection of trade caused by these imports, which have serious consequences for producers ?

3.5.83

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.1976

35. Question by Mrs SCAMARONI (H-604/82)

Subject: Globalization of aid to the Third World

Will the 'globalization' of aid to the Third World referred to in the memorandum simply involve the regrouping of various development measures or will it involve changes in the terms of reference of the Commission and Parliament linked with new arrangements for negotiations with the developing countries?

14.12.82

36. Question by Mr. LALOR (H-677/82)

Subject : Inflation and employment

Can the Commission explain why, despite the underlying trend of falling inflation in the Community, the rising unemployment rate is expected to continue and what new action does it propose to tackle this problem ?

4.01.1983

37. Question by Mr. DAVERN (H-833/82)

Subject : Abolition of farm modernisation scheme grants under the terms of the coalition's 1983 budget - Ireland

According to EEC Directive 159 Member States are legally obliged to operate a system of selective incentives to farms suitable for development. Furthermore, Member States are obliged to provide for investment aid necessary to carry out development plans with land purchase and the purchase of pigs; poultry or calves intended for slaughter being the only items prohibited.

Does the Commission feel that under the terms of EEC Directive 159 the Irish Government is entitled in its Budget provisions for 1983 to state that no new applications for farm building grants and fixed assets can be made by developing farmers until later this year and grants should be abolished for mobile equipment, farm accounts and the beef and sheep guidance premiums ?

04.03.1983

38. Question by Mr. KALLIAS (H-148/83) *

Subject : Problems of the European younger generation

It is obvious that the future of Europe and of the whole world depends on the coming generations, but the future of European unity, in particular, depends on the attitude the European younger generation adopts to the question.

Steps must, therefore, be taken to tackle the burning problem of youth unemployment, on the one hand, and, on the other, the question of a psychological rapprochement with young people.

Both problems are extremely difficult to solve. Unfortunately, however, efforts are being devoted only to the first of them, a wide range of efforts which, it is to be hoped, will very shortly lead to specific measures. There is an urgent need, though, for the second problem, that of a psychological rapprochement with the European younger generation, to be confronted, so that the knowledge and experience of older people can be channelled towards the young, for them to use on their own responsibility and initiative. For these reasons, the Commission must urgently address itself to this serious problem.

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- (b) what action, if any, it has taken, or intends to take, to bridge the psychological gap between those at the decision-taking age and those at the age which is coming, or up-and-coming, and what the results of its actions have been ?

7.3.83

* Former oral question without debate (0-186/82), converted into a question for question time.

39. Question by Mr. ADAM (H-19/83)

Subject : U.K. Lamb Exports to France

Further to my oral question H-551/82¹, have the Commission sought an assurance from the French authorities that the border health check will not be reimposed, and if so with what results ?

10.3.83

1 Debates of the European Parliament No.293

40. Question by Mr. SIMMONDS (H-56/83)

Subject : Postal communication within the EEC

In view of the fact that in my experience letters to Britain from other community countries take an average of seven days to arrive compared to four or five days when coming from the Far East, Africa and Australia, is the Commission prepared to look into ways in which postal communication within the EEC can be improved ?

25.03.1983

41. Question by Mr MOUCHEL (H-72/83)

Subject: Difficulties in trade in cattle and meat sector products
between Greece and its Community partners

Since January 1981 the Greek authorities have imposed a very much reduced profit margin on their cattle and meat dealers and have also been strictly controlling the granting of foreign exchange.

The combined effect of these two measures has been seriously to disrupt exports from Community countries to Greece in the cattle and meat sector and to put the Greek importer in a very precarious situation.

What is more, the Greek authorities have recently imposed stamp duty equal to 3.6% on imports of cattle and meat sector products, which is tantamount to an import tax.

Could the European Commission indicate what measures have been taken to get these obstacles to free trade abolished?

6.4.1983

42. Question by Mr KIRK (H-76/83)

Subject: Dumping prices on imported Christmas trees

What does the Commission propose to do to counter the unrestricted and uncontrolled importation of, among other things, blue spruce trees from several East European countries (including Hungary and Poland), which is being carried out at dumping prices?

11.04.1983

43. Question by Mr PRAG (H-77/83)

Subject: Award of public supply contracts

Will the Commission consider instituting a system whereby public supply contracts are awarded on the basis that a percentage of the contract should be sub-contracted to small and medium-sized enterprises ?

11.04.1983

44. Question by Mr DONNEZ (H-81/83)

Subject: Infrastructure financed out of the Regional Fund
in the Nord-Pas de Calais region

As part of the capital road-building works provided for in the Nord-Pas de Calais road-building programme, the Commission, under the fourth tranche of aid from the ERDF (quota section) for 1982, gave approval to a project for the linking of two towns in the Nord department (surveys and construction). Can it give details of where this link will be built and the amount of aid granted by the Community?

11.04.1983

45. Question by Ms. QUIN (H-93/83)

Subject : Obligation of the Commission to respond to European
Parliament Resolutions tabled under Rule 49 of the
Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Does the Commission consider that it has no obligation to
respond to resolutions addressed to it and sent to it by
the European Parliament, resolutions which were tabled
under rule 49 of the Parliament's rules of procedure and
which received the support of an absolute majority of MEPs ?

14.04.1983

46. Question by Mr. HUME (H-100/83)

Subject : Less favoured areas in Northern Ireland

Has the Commission received a request from the UK government
for the extension of the boundaries of the less favoured
areas in Northern Ireland and if so, is the Commission yet
in a position to respond ?

15.04.1983

47. Question by Mr HABSBURG (H-126/83)

Subject: The situation in Nicaragua

Does the Commission agree that, in view of the increasing suppression of the Catholic Church and the obvious anti-democratic development of the Sandinist regime in Nicaragua, it should state clearly that there can be no further discussion of aid to the country until such time as the Nicaraguan Government ceases its intimidation and victimization of the Church and gives an undertaking that it will establish pluralist democracy in the country within a specified time?

2.5.83

48. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-133/83)

Subject: New procedure under Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty

Can the Commission state whether France intends to comply with the new procedure laid down in Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty in the case of the construction of the nuclear power station at Chooz?

3.5.83

49. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-135/83)

Subject : 1981 Analytical Tables of Foreign Trade

As of this date (April 1983) the 1981 Analytical Tables of Foreign Trade have not yet been published by the Commission.

What steps are being taken to publish this important information more expeditiously in future ?

4.05.1983

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50. Question by Mr ENRIGHT (H-138/83)

Subject: Sale and control of seeds

Is the Commission aware that EEC Regulations concerning the sale and control of seeds are totally inappropriate in respect of the different climatic conditions; discriminate in favour of large firms and against small specialist firms and smallholders; prohibit, for no good reason whatsoever, the growing of succesful varieties of garden vegetables by individual households in Leeds; have failed to consider the effects of these Regulations on UK vegetable growers, professional or amateur, in the context of the negotiations for enlargement of the EEC?

6.5.83

51. Question by Mr VERGES (H-139/83)

Subject: FOD cane sugar

Although FOD cane sugar production is modest compared with Community beet sugar production it is nevertheless vital to the economy of the FOD.

Does the Commission not feel it should take greater account of the differences between the two types of products and is it not prepared to make special arrangements for sugar cane by introducing separate regulations?

6.5.83

52. Question by Mr FRÜH (H-142/83)

Subject: Submission of a programme to reform the common agricultural policy

Having read an article entitled 'Radical reform of the common agricultural policy' in the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung of 4 May 1983, we should like to ask the Commission:

Is it standard practice in the Commission for a single Member of the Commission - and then not even the Commissioner with special responsibilities for agriculture - to put forward a programme for reforming the CAP, and can national interests - only thinly disguised and without the agreement of the Commission as a body or at least of the Commissioner with special responsibility for agriculture having been secured - be published as a programme for reforming the CAP?

10.5.83

53. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-143/83)

Subject: Administrative committee procedure

How does the Commission assess the need to supplement the administrative committee procedure in the various sectors so that either representatives of the nations concerned or Members of the European Parliament are given the opportunity to participate in the consultations on an institutionalized basis, and what preparatory work has the Commission undertaken to date?

10.5.83

54. Question by Mr BALFE (H-144/83)

Subject : European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

At the April part session, I asked the Council about the position regarding accession of the Communities to the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1).

In their reply, the Council said that it preferred to wait until the Commission responded to the request from the European Parliament to submit as soon as possible to the Council a formal proposal for accession.

When does the Commission expect to be in a position to submit this proposal ?

10.05.1983

(1) Verbatim report of proceedings on 13.4.83, p. 204

55. Question by Mrs NIELSEN (H-145/83)

Subject: Pigmeat prices

What does the Commission intend to do to bring pigmeat prices into line with the basic price laid down by the Council, and will it confirm that the grain price policy, which entails lower price increases for grain than for animal products, benefits large-scale farming to the detriment of family farms?

11.5.83

56. Question by Mr. MOORHOUSE (H-146/83)

Subject : Cheap Air Flights from Berlin

In its answer to written questions 1546/80 (1) et 1543/82 (2) the Commission stated that it could take no action against cheap East German air flights from Berlin.

Why has the Commission taken two years to answer written question 1546/80 and what information has the Commission sought and collected, as it originally promised to do ?

13.5.83

(1) O.J. No C 345 of 31.12.1980; p. 32

(2) O.J. No C 118 of 3.5.1983, p. 1

57. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-151/83)

Subject : Observer status for the USSR in GATT

In January 1983 the Soviet Union approached Gatt with a request to be granted observer status and is continuing to press the matter despite the generally unfavourable reaction of the west.

In view of this, what position does the Community intend to adopt in response to this request?

17.5.83

58. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-154/83)

Subject: Creation of a monetary guarantee fund

Does the Commission intend to propose that a European Guarantee Fund be created in an attempt to maintain a stable European exchange rate against the dollar by effective intervention in the exchange markets?

17.5.83

59. Question by Mrs NEBOUT (H-157/83)

Subject: Transparency of state aid in the textile and clothing sector

Can the Commission state whether it has drawn up a list of state aid and interventions in the textile and clothing sector and, if not, when it intends to do so since transparency of aid is a precondition for any Community industrial strategy?

18.5.83

60. Question by Mr. BEAZLEY (H-159/83)

Subject : Cigarette taxation in France

In reply to Question Number 1920/82 (1) by myself and others on the above subject, the Commission indicated that it was examining the French law imposing a new tax on cigarettes. The law in question will now come into force on 1st July 1983 under Ordinance Number 83-856 dated 30th April 1983; does the Commission believe the French law introducing the new cigarette tax to be compatible with EEC law ?

19.5.83

(1) O.J. No C129 of 16.5.1983 , p. 10

61. Question by Mr RIEGER (H-166/83)

Subject: Relations between the EC and Hungary

What was the outcome of the recent discussions between the Commission and the Hungarian Minister for Foreign Trade and how does the Commission view future relations between the European Community and Hungary?

20.5.83

62. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-170/83)

Subject: German and Greek restrictions on beer imports

Will the Commission say what procedures and consultations it has taken under article 169 since it declared (in answer to written question 1464/81 (1)), that German and Greek restrictions on imports of beer constituted an infringement of article 30 and since it declared itself obliged to take such procedures (Questions 1239/82 and 1267/82)(2); and what was the result of these procedures and consultations?

25.5.83

(1) OJ C 82 of 1.4.82, p.25

(2) OJ C 3 of 5.1.83, p.11 and 15

63. Question by Mr PINTAT (H-171/83)

Subject: Duty-free imports of petroleum products

Can the Commission confirm that the quotas for duty-free imports of refined petroleum products from outside the Community have been flagrantly exceeded without the corresponding taxes being levied: in the event of this practice becoming established other than to safeguard supplies in exceptional circumstances, would it not be proper to consider such duty-free purchases as prejudicial to the continuing existence of an independent and competitive European refining industry?

25.5.83

64.

Question by Mr. PATTISON (H-174/83)

Subject : Community aid for development of cut-away bogs

Will the Commission outline the policies in favour of the development of cut-away bogs and the financial and other aids available; and state what kind of projects have been aided in the Member States in the past, in particular in Ireland, and does it have any proposals for future development in this area ?

25.5.83

