

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

19 April 1982

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ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 20 and 21 April 1982

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-619/81)

Subject: EEC/Romania trade relations

Following the first meeting of the EEC/Romania Joint Committee, what measures does the Commission intend to propose to remedy the situation where Community exports to Romania are stagnant while imports from the latter are increasing?

2. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-650/81)

Subject: Possible abolition of duty-free sales on journeys within the Community

Given the possibility that duty-free sales on journeys within the Community may be abolished, can the Commission say what measures it intends to take to include in its Community customs arrangements some provision to safeguard the acquired economic and social rights of workers and consumers in the Community?

3. Question by Mr PRANCHERE (H-669/81)

Subject: EEC food aid

In a notice to the Council on special food aid to the least developed countries the Commission considers that the Community food aid programme for cereals is inadequate to meet the needs of these countries.

With a view to achieving a lasting and significant increase in food aid, does not the Commission consider that urgent action should be taken to promote the development of these agricultural products within the EEC in order to enable the EEC to pursue such a policy?

4. Question by Mr CECOVINI (H-694/81)

Subject: Harmonization of copyright laws

The Commission is presumably aware of the considerable differences that exist within the Community as regards the freedom of expression of writers, the assistance they receive and their remuneration. To remedy this, what measures does it intend to propose with a view to unifying or at least coordinating copyright laws?

5. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-700/81)

Subject: Herbicide 245-T

In its reply to Mr NEWTON DUNN's oral question No. H-709/80 on 9 March 1981¹, the Commission undertook to report to Parliament its findings regarding the herbicide 245-T and to make proposals regarding its control if justified. Would the Commission now let us know what has transpired and if it intends to make any proposals?

¹Debates 267

6. Question by Ms QUIN (H-709/81)

Subject: Tax on vegetable oils

What in the Commission's view would be the effect on consumption of vegetable oils in the EEC if a non-discriminatory levy on these oils were to be agreed?

7. Question by Mr DAVERN (H-717/81)

Subject: UK legislation governing packing of liquid milk

Is the Commission aware of the United Kingdom's proposal to submit imports of cream and flavoured milks to that legislation (concerning the packing of liquid milk for retail sale to premises registered by the UK authorities) which is currently being challenged by the Commission before the European Court under Article 169 of the Treaty, and, if so, can the Commission confirm that it has protested in the strongest terms to the UK Government about this proposed legislation and, in the event of its being made law, will it include this further breach in its Article 169 application to the Court,

8. Question by Mr de FERRANTI (H-734/81)

Subject: Electron beam machines

Does the Commission still intend to subsidize the development of electron beam machines for making electronic circuits despite the Mackintosh report's statement that their throughput is extremely low and their costs extremely high?

9. Question by Mr BALFE (H-758/81)

Subject: Meetings between the Commission and South African officials

How many meetings were held during 1981 between members of the Commission and officials and other people representing the South African Government, and how many meetings were held during 1981 between officials of the Commission and officials and other people representing the South African Government?

10. Question by Mr JUNOT (H-811/81)

Subject: Customs Union

The establishment of a customs union within the European Community is a major objective as regards the internal market. However, only five texts were adopted in 1981 and progress towards a customs union is marking time.

What specific measures does the Commission intend to initiate in order to secure definitive harmonization of existing legislation in the Member States?

11. Question by Mr PAULHAN (H-812/81)

Subject: Decline in farm incomes in the European Community

Given a decline in EEC per capita farm incomes in 1981 of 4.2% in real terms (which, added to the reduction over the two previous years, amounts to 24% since 1978), what proposals does the Commission intend to make to halt this downward trend?

12. Question by Mr PESMAZOGLU (H-834/81)

Subject: Oil prices

What is the Commission's assessment of the causes, extent and duration of the fall in oil prices and what policy is proposed to take advantage of this change?

13. Question by Miss DE VALERA (H-840/81)

Subject: UN report on cancer

Has the Commission carried out an assessment of the United Nations' recent report on the causes of cancer, in particular the implications for workers in chemical, insulation, mining, gas and chromium industries and if so what are the views of the Commission?

14. Question by Mr CRONIN (H-841/81)

Subject: 'Non-quota' section of Regional Fund

What guarantees can the Commission provide that the benefits of an increased 'non-quota' section of the revised Regional Fund will be awarded to the most needy areas of the Community, particularly the border counties of Ireland?

15. Question by Mr FLANAGAN (H-842/81)

Subject: United Kingdom aid to Northern Ireland

What assurance does the Commission intend to seek from the United Kingdom authorities that the recently announced £90 million Public Expenditure Programme for Northern Ireland which includes funds to the Housing Executive to construct 4,500 new houses will be additional to the aid to be provided by the EEC for housing purposes?

16. Question by Mr LALOR (H-843/81)

Subject: Cost of export refunds

Would the Commission indicate the relative costs of intervening in the Community beef market through the export refund system and intervention and furthermore, does the Commission consider the export refund system more important at the present time to supporting the beef market than intervention?

17. Question by Mr CALVEZ (H-597/81)

Subject: Relations between the EEC and China in the energy sector

At the last meeting of the EEC-China Joint Committee, cooperation in the energy sector was discussed between the two sides. Can the Commission state which fields this cooperation would concern and what measures are being considered for putting it into effect?

18. Question by Mrs PRUVOT (H-642/81)

Subject: Development of the Eurydice system

Could the Commission report to Parliament on the first year of operation of the Eurydice system; does it not consider it desirable to extend the use of the Eurydice system as soon as possible to aspects of social policy other than those dealt with so far, and what is its opinion on the possibility of collaboration with the European Centre for Vocational Training (CEDEFOP)?

19. Question by Mr von WOGAU (H-755/81)

Subject : Building products

In the draft directive for building products, the elaboration of special directives for single products is foreseen.

Has the Commission taken steps to make use of the work already carried out by the international and European standardisation organisations in this field ?

20. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-788/81)

Subject: Basis of assessment for VAT on gold transactions in Belgium

What is the Commission's attitude to the Belgian Government's decision to lower the basis of assessment for VAT on gold transactions to 1% from its present level of 6%, bearing in mind that Belgian law as it stands contains no provision for a VAT rate of 1%?

21. Question by Mr ALVANOS (H-802/81)

Subject: Prices for agricultural products

At the Panhellenic meeting of the General Confederation of Greek Agricultural Associations in Veroia on 7 February 1982, the representatives of Greek tomato, peach and beet growers demanded, among other things, that prices for the 1982-1983 period should be fixed so as to cover production costs and to permit a reasonable profit margin. Why then does the Commission propose increases - which are unacceptable to farmers - of 8% for tomatoes, 10% for peaches and 9% for beet, especially since inflation last year rose to about 25% and production costs increased by about 30%?

22. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-816/81)

Subject: Possible recourse to Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty in matters of trade policy

The Commission is justifiably proposing that the Community should invoke Article 23 of GATT in order to increase pressure on Japan. Could not Articles 85 and 86 of the EEC Treaty also be applied more resolutely?

23. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-828/81)

Subject : Information Programme

Will the Commission confirm that the "political priorities" referred to in the 1982 Information Programme include a continuing awareness of the state of public opinion - particularly in the United Kingdom - and of the need for a positive response to it ?

24. Question by Mrs T. NIELSEN (H-836/81)

Subject: Cheap air fares

The Scandinavian airline SAS is offering special cheap air fares to passengers flying from London to Scandinavian airports including Kastrup. However, passengers whose point of departure is Kastrup are not entitled to the same cheap fares. Does the Commission consider this new initiative acceptable to the European Community and does it not agree that such initiatives, which also split the common market into national entities, must be combatted; if so, what measures does the Commission intend to take with regard to this matter, bearing in mind that the arrangement has been approved by the Danish Social-Democratic Minister for Transport?

25. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-845/81)

Subject: Co-responsibility levy on milk

What total sums arising from the co-responsibility levy on milk have been paid into the Community by Member States in 1980 and 1981. Do these sums collectively represent the amount due from each Member State according to the total amount of milk produced. Is there reliable evidence that these sums have been properly collected from milk producers and not subsidized by the governments concerned?

26. Question by Mr GRIFFITHS (H-852/81)

Subject: Marketing of breast-milk substitutes

Will the Commission prepare legally enforceable proposals to govern the marketing of breast-milk substitutes given the violations of the International Code on the marketing of breast-milk substitutes revealed in the United Kingdom by the 'War on Want' report 'Breast or Bottle'?

27. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-853/81)

Subject: Commission participation at the meeting of industrialized countries in June 1982

has the Commission received its usual invitation to participate in the talks to be held at the abovementioned meeting?

If not, how does the matter stand at present?

28. Question by Mr DELATTE (H-855/81)

Subject: Dairy products

On 14 December 1981 the Commission issued a reasoned opinion addressed to the French Government concerning the protection of dairy products in which it adopts a clear stance in favour of the marketing of dairy product substitutes manufactured from raw materials imported under special arrangements from third countries.

Does the Commission consider this opinion to be compatible with the spirit of the Treaty, particularly Article 39 thereof, and with the need to promote Community dairy products and to ensure genuine consumer protection and freedom of choice?

29. Question by Mr WELSH (H-859/81)

Subject: Subsidization of the man-made fibre industries

Will the Commission undertake an investigation into allegations that the Italian man-made fibre industry is maintaining an artificial level of capacity through a series of direct and indirect state subsidies which are contrary to Article 92 of the Treaty of Rome?

30. Question by Mr CLINTON (H-861/81)

Subject: Variable Premium on beef

Is the Commission satisfied with the operation of the variable premium system for beef established by Regulation 3084/74?

Is the claw-back provided for being implemented satisfactorily?

Does the system interfere with competition in intra-Community trade?

31. Question by Mr McCARTIN (H-862/81)

Subject: Development of coal mines

Tests carried out at the Arigna coal mines (Co. Leitrim and Co. Roscommon - Ireland) indicated that the low grade coal there can be used for electricity production. In view of the importance of reducing the Community's dependence on imported energy supplies, can the Commission say what grant assistance can be given to the Irish authorities for the development of these coal mines?

32. Question by Mr HAAGERUP (H-1/82)

Subject: Commissioner O'Kennedy's participation in the Irish general election

With reference to the participation by Commissioner O'Kennedy in the Irish general election, in which he stood and was elected, I should like to know whether the Commission believes such proceedings to be compatible with the work of a Member of the Commission and with the oath he took before assumption of office; if it does, will the Commission state what attitude it will take in future to national political activities by its members?

33. Question by Mr HARRIS (H-3/82)

Subject: Flag-of-convenience fishing

Is the Commission aware that nearly 60 Spanish fishing boats have now been re-registered in the United Kingdom so as to gain access to European Community waters and that this form of flag-of-convenience fishing has brought protests from a number of Member States, including France and Ireland, as well as from the fishermen of Cornwall and Devon? Now that Her Majesty's Government has said that it is concerned about the practice and is "urgently considering" whether it can take action, will the Commission introduce measures in conjunction with Member States to tackle the problem on a Community basis?

34. Question by Mr PATTERSON (H-7/82)

Subject: Employee information and consultation procedures

Can the Commission state how many subsidiaries and how many employees in the Community would come within the scope of the draft directive on employee information and consultation procedures (COM(80)423 final) where it has fixed the lower limit for qualification under the directive at 100 employees in a subsidiary?

35. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-9/82)

Subject: Romanian exports to the Community

Will the Commission confirm its preparedness to link admission of increased Romanian exports to the Community to progress in human rights in the Socialist Republic of Romania?

36. Question by Mr TYRRELL (H-10/82)

Subject: Discrimination in recruitment by French Railways (SNCF)

Is the Commission aware that on 4.3.82 French Railways (SNCF) gave notice of an open competition for civil engineers in "Le Monde" (p.40) which restricted applications to French nationals and what steps will the Commission take to end this overt discrimination, which cannot be justified on grounds of public policy, security or health, and to ensure that this and similar situations are open to all EC nationals?

37. Question by Mr KYRKOS (H-15/82)

Subject: Censorship of an article on the change of government in Greece

Since when does the Commission allow its organs to censor articles relating to the internal affairs of Member States? For instance, the magazine 'Europe', published in Washington, refused to carry an article by Mr Lesly FINER relating to the change of government in Greece.

38. Question by Mr PRAG (H-18/82)

Subject: Discrimination between the Member States in the prices charged for vehicle spare parts

The Commission has recently declared its intention to investigate the clearly illegal discrimination which takes place on the part of vehicle manufacturers with regard to the prices at which they sell cars in the different Community countries and noticeably the high prices charged in the United Kingdom. Will it tell us the present state of any investigation it may be carrying out into another effort at sealing off the UK market for vehicles, i.e. the sharp discriminations in the prices of spare parts, which, for example, cause a British car, the Mini Metro, for example, to be graded in Group 1 for insurance purposes and equivalent cars such as the Fiat Panda, Citroen Visa in Group 3 under which a much higher premium has to be paid? These discriminations have already been in existence for far too long. Is the Commission genuinely determined to get rid of them?

39. Question by Mr KAZAZIS (H-21/82)

Subject: Increased rates of reimbursement for Greece under the
EAGGF Guidance Section

Paragraph 39 of Commission document (COM(82) 10 final) on the fixing of prices for certain agricultural products (1982/83) states that the Commission will submit, before 31 December 1983, a proposal for applying in Greece the same rates of reimbursement as applied in Italy within the context of socio-structural directives.

Given that the socio-structural directives issued in 1972 expire on 19 April 1982 and are due to be extended, and whereas the agricultural structures of Greece are the most deficient of all the Member States, does the Commission intend to avail itself of the opportunity to extend the validity of the socio-structural directives and submit a proposal providing for an increase in the rates of reimbursement for Greece under the EAGGF to the level applied in the Mezzogiorno.

If not, what is preventing it from doing so?

40. Question by Mr PROVAN (H-22/82)

Subject: Protection of Atlantic salmon

What steps does the Commission intend to take to protect Atlantic salmon entering freshwater rivers for spawning, as it would appear that greatly reduced numbers are entering rivers and action is now desirable?

41. Question by Mr VAN AERSEN (H-23/82)

Subject: Note verbale of the Commission of 11 March 1982

On what authority did the Commission attempt to deliver the abovementioned note verbale to the Turkish Embassy in Brussels?

42. Question by Mr NEWTON DUNN (H-24/82)

Subject: Internal Disaster aid

What was the key difference that caused the Commission to refuse aid following severe flooding in Lincolnshire in the United Kingdom almost a year ago but which led it to award aid to the south-west of England recently?

43. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-28/82)

Subject: Walloon steel industry: failure by Commissioner Davignon to act within his terms of reference

The Commission has officially notified the Belgian Government of its opposition to the latter's plan for the restructuring of the Walloon steel industry.

When did the Commission decide on its proposal for an alternative industrial plan, when did it, as a body, decide to propose special commercial relations with the Dutch steel industry and when did it authorize Mr Davignon to take part in the Belgian ministerial meeting of 15 March 1982?

44. Question by Mr EISMA (H-29/82)

Subject: Action taken by the Commission on Parliament's opinion on the proposal for a directive concerning the assessment of the environmental effects of certain private and public projects¹

Since it is not clear from the annex to the minutes of the sitting of Monday, 8 March 1982 (see Annex I, page 2, French version) whether or not the Commission also accepted amendment No 12 by the Committee on the Environment to Article 8 of the above proposal, can the Commission confirm that it did accept the amendment and, if so, state when it intends to publish the amended text?

¹WEBER report, Doc. 1-569/81/rev.

45. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-31/82)

Subject: Transport of food aid to Poland

Does the Commission not consider that there is a danger that the humanitarian aid supplied to the Polish people by the European Community will provide an opportunity for a group of road hauliers to make excessive profits?

Has the Commission considered the possibility of concluding an agreement with charitable organizations approved by the Polish Bishops' Mutual Aid Commission?

46. Question by Mr DE GOEDE (H-36/82)

Subject: Execution without trial in Surinam

Can the Commission state what consequences the execution of death sentences without any form of trial in Surinam will have on development aid?

47. Question by Mr CROUX (H-37/82)

Subject: Competition in respect of public works contracts in Belgium

Mr Damseaux, chairman of the Walloon Executive in Belgium, has stated in an official document that his Executive will not approve the allocation of public works contracts to contractors from the Flemish community in Belgium.

Does the Commission not consider that this conflicts with the European Community's fundamental rules on competition?

What steps does it intend to take in this matter?

48. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-40/82)

Subject: Monetary adjustment and sliding parities

Does the Commission not think that the important adjustments made in the EMS in the past year as a result of multiple tensions are equivalent to sliding parities and that in consequence the EMS is ineffective?

49. Question by Mr COTTRELL (H-41/82)

Subject: Salmon stocks

There is a continuing threat of salmon depopulation in British waters as a result of over-fishing of salmon stocks, particularly with regard to the use of monofilament nets. Severe problems are arising in the rivers Tweed, Tyne, Tees and Severn due to this practice.

Noting the need to preserve the North Atlantic salmon, will the Commission seek to ban monofilament nets, perhaps as part of the common fisheries policy, and encourage Member States to do the same within their territorial waters?

50. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-45/82)

Subject: Nicaragua

What is the Commission's attitude towards aid for Nicaragua, and particularly the re-scheduling of debts to Member States, and is the Commission intending to increase its aid, in view of Nicaragua's economic difficulties?

51. Question by Miss HOOPER (H-47/82)

Subject: Secondments from national civil services

Does the Commission have a policy to encourage secondment of staff from a national civil service to the Commission, and, if so, what numbers are involved?

52. Question by Mr Christopher JACKSON (H-49/82)

Subject: Right hand drive cars

There is evidence that car manufacturers who normally supply right hand drive cars to Continental dealers (e.g. for sale to diplomats) refuse to supply such cars for sale to private individuals, or impose unreasonable conditions such as extra-lengthy delivery times or substantial extra charges to discourage private purchasers. In the opinion of the Commission would such actions be likely to contravene the provisions of the Treaty of Rome?

53. Question by Mr PINTAT (H-51/82)

Subject: Research in Europe

Can the Commission indicate what percentage of gross national product is devoted to research by the Member States of the Community?

54. Question by Mr MAHER (H-52/82)

Subject: Coastal Erosion

In view of the serious situation arising as a result of the encroachment of the sea in certain regions of the South and South West coasts of Ireland, would the Commission be prepared to make finance available to have a study carried out in order to determine how best to combat this very serious problem?

55. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-58/82)

Subject: Conquering TB by the year 2000

A hundred years after Robert Koch's discovery of the TB bacillus, tuberculosis, although drastically reduced, has not been eradicated in the industrialized countries and has become widespread in the underdeveloped countries, where it was carried, together with other infectious diseases, by the white man, and where each year it is responsible for the death of at least three million people.

Just as it has been possible to eradicate smallpox simply by carrying out mass vaccinations, the WHO has set itself the target of overcoming TB by the year 2000.

But in order to overcome tuberculosis it is necessary, above all, to solve the basic problem of undernourishment, and this requires substantial further expenditure and/or more programmes.

How does the Commission propose to contribute to the achievement of the WHO's target of conquering TB by the year 2000?

56. Question by Mrs EWING (H-59/82)

Subject: Accession negotiations with Spain - Fisheries

Will the Commission make a statement on the present state of accession negotiations with Spain with particular regard to fishery negotiations?

57. Question by Mrs SCRIVENER (H-60/82)

Subject: Revival of the 'hard sell' system

There has been evidence over the past few months of a revival of the hard sell system by certain publishers.

TIME LIFE INTERNATIONAL, for instance, has on several occasions used a method which consists of offering consumers recently published works for free inspection.

Under this system the consumer must return a 'free inspection coupon' to the publisher; experience has shown that these coupons are not always actually signed by the person to whom the work is then sent, or that the signature - and this can be proved - is of no value. It is also conceivable that in some cases the publisher himself 'fabricates' these 'free inspection coupons'.

This enables the publisher to send the book to the consumer and then to bill him for it if it has not been returned within a period of ten days.

The consumer is thus obliged either to take the trouble to return the book, or to agree to pay for it, failing which he may, in some cases be faced with recovery proceedings brought against him at his own cost.

Can the Commission make enquiries with a view to putting a stop to such unacceptable advertising and trading practices?

58. Question by Mr ENRIGHT (H-61/82)

Subject: Artists' resale rights

Why has the Commission abandoned the idea of adopting a Community directive concerning artists' resale rights? Why is the Council of Europe preparing a draft European convention which may solve the problem but without reference to the Commission?

Is it not the case that the Commission is hiding behind the coat tails of the Council of Europe in refusing to further consider a directive concerning artists' resale rights?

59. Question by Mr PATTISON (H-63/82)

Subject: Report on polluting effects of radioactive discharges from the Windscale Nuclear Complex

Is the Commission aware of a report published recently in London¹ concerning radioactive discharges from the Windscale Nuclear Complex on the Cumbrian coast of Britain, into the Irish Sea, which affect communities in Ireland, and northern Europe, as well as in the U.K.; and what measures does the Commission have at its disposal to ensure the end of this activity, and how soon can it implement them?

¹ See Irish Times, Monday 5/4/82

60. Question by Mr DE GUCHT (H-64/82)

Subject: Refusal of subsidies by the Walloon authorities

Does the Commission consider that any refusal on the part of the Walloon authorities to grant subsidies for public works on the grounds that they are to be executed by a Flemish contractor is incompatible with European regulations?

61. Question by Mr COLLINS (H-65/82)

Subject: Payment to the retiring Commissioner Michael O'Kennedy

Will the Commission say what justification there is for the recent substantial payment of £40,000 to the retiring Commissioner Michael O'Kennedy? Can they say whether they believe that his 14 months service to the Community was so valuable that this payment was warranted and do they not agree that such a payment must be understood as offensive to the millions of people who are unemployed in the European Community at this time?

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

62. Question by Mr GONTIKAS (H-794/81)*

Subject: Greek subjects refused permission to enter Denmark

On 21 November 1981 two Greek subjects, Nicolaoas Bassias and Kostis Mavros, were refused permission to enter Denmark by the Danish authorities on the grounds that they had not got enough money. In fact, the two Greeks had brought the maximum foreign currency allowed by the Greek state. Subsequently, they were refused permission to contact the Greek Embassy in Copenhagen and were then taken in handcuffs to Copenhagen Airport Police Station where they were held for 38 hours and then forced to return to Budapest. No explanation was given.

This act on the part of the Danish authorities is a clear infringement of Community regulations and of the Treaty of Rome.

This report was published in the newspaper 'Eleftherotypia' on 1 December 1981; Greek public opinion was justifiably outraged.

What measures does the Council envisage to force the Danish Government to pay compensation to these Greek subjects for the financial loss they suffered and the humiliation they underwent, and what can be done to prevent similar occurrences in the future?

*Former oral question without debate (O-79/81), converted into a question for question time

63. Question by Mr EISMA (H-795/81)

Subject: Jumbo-Council

Is a Jumbo-Council to be held under the Belgian presidency and, if so, what preparations does the council intend to make to ensure that, unlike that held under the Dutch presidency, this Jumbo-Council will yield satisfactory results?

64. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-768/81)

Subject: Community's demonstration projects

Does the Council agree that the Community's demonstration projects are of considerable value to industry and the development of energy policy?

65.. Question by Mr PRAG (H-783/81)

Subject: Community disaster relief unit

What action has the Council taken in respect of Parliament's Resolution of 18 December 1980 (paragraph 11) urgently requesting 'the creation on a permanent basis of a Community disaster relief unit to intervene urgently in the event of disasters, at the request of the Governments concerned, and including specialized technical units from the armed forces of the Member countries'; what discussions have taken place with other international bodies and what have been the results?

66.. Question by Mr LOMAS.(H-806/81)

Subject: Food aid to Vietnam

In the Official Journal of the E.C. N° L 6, Vol. 25, dated 11 January 1982, it is show that consignments of skimmed milk powder were sent as food aid to a number of countries, including the repressive dictatorships of Uruguay, Chile and Haiti.

This shows that the Council is not concerned about the political position of Governments, when they decide to send food aid.

In view of this, why is the Council still refusing to approve the sending of food aid to Vietnam, and will the Council re-consider its position, in view of the urgent need for such aid?

67. Question by Mrs EWING (H-809/81)

Subject: The ACP-EEC Resolution on situation in Southern Africa

Will the Council state what action it proposes to take on the resolution on the situation in Southern Africa which was adopted by the ACP-EEC Joint Consultative Committee on 4 February 1982 following the joint ACP-EEC fact-finding mission to the frontline states?

68. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-813/81)

Subject: Community trade policy

While calling for an early start to negotiations on greater freedom to provide services within the framework of GATT, the United States is resorting to anti-dumping measures and other measures directed against Community exporters to counter the subsidies received by the latter. Does the Council intend to adopt a firm stance on this matter?

69. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-815/81)

Subject: Energy saving

The energy statistics of the European Community for the first nine months of 1981 show that its internal energy consumption figures were 6.6% lower than for the corresponding period of the previous year and the net energy imports were 17% lower.

What strategy does the Council intend to adopt in order to ensure that this trend continues?

70. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-773/81)

Subject: Assured gas and oil supplies

Given the latest knowledge of worldwide gas and oil resources available to the Community's domestic and industrial consumers, will the Council take all necessary steps to ensure that proven industrial processes for coal gasification and liquefaction are available to meet the need when natural gas and oil supplies begin to decrease, or to cope with a sudden disruption in supplies?

71. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-782/81) (x)

Subject: Relations between the Council and the European Parliament

I tabled a question to the United Kingdom President-in-Office concerning the implementation of the two Parliament resolutions contained in the reports by Mr Hänsch and Mr Van Miert¹.

Since nothing of any substance can be inferred from point 3 of the ministerial answer of 31 December 1981, will the current President-in-Office let me know whether he intends to act on these two reports?

¹Doc. 1-216/81 and Doc. 1-355/81, Debates N° 1-273
Written Question N° 1038/81

(x) Will not be called if item 39 is kept on the agenda (particularly oral question with debate, Doc. 1-73/82)

72. Question by Mr von ALEMANN (H-791/81)

Subject : Objectives of the Belgian Presidency concerning energy policy

In his Programme of Action for the 1st six months of 1982, Mr Tindemans maintained that "we are undoubtedly deceiving ourselves if we think we can forthwith create a real common energy policy along the lines of the common agricultural policy, even if the present difficulties have to a certain extent encouraged the convergence of the initiatives taken individually by the Member States".

If the Council believes that a common energy policy is desirable, which steps does it intend to take in order to set it up ?

73. Question by Mr PESMAZOGLU (H-837/81)

Subject: Price of oil

How does the Council assess the causes, impact and duration of the reduction in the price of oil and what policy is being considered with a view to exploiting this situation?

74. Question by Mr LEZZI (H-838/81)

Subject: Cultural co-operation between the Mediterranean countries

In recent months Mr Jack Lang, Mrs Melina Mercouri and Mr Vincenzo Scotti - the Ministers for Cultural Affairs of France, Greece and Italy respectively - speaking on behalf of their various countries have repeatedly called for specific action to promote and develop cultural co-operation between the Mediterranean countries.

What steps has the Council of Ministers for Cultural Affairs of the Member States taken so far to give fresh impetus to cultural co-operation - which has an important role to play in getting under way again the Euro-Arab dialogue in a wider North-South context - and further to foster cultural relations between ACP and EEC countries?

75. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-839/81)

Subject: Institutionalized links between the EEC and the United States

What practical steps does the Council intend to take in the light of the statement made by the President-in-Office of the Council following his working visit to the United States, to the effect that 'Consideration should be given to the establishment of permanent links between the EEC and the United States, possibly of an institutionalized nature'?

76. Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-863/81)

Subject: Finance from the Community budget for meetings on security matters

Does the Council agree that there is no legal basis in the Treaties as they stand for the action by the Political Affairs Committee of the European Parliament in setting up a subcommittee on security matters, and will it therefore prevent the use of Community funds for that purpose?

77. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-11/82)

Subject: Informal meetings in Council

In answer to Question H-662/81 (1), the President in Office of the Council replied that he did not know how often ministers of the ten Member States met 'informally' and therefore not as properly constituted meetings of Councils of Ministers.

Can the Council reassure the Parliament that these meetings are not a subterfuge to avoid questions in Parliament and elsewhere concerning them? Why are they denominated 'informal'?

(1) Verbatim report of proceedings from 17.2.1982

78. Question by Mr BALFE (H-25/82)

Subject: Travel concessions

Will the Council list for each Member State as at 1 January 1982 the nature and extent of any travel concessions either in cash or in kind, made available by the individual Member States to Members of the European Parliament?

79. Question by Mr ALBERS (H-54/82)

Subject: Financial aid to UNRWA

Is the Council prepared to increase financial aid to UNRWA with a view to preventing the closure of the Palestinian refugee camps?

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

80. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-818/81)

Subject: Human rights in the Member States of the EEC and
in certain associated countries

Mr Tindemans, President of the council of Foreign Ministers of the European Communities, at the Madrid Conference on 9 February 1982 showed such concern for 'human rights' that he effectively supported the cold-war, anti-socialist opinions of the USA, which is seeking to boycott the Conference and generally undermine the spirit of détente.

Can the President therefore state - within the context of his concern for human rights - what measures have been taken to guarantee human rights in Northern Ireland where the United Kingdom - a Member State of the EEC - clings to power and stolidly violates human rights through the army, brutal force and oppression? And how does he justify the association of the European Communities under the Lomé Convention with countries ruled by reactionary regimes which have slaughtered their people as is the case for example, in Numeiri's Sudan, Mobutu's Zaire and other countries?

81. Question by Mr ADAMOU (H-819/81)

Subject: The Madrid Conference and human rights

Mr Tindemans, President of the council of Foreign Ministers of the European Communities, at the Madrid Conference on 9 February 1982 showed such concern for 'human rights' that he effectively supported the cold-war, anti-socialist opinions of the USA, which is seeking to boycott the Conference and generally undermine the spirit of détente.

Can the President therefore state - within the context of his concern for human rights - why thousands of Belgian steelworkers were subjected to mounted police charges in Brussels on almost the same day that he was holding forth in Madrid on trade union rights in the Socialist countries? And what has happened about the 'Berufsverbot' in the Federal Republic of Germany where, in recent years, 4,000 persons have been dismissed from their posts in public services and organizations simply because of their political beliefs?

82. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-820/81)*

Subject: Human rights in Turkey and Cyprus

Mr Tindemans, President of the council of Foreign Ministers of the European Communities, at the Madrid Conference on 9 February 1982 showed such concern for 'human rights' that he effectively supported the cold-war, anti-socialist opinions of the USA which is seeking to boycott the Conference and generally undermine the spirit of détente.

Can the President therefore state - within the context of his concern for human rights - what measures have been taken in relation to the situation in Turkey - a country associated with the European Communities - where, according to official figures, there are 25,000 political prisoners, 10 executions have taken place and 29 death sentences have been passed since the NATO-backed junta was established on 12 September 1980? And what measures have been taken as regards Cyprus, where 49% of the territory is occupied by the armed forces of a country associated with the EEC - namely Turkey?

* Will not be called if Item 39 is kept on the agenda (particularly oral question with debate, Doc. 1-70/82).

83. Question by Mr PENDERS (H-824/81)

Subject: Europe-America friendship treaty

What is the attitude of the Ten towards the suggestion put forward by Mr Colombo in Washington on 18 February 1982 that a friendship treaty should be signed between Europe and America in order to consolidate democracy and cooperation, and how does this suggestion tie in with the Genscher-Colombo plan for joint action by the Community?

84. Question by Mr KYRKOS (H-6/82)*

Subject: Agreement of four Member States to send troops to Sinai

The ambassadors of the four countries which decided to take part in the peace-keeping force in Sinai (France, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands) confirmed in a joint demarche vis-à-vis the Egyptian Government, their countries' intent to carry out their decision 'within the framework of the agreements between Egypt and Israel'.

We would point out that the initial decision was taken in the spirit of the Venice declaration, which spirit now appears to have been forgotten. We believe that there can be no solution to the crisis in the Middle East unless the right of the Palestinian

people to their own state is recognized and the PLO take part in the negotiations to achieve stable and peaceful co-existence between all the states in the region.

Do the Foreign Ministers consider that the Venice declaration still forms the basis of Community policy and do they support the Fahd initiative so that it may be carefully examined by the interested parties with a view to finding a solution to these dangerous daily tensions ?

*Former oral question without debate (0-92/81), converted into a question for question time

85. Question by Mrs EWING (H-808/81)

Subject: The ACP-EEC Resolution on the situation in Southern Africa

Will the foreign ministers meeting in political cooperation state whether they support the resolution passed at the meeting of the Joint Consultative Assembly in Zimbabwe on 4 February 1982 following the Joint EEC-ACP fact-finding mission to the frontline states?

86. Question by Mr CABORN (H-831/81)

Subject: Elections in El Salvador

On Sunday March 28th, 'elections' are to be held in El Salvador, 'elections' from which the majority of the people and their representative political organisations will be excluded. In view of the fact that these 'elections' are not democratic and will not solve the divisions within the country or legitimise the Government, will the Ministers state what steps they have taken to bring pressure to bear on the United States of America to realise the futility of these planned elections?

87. Question by Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE (H-850/81)

Subject: The situation in Guatemala

The Guatemalan regime of Romeo Lucas Garcia is applying an escalating policy of terror particularly against lay preachers and missionaries. To date one sixth of Guatemala's priests have been forced to leave the country, thirty-two catechism schools have been closed and a number of missionaries have been abducted and/or murdered.

What practical steps do the Foreign Ministers intend to take in order to help call an immediate halt to the policy of terror and repression in Guatemala?

88. Question by Mr GAWRONSKI (H-854/81)

Subject: The future of the European judicial area

Are the Foreign Ministers aware of reports to the effect that an Italian terrorist has been released in France for reasons which remain unexplained?

If these reports are true, does it not consider that serious harm has been done to the plan for a European judicial area?

89. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-2/82)

Subject: Suppression of terrorism

What is the situation as regards ratification of the European Convention on the suppression of terrorism by the Member States of the European Community?

To what extent has the European Agreement on the suppression of terrorism, the Dublin Agreement, come into force?

Is the Council planning to take action in this important field?

90. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-5/82)

Subject: Relations with the South West Africa
People's Organisation (SWAPO)

Do the Ministers support any official contact between themselves, or the Council or the Commission and the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) including the provision of any Community funds to that organisation?

91. Question by Mr WURTZ (H-16/82)*

Subject: Mission by Mr TINDEMANS to Turkey

Can the Foreign Ministers state whether in their opinion the mission by Mr TINDEMANS to the Turkish military regime has led to an improvement in human rights in Turkey? In particular, have trade unionists and their lawyers been released from prison and have civil liberties been restored?

What follow-up action do the Foreign Ministers of the Ten Member States intend to take in respect of this mission?

*Will not be called if Item 39 is kept on the agenda (particularly oral question with debate Doc. 1-70/82).

92. Question by Mr RIEGER (H-34/82)

Subject: Adjournment of the CSCE follow-up conference in Madrid

Can the Foreign Ministers indicate what initiatives they intend to take to contribute to the successful resumption of the CSCE follow-up conference in Madrid which has been adjourned until November 1982?

93. Question by Mr DE GOEDE (H-35/82)

Subject: Death of four Dutch journalists in El Salvador

Can the President comment on the horrible death of four Dutch journalists in El Salvador and the circumstances in which it occurred? What approaches have been made to the government of El Salvador as a result of these events?

94. Question by Mr FANTI (H-38/82)

Subject: Serious acts of repression by the Israeli Government

Do the Foreign Ministers not think that the serious acts of repression committed by the Israeli Government against the Palestinian Mayors and people in the West Bank, which flagrantly violate international law, call for the adoption of a firm stance by the EEC?

Do they not also think that the increase in tension between Israel, the PLO and the Arab countries caused by these incidents requires a determined revival of the European Middle East initiative?

95. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-46/82)

Subject : Nicaragua

What is the Ministers attitude to the reports in the British press that the United States has a 19 million dollar programme for armed raids into Nicaragua to de-stabilise Nicaragua's economy by destroying power installations, bridges, etc., and has the Council opposed this plan and, if not, will it do so in the interests of peace and stability in Central America ?

96. Question by Mr MICHEL (H-48/82)

Subject: Assessment of the first four years of application of the code of conduct for European undertakings and subsidiaries established in South Africa

With reference to paragraph 11 of the resolution on Southern Africa adopted by an overwhelming majority by the Joint Committee of the ACP-EEC Consultative Assembly on 4 February 1982 in Salisbury, are the Foreign Ministers in a position to give an assessment to the ACP and EEC of the four years of application of the code of conduct for European undertakings, their subsidiaries and branches established in South Africa, aimed at dismantling the provisions and practices of apartheid in places of work, and also of what remains to be done in implementation of this code?

97. Question by Mrs LE ROUX (H-50/82)

Subject: Israel's policy of annexation in the occupied territories

Within the framework of the EEC/ISRAEL Agreement, and having regard to the Euro-Arab dialogue, can the Ministers state, in the light of current developments on the West Bank and in the Middle East, what line they are able to adopt, in particular in the United Nations, with a view to bringing the most effective pressure on Israel to induce her to put a stop to repression in the occupied territories and to abandon her policy of annexation of those territories?

