

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1981 - 1982

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4 May 1981

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## Oral Questions

**Pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure**

**for QUESTION TIME**

**on 4 and 6 May 1981**



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QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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1. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-836/80)<sup>1</sup>

Subject: Alternative use of agricultural products

Does the Commission not think that it would be more to the point to find alternative uses for agricultural products than to reduce production?

And if so, what action has the Commission taken to investigate alternative uses for agricultural products?

2. Question by Miss DE VALERA (H-687/80)

Subject: Secretarial jobs at risk

What steps does the Commission believe should be taken to avoid a situation where up to five million secretaries<sup>2</sup> in Europe over the next 10 years could become redundant as a result of the introduction of micro-technology, particularly the use of small computers, word processors, facsimile machines and computerised telephone terminals?

3. Question by Mr COMBE (H-834/81)

Subject: Difficulties encountered by European car manufacturers in exporting to Japan

Does the Commission not agree that the enormous difficulties facing European car manufacturers in the form of the constantly changing regulations applied by the Japanese type-approval authorities constitute at least a unilateral protectionist measure if not a clear infringement of the rules of international trade?

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<sup>1</sup> Former oral question with debate (0-30/80), transformed into a question for Question Time.

<sup>2</sup> International Labour Office Report, published 13.11.1980.

4. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-839/80)

Subject: The Japanese offensive and the European 'wait and see policy'

Now that the Japanese offensive is affecting such widely varying sectors of the economy as the passenger vehicle, goods vehicle, motorcycle, colour television, tape recorder and watch-making industries, does the Commission not think that its reaction so far has been inadequate, and that the decision merely to monitor three key sectors is symptomatic of the Community's present weakness?

5. Question by Mr BALFE (H-840/80)

Subject: Level of the 'Green Pound'

It is estimated that because of the level of the 'Green Pound', Britain's budgetary contributions to the EEC will be increased by about £250,000,000. Can the Commission confirm that this money will be repaid to the British Treasury under the agreement of May 1980?

6. Question by Mr BRØNDLUND NIELSEN (H-842/80)

Subject: Enforcement of Community legislation

It is generally left to the national authorities in the individual Member States to supervise compliance with the legal acts of the Community as with their own national legislation. Does the Commission agree that this supervision varies so widely as regards methods used and resources deployed, and thus efficiency, that certain Community provisions have such varying effects on the conditions under which small firms in particular operate, depending on the country in which they are located, that competition within the Community is distorted? If so, what does it intend to do to remedy this problem?

7. Question by Mrs PRUVOT (H-3/81)

Subject: Foreign students' tuition in the United Kingdom

Can the Commission confirm reports that the tuition fees payable by foreign students have risen by 25% in the United Kingdom?

If so, does it not agree that such a measure adversely affects students who are nationals of the other Member States, particularly in the case of racially disadvantaged students?

8. Question by Mr TURCAT (H-6/81)

Subject: Exploitation of 'bottom of the well' oil

Various reports on the outcome of research into the exploitation of 'bottom of the well' oil suggest that this would provide new energy resources not only for the Community but also for the world at large.

Would the proposed methods make it possible to recommission wells considered to be exhausted, some of which are on Community territory, and has the Commission been involved, or does it intend to be involved, in this matter?

9. Question by Mrs FOURCADE (H-11/81)

Subject: Implications of the agreements between Spain and Latin America

Can the Commission specify the practical implications of the agreements linking Spain to the Latin-American countries in terms of the movement of manpower and trade? In view of the existing close links between Spain and Latin America, does the Commission intend to propose arrangements for Latin America similar to those granted the ACP or the Mediterranean countries?

10. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-33/81)

Subject: Community assistance following coal mine closures

In view of the closure of coal mines that will take place in the Community due to depletion, what plans are the Commission making to ensure that schemes wholly or partly financed by the Community can be introduced as soon as (or before) closures are announced for retraining redundant miners, for assistance for them in finding new jobs and for bringing jobs to the areas affected?

11. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-47/81)

Subject: New quota system

At present, a number of non-member countries are applying a new quota system which differentiates between 'developed' and 'low-wage' countries. Does the Commission plan to introduce such a system for sectors where it is warranted and for the footwear and textile sectors in particular?

12. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-49/81)<sup>1</sup>

Subject: Improvement of common transport infrastructures by means of the various Community funds

Does the Commission not think that greater use should be made of available instruments such as the various Community funds so as to further the improvement of common transport infrastructures, which are essential to European development?

13. Question by Lord O'Hagan (H-52/81)

Subject: Cider tax

Does the Commission intend to bring in a tax on cider?

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<sup>1</sup> Will not be called if item 44 is kept on the agenda

14. Question by Sir Fred WARNER (H-745/80)

Subject: Basalt aggregate for road use

What degree of standardization for basalt aggregate for road use exists between different Member States of the Community and what plans, if any, does the Commission have for establishing common standards throughout the Community?

15. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-765/80)

Subject : Mobility of employment

In view of the unequal incidence of unemployment in different parts of the Community will the Commission consider measures to inform district labour exchanges and job centres of job opportunities and vacancies for specific skills in all member nations of the Community, in order to promote improved labour mobility?

16. Question by Mr KIRK (H-20/81)

Subject: Parliament's right to be consulted on the proposal for catch quotas in the fisheries sector for 1981

Does the Commission intend to comply with the resolution adopted by the European Parliament expressing the wish that any amendments to the Commission's proposal for catch quotas in the fisheries sector for 1981 should be referred back to Parliament for a further opinion before the proposal is submitted to the Council?

17. Question by Mr JOHNSON (H-25/81)

Subject: Law of the Sea

In view of the reports that the United States intends to block possible agreement at the current session of the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference apparently under pressure from deep sea mining companies which regard the existing draft treaty as unfavourable to their interests, can the Commission indicate what stance is being adopted by the EEC to indicate their extreme disappointment at this development?

18. Question by Mr FANTON (H-42/81)

Subject: Freedom of trade in turkeys

Faced with soaring inflation, British consumers are turning to cheaper meat and as a result sales of poultry, particularly turkeys, are rising sharply. At its present level, turkey production in the United Kingdom lags far behind demand and imports are therefore required.

Can the Commission take immediate steps to remove the barriers - admittedly indirect in that they are cleverly disguised as health requirements - put up by the United Kingdom to trade in turkeys produced in the other Member States?



19. Question by Mr HORD (H-132/81)<sup>1</sup>

Subject: Sales of surplus Community agricultural products to the USSR

It has been reported that during 1980, firstly 145,000 tonnes of butter and butter oil were exported to the U.S.S.R., and secondly in reply to Written Question to the Commission 1273/80 by Mr Paisley, that surplus Community agricultural produce to the value of 591.875 million E.C.U. was sold to the U.S.S.R. in the first six months of 1980, compared to a value of 421.511 million E.C.U. for the whole of 1979.

1. How does the Commission explain its failure to conform to the instructions of the Foreign Ministers' meeting in political cooperation on 5th January 1980 that future exports to the U.S.S.R. should not exceed the level of normal trade?
2. How was the Commission able to allow 145,000 tonnes of butter and butter oil to be exported in 1980, when the Commission had confirmed previously that the normal level of trade with the U.S.S.R. was 70,000 tonnes in respect of this commodity?
3. Does the Commission agree that by not respecting the Council's instructions that it may have acted without budgetary cover in respect of the incidence of excess sales to the U.S.S.R.?

20. Question by Mrs EWING (H-55/81)

Subject: Assistance for blind people

What proposals does the commission have for assistance rates or flat rate allowances to blind people in the Community?

21. Question by Mr VAN AERSSSEN (H-61/81)

Subject: Negotiations between the Community and the Andean Group with a view to concluding a framework agreement

Can the Commission state what position has been reached in the negotiations for a framework agreement between the Community and the Andean Group?

<sup>1</sup> Former oral question without debate (0-8/81) transformed into a question for Question Time.

22. Question by Mr KAPPOS (H-62/81)

Subject: Crude attack on workers' elementary trade union rights

Is the Commission aware that in 1980 at least 3,000 workers, including 250 members of union branch executives and factory committees, were sacked in Greece on account of their trade union activities?

Is the Commission also aware that this number includes about 80 members and all the executive members of the union branch in the Greek aeronautical industry?

Does not the Commission consider that these dismissals are a crude attack on workers' elementary trade union rights?

23. Question by Mr BUTTAFUOCO (H-74/81)

Subject: Renewal of the Italy-Tunisia fisheries agreement

The Italy-Tunisia fisheries agreement expired on 19 June 1979 and its renewal is the responsibility of the EEC. The failure to do so means that Sicilian motor trawlers are obliged to fish further and further away from their home ports, since they cannot operate in Tunisian territorial waters. Can the Commission state why it has delayed the conclusion of a new Italy-Tunisia fisheries agreement?

24. QUESTION by Mr CALVEZ (H-76/81)

Subject: Fisheries - increased surveillance

Can the Commission give precise details of the system of increased surveillance in force in the zone beyond the twelve-mile limit?

25. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-77/81)

Subject: Closure of customs clearance points for imports of steel into Italy

In view of the application of the procedure provided for in Article 169 of the EEC Treaty to the question of customs clearance points for imports of steel into Italy, and also of the discussions which took place at the beginning of March between Mr Mario PANDOLFI, Italian Minister of Finance, and Mr Karl Heinz NARJES, European Commissioner responsible for the internal Community market, can the Commission state whether the Italian Government has in fact followed up its intention of opening seven additional border posts? Whatever the case may be, is the Commission satisfied with this measure, which would only partly solve the problem, since the most important customs clearance points are still closed?

26. Question by Mr CABORN (H-82/81)

Subject: European shipbuilding industry

Will the Commission make a statement on the future of the European shipbuilding industry in light of (a) Japan's increase in output in 1980 by 30% which now accounts for 46.5% of world ship completions; (b) the reduction in output in 1980 in the UK by 38%, France by 61%, Netherlands by 56%, along with Denmark and Germany recording reductions in shipyard output; (c) the absence of any Community programme for the industry?

What information and direction of action has emerged from the recent Commission discussions with the social partners in the industry?

27. Question by Mr WELSH (H-84/81)

Subject: Subsidized gas prices to Dutch growers

In its written answer to my oral question (H-766/80)<sup>1</sup> the Commission stated that its final position on the pursuit of a procedure under Article 93 of the Treaty of Rome would be influenced by decisions on tariffs to be announced in the Netherlands by April 1st.

Would the Commission now make a statement on its attitude and intentions in respect of this matter which it admits is causing severe distortions in the market for horticultural products (see answer to oral question (H-411/80))<sup>2</sup>?

28. Question by Mr SCHWARTZENBERG (H-85/81)

Subject: Greece and the Middle East

Is it true that, when speaking on behalf of the Commission to the ambassadors of Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the Lebanon, Mr Thorn believed himself authorized to state that the Community institutions would not urge Greece finally to recognize Israel (see 'Agence Europe' No 3110 of 1 April 1981, p.3)? If so, is the Commission not aware that, on the one hand, it has no power to make such statements and that, on the other, any political cooperation between the Ten concerning the Middle East will be quite futile unless all of the Ten have diplomatic relations with all the States concerned?

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<sup>1</sup> Verbatim report of proceedings, 11.3.1981

<sup>2</sup> Debates of the European Parliament, No. 261

29. Question by Miss HOOPER (H-86/81)

Subject: International exhibitions within the EEC

Is the Commission aware that manufacturers from Member States taking the time and trouble to exhibit at international exhibitions in the EEC are required to re-import their exhibits to their own country? Any orders obtained at the exhibitions therefore run the risk of being lost, particularly in respect of small manufacturers of highly specialised products who may not have all the export facilities of large companies.

30. Question by Sir David NICOLSON (H-87/81)

Subject: Commission's basic prices for steel imports

The Commission has replied to my question No (H-829/80)<sup>1</sup> by saying that exchange rates were reviewed in October 1980 and that the imports concerned represent only a very small proportion of the UK's total steel consumption.

With regard to the exchange rate, can the Commission explain why the rate set last October was well below the market rate of the previous 9 months?

Even though sterling is now showing a downward trend, the current parity still leaves the basic UK price approximately 14% higher than in Germany: Is there not therefore a case for an adjustment?

With regard to the proportion of consumption to which the price applies, is the Commission not aware that:

- the marginal lowest cost supplier exercises a far greater influence on the market than the tonnage he supplies might suggest,
- UK producers clearly do not regard the import basic prices as insignificant. They have lobbied hard to prevent full adjustment of the sterling parity. This helps to keep UK prices above those elsewhere in the ECSC,
- where steel accounts for 50% or more of the price of the finished product (eg a pressure vessel), any measure which helps to keep UK steel prices above competition is damaging to users?

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<sup>1</sup> Verbatim records of the sittings, 9.3.1981

31. Question by Mr BEAZLEY (H-88/81)

Subject: Accession of Portugal to the European Community

What changes to the Portuguese Constitution of 2 April 1976 will need to be made when Portugal joins the European Community, and, in particular, and in the light of the joint declaration by the Council, the Commission and the European Parliament on 5 April 1977, will the Commission state whether the 'Council of the Revolution' defined in Article 142 of the Constitution as the 'Guarantor of the proper working of democratic institutions' and composed largely of members of the armed forces, is consistent with that country's membership of the European Community?

32. Question by Lady ELLES (H-89/81)

Subject: Implementation of Directive 77/728

What measures is the Commission taking to ensure that implementation of Directive 77/728 and any amendment adopted to it is carried out uniformly and simultaneously within Member States?

33. Question by Mr COLLA (H-90/81)

Subject: Community radio and television programmes

What does the Commission think of the idea of having the European Community, possibly in cooperation with the existing broadcasting companies, produce radio and television programmes and, should such a scheme be realized, what are its views regarding, on the one hand, advertising and, on the other, the safeguarding of the interests of minorities and groups of all political and philosophical tendencies in relation to such broadcasts?

34. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-92/81)

Subject: Coordination of forestry measures

Since a number of separate measures for forestry have already been proposed, would the Commission say why these cannot be coordinated in an overall forestry policy?

35. Question by Mr PININFARINA (H-94/81)

Subject: Rigid systems of indexing incomes

In the European Council's final declaration at its meeting in Maastricht, mention was made of revising certain rigid systems of indexing incomes.

What measures does the Commission intend proposing to ensure that the Italian indexing system is brought into line with the economic and monetary situation generally obtaining in the European Communities?

36. Question by Mr KOUTSOCHERAS (H-95/81)

Subject: Greek students in British universities

Is the Commission aware that, contrary to agreements that students from EEC Member States should pay the same enrolment fees as British students, Greek students in British universities are being asked to pay enrolment fees for the academic year 1980-81 of between £1,330 and £5,000 instead of fees ranging from £216 to £1,105?

What steps does the Commission intend taking to ensure that Greek students receive equal treatment as regards enrolment fees in British universities?

37. Question by Mr VLAHOPOULOS (H-101/81)

Subject: Relief measures to support farmers

It is a fact that modern agriculture is increasingly making use of liquid fuels and electricity, in addition to other energy sources, in the process of cultivation and agricultural production.

As the production costs which our farmers have to meet are constantly rising does the Commission intend to propose any measures to provide economic relief for them, such as cheap supplies of liquid fuel, electricity etc., so that their overheads can be reduced?

38. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-104/81)

Subject: Birth of deformed babies in Augusta (Sicily)

In Augusta - which has one of the largest concentrations in Europe of petrochemical industries, discharging tons of poisonous substances into the air, water and soil - the number of babies born with severe deformities in the last ten years has risen from 3 to 14 per thousand, and the number of deaths from cancer (especially of the respiratory system, the intestines and the liver) has doubled in the last two years. Furthermore a study by the World Health Organization has established the presence of cadmium and mercury in the food cycle of this industrial area.

When and how does the Commission intend to take measures to intervene directly - or in cooperation with the Italian Government - to assess the extent of those developments, to establish the degree of pollution in the area and to guarantee that industrial development does not jeopardize health in one of the most disadvantaged regions of the Community?

39. Question by Mr PRAG (H-105/81)

Subject : Grants for students studying in Community countries other than their own

Will the Commission propose to the Council a common system of grants for students who are nationals of Member States and wish to study in a Member State other than their own?



40. Question by Mr TYRRELL (H-108/81)

Subject : Competition in Air Transport

Since the Court of Justice has affirmed in Cases 167/73 and 2/74 that the General provisions of the EEC Treaty, which include the rules on competition, are directly applicable to air transport, why is the Commission delaying its draft proposal for a procedural regulation in the air transport sector which would allocate to Directorate General 4 of the Commission the powers of investigation and penalty necessary to enforce the competition rules in this sector?

41. Question by Mr ADAM (H-111/81)

Subject : Multinational Companies

In view of the recent activities of multinational companies; will the Commission undertake to establish immediately a monitoring procedure to record the investments of multinational companies in coal and strategic raw materials and to report the findings periodically to Parliament?

42. Question by Mr GRIFFITHS (H-113/81)

Subject : Combatting unemployment especially among young people

What steps are the Commission taking in the light of the European Council's Maastricht meeting's expression of 'deep concern' about 'high and rising rates of unemployment among youth' and their call for 'intensive consultation with the social partners'?

43. Question by Mr PINTAT (H-120/81)

Subject: Research programme in the field of ceramics

The Council has informed the European Parliament that it still has not been able to begin work on the research and development programme in the field of ceramics because CREST has not delivered its opinion.

Can the Commission state what progress this body has made with its work and what the gist of the proposal will be?

44. Question by Mrs DESMOND (H-125/81)

Subject: Situation relating to abolition of headage grants in disadvantaged areas in Munster

In answer to a previous question of mine (1) concerning the Irish Government's decision to abolish headage grants in certain areas in Munster, the Commission was to contact the Irish Government to ascertain the situation; can the Commission now state the results of its enquiries?

45. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-127/81)

Subject: Exploitation of turf peat

As a result of the Parliament's resolution on turf peat contained in the Gallagher Report of 19th December 1980, what action has the Commission taken to promote the use of peat for electricity generation, heating and other uses and what schemes involving peat exploitation are currently being assisted by the Community and in which related areas does the Commission propose to extend its involvement in the future?

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<sup>1</sup> H-38/80, Debates of the European Parliament, Ann. to OJ No. 1-255, p. 37.

46. Question by Mr PETERSEN (H-128/81)

Subject: Right of veto in the Council

Mr Gaston Thorn, the President of the Commission, has proposed on several occasions, either directly or indirectly, that the right of veto in the Council should be abolished or curtailed.

Does the Commission consider that it is beneficial to the Community, during a period of economic crisis, for discussion of such a controversial issue to be resumed?



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QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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47. Question by Mr VIE (H-22/81)

Subject: Renewal of the Multifibre Arrangement

Why did the Council in its belief to the Commission on the renewal of the Multifibre Arrangement give no instructions on the inclusion of a clause on the non-use of child labour in the textile industries in third countries, this being an ILO standard which I understood the Commission had decided to include in EEC agreements with non-associated countries?

48. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-32/81)

Subject: Energy pricing

Is the Council concerned about discrepancies in the energy pricing policies between different Member States?

49. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-48/81)

Subject: Development of the European Monetary System and public issues of ECUs

What is the Council's reaction to the recent statement by the chairman of the European Monetary Committee concerning public issues of ECUs in the form of coinage and travellers' cheques?

50. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-672/80)

Subject : Establishment of European Foundation in Paris

Can the Council confirm that the long delayed question of the establishment of the European Foundation in Paris was discussed at the last Foreign Affairs Council on 15/16 December 1980?

If not when does he propose to discuss it in view of the fact that it was last discussed at the Foreign Affairs Council in December 1978?

51. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-735/80)

Subject: Majority voting in Council

Will the Council now adopt the proposals of the European Parliament<sup>1</sup>, the Commission<sup>2</sup> and the Three Wise Men<sup>3</sup> for a return to voting in the Council by majority or unanimity, as prescribed by the Treaties, while retaining a residual right of veto only for substantial questions of genuine national interest?

52. Question by Mr PONIATOWSKI (H-93/81)<sup>4</sup>

Subject: Development cooperation and the observance  
of certain international standards governing  
working conditions

What action does the Council intend to take on the communication from the Commission of the European Communities<sup>5</sup> concerning development cooperation and the observance of certain international standards governing working conditions?

<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 140, 5.6.1979

<sup>2</sup> Bulletin of the European Communities, Supplement 2/78, paras 31-47

<sup>3</sup> Report of the European Institutions, October 1979, pp. 50-52

<sup>4</sup> Former oral question with debate (0-80/80) converted into a question for Question Time

<sup>5</sup> Doc. COM(78) 492 final

53. Question by Mr BALFE (H-18/81)

Subject: Lotteries promoted outside of Great Britain

In December 1980 I asked a written question (1754/80)<sup>1</sup> about the practice of a German registered lottery selling tickets by post in the United Kingdom, which is illegal. The Commission has replied that this falls outside the Communities' competence, but should be followed up by diplomatic initiatives between Foreign Ministers.

Since the selling of tickets constitutes trade, will the Council agree that there are certain aspects of the free movement of goods that do not fall within the competence of the Communities, and will the Council define what these are?

54. Question by Mr KAPPOS (H-63/81)

Subject: Crude attack on workers' elementary trade union rights

Is the Council aware that in 1980 at least 3,000 workers, including 250 members of union branch executives and factory committees, were sacked in Greece on account of their trade union activities?

Is the Council also aware that this number includes about 80 members and all the executive members of the union branch in the Greek aeronautical industry?

Does not the Council consider that these dismissals are a crude attack on workers' elementary trade union rights?

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<sup>1</sup> Bulletin No. 57/80

55. Question by Mr HORD (H-131/81)<sup>1</sup>

Subject: Sales of surplus Community agricultural products to the USSR

It has been reported that during 1980, firstly 145,000 tonnes of butter and butter oil were exported to the U.S.S.R., and secondly in reply to Written Question to the Commission 1273/80 by Mr Paisley, that surplus Community agricultural produce to the value of 591.875 million E.C.U. was sold to the U.S.S.R. in the first six months of 1980, compared to a value of 421.511 million E.C.U. for the whole of 1979.

1. What action does the Council of Ministers intend to take following the failure of the Commission to abide by the instructions issued by the foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation on 5 January 1980, regarding the export of surplus agricultural products to the U.S.S.R.?
2. Is the Council contemplating formal communication with the European Parliament as Joint Budgetary Authority to consider whether the Commission has acted without budgetary cover in respect of the incident of excess sales of surplus agricultural products to the U.S.S.R., over and above the normal levels envisaged by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation on the 5th January 1980?

56. Question by Mr CHAMBEIRON (H-66/81)

Subject: European passport and threats to freedom

Certain Member States have indicated that they could magnetize the 'European passport' on which negotiations are currently taking place in Brussels. Can the Council state whether it intends to ban this procedure, which would enable the movements of the citizens of the ten Community countries to be computerized and would thus seriously undermine their freedom; does this procedure comply with the solemn declaration, signed by the Council, on respect for human rights and freedoms in the Community?

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<sup>1</sup> Former oral question without debate (0-6/81) transformed into a question for Question Time



57. Question by Mrs SCRIVENER (H-67/81)

Subject: Use of oestrogens in breeding

In view of the alarm felt by European public opinion, particularly consumer organizations, at reports that natural and synthetic hormones might be re-introduced as growth stimulators, can the Council confirm that there are no such plans?

58. Question by Mr WELSH (H-83/81)

Subject: Proposal for a directive to implement Directive 77/489/EEC

On 23 January 1979 the Commission submitted a proposal for a directive establishing measures for implementation of Directive 77/489/EEC on the protection of animals in international transit.

Could the Council make a statement on the progress of these proposals and identify the principal obstacles to their speedy adoption?

59. Question by Mr COLLA (H-91/81)

Subject: Community radio and television programmes

What does the Council think of the idea of having the European Community, possibly in cooperation with the existing broadcasting companies, produce radio and television programmes and, should such a scheme be realized, what are its views regarding on the one hand, advertising and, on the other, the safeguarding of the interests of minorities and groups of all political and philosophical tendencies in relation to such broadcasts?

60. Question by Mr HARRIS (H-102/81)

Subject : Draft Directive on pressure vessels

When does the Council intend to implement the proposals for a Directive laying down standards for pressure vessels so as to remove the long standing obstacles to intra-Community trade in this field?

61. Question by Mr HABSBERG (H-103/81)

Subject: European passport

Now that the deadline for issuing a European passport has been set at 1 January 1985, which is an inordinately long way ahead, can the Council assure Parliament that it intends to spare no effort to bring this date forward?

62. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-110/81)

Subject: Introduction of a tax on oil

Does the Council not think that the communication forwarded to it by the previous Commission in March 1980 on the introduction of a tax on oil to provide funds for investments in energy is the wrong way to go about financing a new policy which is more necessary than ever?

63. Question by Mr ADAM (H-112/81)

Subject : Supplementary measures in favour of the United Kingdom

With reference to my previous question (H-726/80)<sup>1</sup> and the inadequate written reply; will the Council now explain why the references to the 'promotion of economic convergence' and 'the reduction of regional disparities' were deleted from the proposed regulations (COM(80) 333 final) and did not appear in Regulation Number 2744/80 (OJL 284)?

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<sup>1</sup> Verbatim report of proceedings of March 1981

64. Question by Mr GRIFFITHS (H-114/81)

Subject : Combatting unemployment especially among young people

What steps are being taken by the European Council at the Community level and by its individual members to enter into 'intensive consultation with the social partners' to deal with the high and rising rates of unemployment and in particular the 'evil' of youth unemployment?

65. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-121/81)

Subject: Food aid to Vietnam.

Having read the poignant conclusions of the report drawn up by the commercial and technical cooperation advisers under the presidency of the Netherlands which refer to a fresh outbreak of infantile malnutrition on a tragic scale and the need to consider the possibility of making a humanitarian gesture, has the Council decided to adopt a positive attitude towards these findings?

66. Question by Mr CALVEZ (H-123/81)

Subject: Fisheries

A framework agreement was signed between the EEC and Norway in February 1980. One problem, however, is still outstanding in 1981 and concerns the management of joint stocks of saithe and cod in the North Sea (17% of the cod and 48% of the saithe stocks belong to Norway). The level at which the TAC has been fixed is considered by France and other Member States as too restrictive.

Does not the Council agree that the Community is entitled to disregard Norway's objections and to unilaterally raise the TAC for these two species?



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

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67. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-69/81)

Subject: Iranian bahai'i

Recalling Parliament's resolution of 19 September 1980 on the persecution of members of the bahai'i community in Iran, what action have the ministers taken and what representations have they made to the Iranian authorities and with what effective results in protecting Iranian bahai'i from summary arrest, detention and execution?

68. Question by Mr TYRRELL (H-109/81)

Subject : Talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation

Does the Foreign Ministers consider that it would undermine the strong stand that they have rightly taken in condemning international terrorism, if they permit their representative to talk to the head of an organization which not only preaches terrorism but practises it with the avowed purpose of exterminating Israel, a friendly democratic state?

69. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-122/81)

Subject: Meeting of the A.C.D.A. (concerted action for development of Africa) in May 1980

Have the ministers meeting in political cooperation discussed the outcome, with particular reference to the harmonization of European positions, of the top-level meeting of May 1980 attended by a number of European countries (Federal German Republic, Great Britain, Belgium, France), the U.S., Japan and certain Arab countries to decide upon projects of common interest in Africa at which the U.S. was given sole responsibility for 'improving public health' in Africa through American Aid and a specialist centre in Atlanta?

70. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-126/81)

Subject: Participation by the Community in U.N. Conference on sanctions  
against South Africa

Will the Community be represented officially at the forthcoming Conference organized by the U.N. in cooperation with the O.A.S. on the question of sanctions against South Africa to be held in Paris from 20th - 27th May 1981?