

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

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ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 15 and 16 June 1982

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-42/82)

Subject: Measures to strengthen convergence

The Commission has announced that priority should be given to intensifying convergence in practical terms rather than to introducing new regulations. Can it explain how it intends to achieve this aim?

2. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-53/82)

Subject: Coastal protection

On 19 June 1981 the European Parliament debated a report on coastal erosion in the Community¹; in the course of the debate Mr Narjes, member of the Commission, stated that in 1982 the Commission would be submitting a proposal concerning coastal protection. How is this work progressing, and when can we expect to see definite proposals?

3. Question by Mrs DURY (H-70/82)

Subject: Consultation of the ETUC on the formulation of the FAST programme

On 25 July 1978 the Council agreed to a 5-year experimental programme called FAST, the aim of which was to define long-term objectives and priorities for the Community's research and development policy.

Why did the Commission not consult the European Trade Union Confederation on the formulation of the FAST programme?

4. Question by Mr PSEMAZOGLOU (H-101/82)

Subject: Full utilization of the mineral reserves of Member States

The EEC is aiming to safeguard supplies of minerals essential to its economy. In this context, existing Community reserves should be fully used. Obviously, this matter is of particular interest to Member States that possess such reserves. Can the Commission state what progress has been made in drawing up measures on this matter, what they are designed to achieve and what special regulations are proposed?

5. Question by Mr LALOR (H-104/82)

Subject: Common organisation of the market in potatoes

Will the Commission give due reason as to why it has failed to implement the common organisation of the market in potatoes, the lack of which continues to seriously threaten this sector of the agricultural market in Ireland?

6. Question by Miss DE VALERA (H-105/82)

Subject: Social fund aid for day nurseries

Can the Commission confirm that it has now been established that the Social Fund can be used to help pay the cost of paying a nursery nurse for the children of women who are attending training courses?

7. Question by Mr FLANAGAN (H-107/82)

Subject: 4 750 jobs to be lost in Northern Ireland

What action can the Commission undertake for the workforce in the North of Ireland in view of the unprecedented loss of 1 150 jobs in the British Enkalon factory in Antrim, the loss of 1 100 jobs at the De Lorean car factory (both in the month of March) and the possible loss of a further 2 500 jobs at the Har Shipyard in Belfast?

8. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-663/81)

Subject: The Community's energy objectives

Did the Member States succeed in reducing the demand for oil in their total energy consumption during 1981?

9. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-860/81)

Subject: Work permits and social security support for Polish nationals

What Community action is being taken to provide work permits and social security support for Polish nationals stranded in Member States because of imposition of martial law in Poland?

10. Question by Mr PRANCHERE (H-8/82)

Subject: UK's contribution to the Community budget

Can the Commission state whether the UK's net contribution to the Community budget in 1980 and 1981 will be smaller than provided for by the agreement of 30 May? Is the Commission resolved to ask the Council to remedy this situation and, if so, what remedies does it propose?

11. Question by Mr SIMMONDS (H-136/82) (x)

Subject: Tax incentives for rational use of energy

- recognising the Commission document COM(82) 24 final, annexe 7, page 4;
- recognising the Commission's interest in the rational use of energy;
- recognising the recent progressing in the development of alternative lighting and heating controls using micro processors
- wishing to give greater publicity to this recommendation

hence the question

will the Commission make proposals encouraging the Member States to offer tax incentives for the installation of such equipment and to exclude them from value added tax?

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-5/82), converted into a question for QUESTION TIME.

12. Question by Mr COLLINS (H-44/82)

Subject: EEC code of practice relating to payments to workers in South Africa

Is the Commission aware that there are certain British companies who allegedly are in breach of the EEC code of practice relating to payments to workers in South Africa and will it say what action it proposes to take to bring these companies into line?

13. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-56 /82)

Subject: Resolutions tabled at Parliament's July 1981 part-session on the improvement of inter-institutional relations and their operation

Will the Commission say what progress has been made on this matter, having regard to the fact that an answer should have been given by 31 December 1981?

14. Question by Mr ENRIGHT (H-156/82) (x)

Subject: Medical provision for european holidaymakers

1. Is the Commission aware of the inadequacy of medical care facilities at european holiday resorts and that this constitutes grave risk to holidaymakers?
2. Is the Commission aware that where there may be many hotels but few and inadequate hospitals and clinics, it is common practice in cases of accident on holiday to repatriate the patient (at their own expense) before giving adequate treatment?
3. Is the Commission aware that there have been emergency cases in which this practice has led to unnecessary loss of life and serious permanent injury?
4. Does the Commission know that harmonised Community Social Security Services are not functioning in practice, and that patients are not always completely covered and may even have to pay much more for medicinal treatment than in their own member state?
5. Given that the Commission expresses concern about the need for Community action on environmental health and pollution problems at holiday resorts, what action is it proposing to take about the totally inadequate medical care facilities available to european holidaymakers?

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-22/82), converted into a question for QUESTION TIME.

15. Question by Miss HOOPER (H-66/82)

Subject: Customs duties on goods purchased by international travellers

The Commission has recently written to Member States expressing the opinion that in certain circumstances Customs duty should be charged on goods of third country origin which are purchased by travellers who are making journeys to and from Community countries; in view of the widespread interest in this subject, will the Commission state what developments have taken place in this respect?

16. Question by Mr McCARTIN (H-111/82)

Subject: Land improvement under Regulation 1820/80

Land improvement grants of up to 70% of total costs are provided for in Regulation 1820/80¹. Is the Commission aware that, because of the method used by the Irish Authorities in arriving at total costs, the grants actually paid often represent only half the grant level, and can the Commission take any action to rectify the position?

¹ OJ No. L 180, 14.7.1980

17. Question by Mr CLINTON (H-112/82)

Subject: UK contribution to the Community budget

Having regard to Annexe II to Council Regulation 2744 of 27 October 1980, on what basis did the Commission estimate that the net UK contribution to the Community budget would be 1784 million EUA for 1980 and 2140 million EUA for 1981? When were these estimates made? What was the actual net UK contribution in respect of these years? What is the difference between the estimated and actual contribution in respect of each year, and what are the reasons for the difference, if any, in each case?

18. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-114/82)

Subject: Reality of ECU use

Although the need to promote the use of the ECU is being urged by many people, does the Commission not consider that the reality is very different and that it is dangerous to design generous theoretical systems, especially in monetary matters, if no tangible results are produced?

19. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-115/82)

Subject: Means of harmonizing motor-vehicle prices as between Member States

Having regard to the considerable discrepancies in motor-vehicle prices as between European Community countries, has the Commission any means of intervening in price regulation so as gradually to secure reasonably uniform price levels?

20. Question by Mr DALZIEL (H-126/82)

Subject: European Community aid to householders affected by severe winter weather in Scotland

In view of the dissatisfaction felt by many individual householders in Scotland who have received inadequate compensation which does not fully take account of the severe damage done to their properties and their consequent hardship, will the Commission reconsider prior to the coming winter the manner of determining the amount of Community aid to householders affected by severe winter weather in order to give more satisfactory and just results?

21. Question by Mr PETERSEN (H-127/82)

Subject: Returnable bottles system

Denmark has one of the best returnable bottles systems in the world. The ministerial regulations which underlie this system prohibit the selling of beer in cans. The Commission sees these regulations as a technical obstacle to trade in violation of Article 30 of the Treaty of Rome for which reason, according to reports received in Denmark, it is therefore now considering taking Denmark to the Court of Justice. Can the Commission not see that, on the contrary, this system, with the respect it shows for the environment and natural resources, the money it saves and the employment it provides, is in keeping with the general aims and spirit of the Treaty of Rome and with Member States' repeated undertakings to improve the quality of life at the same time as economic growth and, furthermore, does the Commission not feel that a purely quantitative interpretation of Article 30 of the Treaty of Rome, an interpretation which ignores qualitative aspects, is in the interests of the Community?

22. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-129/82/rev.) (x)

Subject: Operation of STABEX

Does the Commission realize that, despite all its good intentions and pious statements, refusal to honour commitments made in the framework of STABEX, the system designed to stabilize the export earnings of those countries which are parties to the second Lome Convention, would once again seriously impair the credibility of the European Community and play a not inconsiderable part in the further deslocation of the international economic order, and is it prepared to provide the necessary appropriations for the fulfilment of its international commitments in a supplementary budget?

(x) Will not be called if item 140 is kept on the agenda

23. Question by Mrs BONINO (H-130/82) (x)

Subject: Food strategies

In his letter to Mr Pannella of 8 March 1982, Commissioner Pisani stated that the 'first food strategies supported by the Community and the Member States will begin in the summer'. Could the Commission confirm this statement in view of the fact that no decision to this effect has been received from the Council as yet and the work on the preparatory stages is progressing at a dangerously slow pace?

(x) Will not be called if item 104 is kept on the agenda

24. Question by Mr GONTIKAS (H-131/82)

Subject: Unacceptable conduct on the part of a Community official

On 3 May 1982 during an open discussion at the French Institute in Athens an official representing the Commission, attacked the European Parliament, saying that it hindered the work of the Commission.

He then went on to state that the union of Cyprus with the EEC was directly bound up with Turkish accession.

Does the Commission agree with these remarks by its representative, can he be regarded as truly representing the Commission in view of his grade and experience, and what does the Commission intend to do to restore the authority of the European Parliament?

25. Question by Mrs J. HOFFMANN (H-135/82)

Subject: Use of the European Social Fund to finance the vocational training of girls

Can the Commission state with regard to each Member State how many girls of less than 25 years of age who were unemployed or in search of employment participated in 1981 in vocational training schemes arranged with assistance from the European Social Fund and the types of training and organizations for which finance was provided?

26. Question by Mr PRICE (H-137/82)

Subject: Presence of Commissioners

Will the Commission ensure, in future, that at least half its members will be present in Parliament to answer questions during Question Time and so end the present contempt of Parliament by Commissioners who are answering on behalf of absent colleagues and are therefore totally unable to respond meaningfully to supplementary questions?

27. Question by Mrs LE ROUX (H-138/82)

Subject: Dumping of radio-active waste in the Atlantic

In 1981 9,435 tons of radio-active products from the United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands and Switzerland were dumped in the Atlantic 800 kilometres off the coast of Brittany under the supervision of the OECD nuclear energy agency.

Given the progress which has been made in the treatment and stockpiling of waste on land, does the Commission not intend to propose to the Member States regulations restricting and eventually prohibiting the above practices?

28. Question by Mr BORD (H-139/82)

Subject: Development of the common market in works of art

Can the Commission say what steps it intends to take in the coming months with a view to promoting a genuine European market in works of art and more especially in the direction of free trade in works of art, simplification of customs procedures and the harmonization of fiscal legislation?

29. Question by Mr KYRKOS (H-141/82)

Subject: Adverse consequences of accession on Greece's trade balance in agricultural products

At a recent meeting of Communist and Socialist Members in Brussels on 3 and 4 May to discuss the Community regime for Mediterranean products, Greek experts revealed that after one year of membership Greece had a deficit in its balance of trade with the Community in agricultural products.

Considering that Greece is primarily an agricultural country and that this was the first time in its history that it had a trade balance deficit in agricultural products, what does the Commission intend to do to counter the negative consequences of accession on Greece's trade balance in agricultural products?

30. Question by Mr GAWRONSKI (H-144/82)

Subject: Community inquiry into poverty

The Community inquiry which found that there are 8 million poor people in Italy caused a considerable stir. Can the Commission indicate to which social categories most poor people belong and what criteria were used to define poverty?

31. Question by Mrs EWING (H-145/82)

Subject : Classification of roads

In view of the benefits which could be derived from the harmonization of road classifications - notably in tourism, road haulage and regional planning at Community level - what action, if any, has the Commission taken in this sector?

32. Question by Mr CALVEZ (H-147/82)

Subject: General practitioners

General practitioners, especially in the Netherlands, consider that the judgement handed down by the Court of Justice in the Broekmeulen case (246/80) has given rise to discrimination against national doctors who have followed a specific course of training in general medicine. Is the Commission aware of their concern and does it intend to put forward proposals for a directive in this connection?

Can the Commission inform Parliament what work it has already done concerning the role of general practitioners and the extent of their training?

33. Question by Mr PRAG (H-148/82)

Subject: Postage rates within the European Community

In response to my written question no 1512/81 (1), the Council failed - indeed did not attempt - to justify the failure of two member states, Britain and Ireland, to apply the Commission's Recommendation of May 29, 1979 that inland postal rates should be applied to letters and postcards in mail between Community countries.

The result is flagrant discrimination between member states in mail charges, despite the fact that postal communication is an important element in freedom of movement for people, goods and capital. Users in the UK and Ireland are particularly affected.

When is the Commission going to do something about it? And what?

(1) OJ C 92, 13.4.1982, p. 11

34. Question by Mr BEAZLEY (H-152/82)

Subject: Revision of Regulation No 67/67/EEC

Following on from paragraph 14 of the European Parliament's resolution on the Commission's Tenth Report on Competition Policy, will the Commission forward its proposal to revise Regulation No 67/67/EEC in time to enable Parliament to express its opinion before the adoption of the new regulation and, if so, when?

35. Question by Mr Christopher JACKSON (H-158/82)

Subject: Action on the Lange resolution of 15 November, 1979 (1)

At present virtually all Commission proposals involve direct financial advantage to some Member states and corresponding disadvantage to other Member states. For each Member state in the Council of Ministers the assessment of this balance of advantage usually outweighs the intrinsic merit of a proposal for the Community as a whole, and is a major factor in the current crisis in the Community.

In November 1979 in the Lange report, the European Parliament made proposals to break the pernicious link between Community policy and immediate financial cost or benefit to a Member state, and to promote economic convergence.

Will the Commission give its current view on the Lange proposal for financial equalisation and will the Commission, in view of the current crises in the Mandate negotiations, agree to put forward as a matter of urgency proposals along the lines called for in the Lange resolution agreed by Parliament in November, 1979?

(1) OJ C 309, 10.12.1979, p. 34

36. Question by Mr BONDE (H-174/82)

Subject: Commission interference in Danish regional development aid

Will the Commission produce the figures to justify its interference in Danish regional development, providing for instance more favourable investment conditions in Schleswig Holstein than in North Schleswig/South Jutland, and in particular explain how it was able to conclude that unemployment was lower in South Jutland than in Denmark as a whole, although the actual figures given by the Danish Statistical Office show that South Jutland has a considerably higher level of unemployment than the rest of Denmark¹?

¹ See the very incomplete reply to Oral Question No. H-88/82 in the verbatim report of proceedings of 12 May 1982

37. Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-175/82)

Subject: Classification of expenditure

Will the Commission confirm that the re-classification of compulsory expenditure as non-compulsory expenditure implies a transfer of responsibility from the Council, in which there is the right of veto, to the Parliament, where there is no right of veto, and that this transfer of responsibility detracts from the sovereignty of the Member States?

38. Question by Mr BØGH (H-176/82)

Subject: Right of veto

Will the Commission confirm that each of the ten Member States has the right to impose a veto on decisions involving national vital interests, and that each of the ten countries decides for itself whether and when it considers a matter to be vital?

39. Question by Mr SIMPSON (H-157/82)

Subject: Import of frog's legs from India

Following its answer to my Written Question No 1733/81*, will the Commission explain its view that a difficult economic situation in an exporting country is an adequate justification for avoidable cruelty to animals? Will it publish its guidelines as to what degree of economic difficulty justifies what amount of cruelty?

* OJ C 111, 3.5.1982, p. 15

40. Question by Mr PATTISON (H-161/82)

Subject: The future of the E.M.S.

In the statement issued at the end of the European Council of 29/30 March 1982, it is noted that the E.M.S. has operated satisfactorily so far, and the Economic and Finance Council were asked to report back on actions to give fresh momentum to the system. However in its Annual Report the West German Central Bank has virtually ruled out further development of the E.M.S.

Can the Commission state its opinion of the German Central Bank's view and what action it considers necessary to give fresh momentum to the E.M.S.?

41. Question by Mr BOYES (H-169/82)

Subject: Commission involvement in European Institute for Security Policy

It is understood that the general aim of the European Institute for Security Policy is the establishment of an EEC defence policy.

Would the Commission explain in what capacity Mr Narjes, Commissioner of the EEC, attended a meeting of the Institute which was set up in Luxembourg on 15 April; was Mr Narjes representing the Commission?

42. Question by Mr KAZAZIS (H-178/82)

Subject: Unsatisfactory allocation of Social Fund resources to Greece

It can be seen from the first financial statistics established for 1981 that Greece was allocated only 2.8% of the resources of the Social Fund's overall budget for that year.

Does the Community consider this to be a satisfactory state of affairs?

If not, what are the reasons for this state of affairs?

Does the Commission intend, in connection with the revision of the regulation governing the Social Fund's operation, to take special measures on behalf of Greece in order to remedy this situation?

43. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-179/82)

Subject: Coresponsibility levy on milk

Since the coresponsibility levy on milk was designed to deter excess production and finance measures to dispose of surpluses, and since its effectiveness in deterring production is very much in doubt and a significant proportion of the money saved has not been spent on measures to increase consumption, will the Commission propose legislation to suspend the collection of the levy until such time as unspent balances from previous periods have been exhausted?

Subject: Ineligibility of holders of British pensions for certain fringe benefits in Ireland

Is the Commission aware of the situation obtaining in Ireland, where certain categories of pensioners in receipt of British pensions are not eligible for the full range of fringe benefits available to other Irish pension holders, such as, inter alia, free television and radio licences, free telephone rental, free travel, free fuel and the living alone allowance; does it consider that Regulation 1408/71 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons and their families moving within the Community is relevant to the situation and will it call on the Irish Government to introduce the necessary measures to redress the situation?

45. Question by Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO (H-185/82)

Subject: South Korea

Mr Narjes, on returning from his recent visit to South Korea, stated that he had been impressed by that country's economic performance, and stressed the South Koreans' desire for closer relations with the EEC.

Does the Commission not agree that this economic success has been achieved largely thanks to political and social repression and, according to a recent ILO report, a legal working week longer than in any other country in the world (53.3 hours for women and 52.8 hours for men)?

46. Question by Mr CLUSKEY (H-189/82)

Subject : Community Poverty Programme

Will the Commission report on the situation concerning action to combat poverty in the Community following the recent meeting of the Social Affairs Council ?

47. Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-194/82)

Subject : Discrimination against imported cigarettes in Italy

The Commission announced in reply to an oral question by Mr Marshall in September 1981 that it was enquiring into the position regarding the sale of imported cigarettes in Italy. Nine months have now passed. Has the Commission published its findings and if so, what action, if any, does it propose to take ?

48. Question by Ms QUIN (H-196/82)

Subject: Procedure governing applications to the FEOGA (Guidance) Funds

Is the Commission aware that many applicants for assistance from the FEOGA (Guidance) Fund feel that the application forms they have to complete are unnecessarily complicated and long-winded? Has the Commission any plans to review and simplify FEOGA application forms and procedure?

49. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-197/82)

Subject: Tableware and ornamental ware imports from Korea and Taiwan

In a written answer to me (no. 416/81) (1) last August the Viscount Davignon said on behalf of the Commission "The Commission does not propose restricting entry of ceramic products from Korea into the Community".

In view of the substantial increase into the Community of tableware and ornamental ware imports from Korea over the last year has the Commission changed its view on such imports from Korea and also from Taiwan?

(1) O.J. no. C 240, 18.9.81, p. 10

50. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-206/82)

Subject: EEC-South Africa relations

Can the Commission confirm that it has established relations with officials responsible for the South African nuclear sector through the intermediary of the Director-General of the Euratom Supply Agency and can it inform us of the precise nature of its policy on the matter?

51. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-847/81)

Subject: Majority vote in Council

What types of decision by the Council can at present be made by qualified majority vote, and what steps does the Council plan to take to widen the range of such decisions?

52. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-82/82)

Subject: Invitation from the International Labour Organization to hold a pan-European meeting

At their latest meeting of 6 April 1982, the Ministers of Social Affairs and Employment declined an invitation from the International Labour Organization to take part in a pan-European meeting, the reason adduced being events in Turkey and Poland. Would the Council clearly explain this and any other reasons for its refusal?

53. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-92 /82)

Subject: Delays in decision-taking by the Council

How many proposals by the Commission, on which the Parliament had proposed amendments in giving its opinion, were awaiting a decision by the Council at the latest convenient date; and what new measures does the Council propose to take to eliminate this back-log, in the interests of the Community and its citizens?

54. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-116/82)

Subject: Benelux revival as an example for European unity

Now that certain newspapers are reporting a Benelux revival, does the Council consider that this development could serve as an example for greater European unity?

55. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-117/82)

Subject: Trade negotiations

With a view to resolving its numerous trade disputes with Japan and the United States in particular, could not the Community take the initiative of calling a high-level meeting on trade with its Japanese and American partners?

56. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-118/82)

Subject: Holding of a joint Council meeting on Social Affairs and Economic Affairs

Are there any immediate plans to hold a joint Council meeting in Social Affairs and Economic Affairs with special reference to employment problems?

57. Question by Mrs GAIOTTI DE BIASE (H-124/82)

Subject: Community aid to Poland

Is it true that the Primate of Poland, Archbishop Glemp, has asked that instead of delivering finished food products to Poland the Community authorities should supply quantities of maize and soya to be used in private poultry raising, and how does the Council react to what appears to be a reasonable and well-founded request that would enable part of the private poultry-raising industry to be saved and increased by a factor of five one nutritional value of Community aid?

58. Question by Mr BORD (H-140/82)

Subject: Effect of enlargement on relations between the Community and Israel

What measures does the Council envisage taking in order to solve any difficulties which Israel may encounter, especially in the agricultural field, as a result of the enlargement of the Community to include Spain and Portugal?

59. Question by Mr HAAGERUP (H-143/82)

Subject: The Portuguese constitution

Does the Council consider that Article 2 of the Portuguese constitution, which provides for the development of a Socialist society, should be deleted before Portugal joins the Community? Furthermore, does the Council consider the continued existence and present political role of the Council of the Revolution to be consonant with a democratic constitution?

60. Question by Mrs EWING (H-146/82)

Subject : Common Fisheries Policy

In view of the considerable economic disruption caused by the absence of a common fisheries policy and of the European Parliament's repeated demands for a rapid agreement on this burning issue, will the President-in-Office state why such little progress has been made since December 1981?

61. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-153/82/rev.)

Subject: Action by the EEC to prevent the adjustment of the cost-of-living index

At the European Parliament sitting of 10 March 1982, in reply to my question to the President of the Council as to whether the EEC intended to ask the Greek Government to keep within the margin of manoeuvre laid down by the Council or the Commission, the President stated that the Council would pronounce on the matter the following Monday.

Can the Council state - with regard to the obstruction and delays in the implementation of the automatic adjustment of the cost-of-living index in Greece - whether pressure of any kind was exerted or 'wishes' expressed during the meeting of 15 March 1982 and the discussion of Greek economic policy with a view to preventing the automatic adjustment of the cost-of-living index in Greece; and whether the statement in the Press communiqué that 'The Council endorses the main lines of the economic course to be pursued by the Hellenic Republic in its 1982 economic policy programme' also implies Council agreement on the subject of the adjustment of the cost-of-living index, when, as is well known, the governments of many EEC Member States (the United Kingdom, Belgium, etc.) are opposed to such measures ?

62. Question by Mr Christopher JACKSON (H-159/82)

Subject: Action on the Lange resolution of 15 November, 1979 (1)

At present virtually all Commission proposals involve direct financial advantage to some Member states and corresponding disadvantage to other Member states. For each Member state in the Council of Ministers the assessment of this balance of advantage usually outweighs the intrinsic merit of a proposal for the Community as a whole, and is a major factor in the current crisis in the Community.

In November 1979 in the Lange report, the European Parliament made proposals to break the pernicious link between Community policy and immediate financial cost or benefit to a Member state, and to promote economic convergence.

Does the Council believe that Commission proposals along the lines of the Lange resolution referred to above could be a helpful initiative, either in relation to the Mandate, or in the longer term?

Subject: The future of the E.M.S.

In the statement issued at the end of the European Council of 29/30 March 1982, it is noted that the E.M.S. has operated satisfactorily so far, and the Economic and Finance Council were asked to report back on actions to give fresh momentum to the system. However in its Annual report the West German Central Bank has virtually ruled out further development of the E.M.S.

Can the Council state its opinion of the German Central Bank's view and what action it envisages proposing to give fresh momentum to the E.M.S.?

4. Question by Mr BONDE (H-170/82)

Subject: Commission interference in Danish regional development aid

Will the Council dissociate itself from the Commission's attempt to restrict Danish regional development, and in particular prevent the South Jutland Region being given a lower investment rating than Schleswig Holstein?

5. Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-171/82)

Subject: Classification of expenditure

Will the Council confirm that a re-classification of compulsory expenditure as non-compulsory expenditure implies a transfer of responsibility from the Council, in which there is the right of veto, to the Parliament, where there is no right of veto, and that this transfer of responsibility detracts from the sovereignty of the Member States?

6. Question by Mr BØGH (H-172/82)

Subject: Right of veto

Will the Council confirm that each of the ten Member States has the right to impose a veto on decisions involving national vital interests, and that each of the ten countries decides for itself whether and when it considers a matter to be vital?

Subject: Frontier checks

Does the Council consider it to be in keeping with the letter, spirit and tenor of all the Benelux treaties, the completion of the customs union in 1978, etc. that - as happened in my own case on 17 May 1982 - the luggage of individuals travelling by car is still inspected at frontier posts between the Netherlands and Belgium, travellers being asked by the Belgian customs officials whether 'they have anything else to declare' (sic)?

68. Question by Mr MEGAHY (H-184/82)

Subject: Uniform electoral procedure

What action does the Council propose to take following the proposals of the European Parliament for a uniform electoral procedure to apply for the 1984 elections ?

69. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-187/82)

Subject: Voting in the Council of Ministers

Following the procedures adopted for approving the farm prices on 18 May 1982, what is the current convention regarding voting in the Council of Ministers, and has the Council now returned to the provisions of the Treaty of Rome and discarded completely the so-called Luxembourg Compromise of 1966?

70. Question by Mr CLUSKEY (H-190/82)

Subject : Community Poverty Programme

Will the Council report on the situation concerning action to combat poverty in the Community following the recent meeting of the Social Affairs Council ?

71. Question by Mr HORGAN (H-191/82)

Subject : Outcome of Council of Education Ministers

Will the Council outline the main decisions taken, and the priority areas dealt with at the recent meeting of Education Ministers ?

72. Question by Mr EISMA (H-192/82)

Subject: Action programme on the position of women

In what way were the amended action programme on the position of women and the associated resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 12 May 1982 and taken over by the Commission of the European Communities incorporated into the proposal discussed by the Social Affairs Council on 27 May 1982; did the Council adopt the proposal in its entirety and if not, what parts were amended?

73. Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-193/82)

Subject : Community knowledge of cricket

Would the Council propose that the knowledge of cricket be spread throughout the Community ?

74. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-198/82)

Subject: Connection between agricultural prices and the Community budget

Does the Council agree that there is a strong link between agricultural prices, the Community budget and the net contribution of Member States?

75. Question by Mrs LE ROUX (H-200/82)

Subject: Social aspects of the common fisheries policy

Does the council intend to put consideration of the harmonization of social schemes for fishermen on its agenda?

76 Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-205/82)

Subject: EEC sanctions against Argentina

Can the Council explain what reasons prompted its President-in-Office to state at the meeting of the Parliament's Committee on External Economic Relations on 18 and 19 May last, that, although EEC sanctions were important as a token of political solidarity, he doubted their effectiveness, except in the long term?

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

77. Question by Mr PESMAZOGLU (H-102/82)

Subject: Continued Turkish occupation of Cypriot territories

Despite the UN resolutions, Turkey continues to occupy Cypriot territories. The tragic consequences of the 1974 invasion for the people of Cyprus are widely known. Recently an invasion in another part of the world rightly provoked a strong reaction from the European Community which accordingly took measures against the country responsible. Do not the Foreign Affairs Ministers consider that for reasons of principle, consistency and credibility a similar stance should be adopted towards Cyprus?

78. Question by Mr KYRKOS (H-12/82)

Subject: International conference on the Cyprus question

How do the Foreign Ministers of the Ten Member States meeting in political cooperation view the proposal to hold an international conference on the Cyprus question?

Do the Foreign Ministers intend to encourage an initiative of this kind designed to overcome the present deadlock and lead to the implementation of the UN decisions?

79. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-91 /82)

Subject: Chemical warfare

Have the Foreign Ministers seen and discussed the appalling evidence contained in the March 22 1982 Report to Congress of the American Secretary of State on the use of chemical warfare by the Soviet Union and its agent states in Southeast Asia and Afghanistan?

80. Question by Mr BALFE (H-99/82)

Subject: Plastic bullets used as a method of riot control

In which countries of the EEC are plastic bullets used as a method of riot control, and would the Member States have any objections if the Belgian Government used plastic bullets against demonstrators from the other EEC countries who were demonstrating against the Commission or the Parliament?

81. Question by Mr RIEGER (H-123/82)

Subject: CSCE Follow-up Conference in Madrid

Do the Foreign Affairs Ministers take the view that East-West economic cooperation is an important factor in complementing the CSCE Final Act, and if so what action is the European Community taking in this connection to create better conditions for the successful continuation of the CSCE Follow-up Conference in Madrid that has now been adjourned until November 1982?

82. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-188/82)

Subject: Situation in El Salvador

What steps have been taken by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to implement the resolution on the situation in El Salvador adopted by the European Parliament on 11 March 1982, and more specifically have they already contacted their Mexican counterpart with a view to the Member States making a positive contribution to the success of Mexico's offer to act as mediator?

83. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-154/82/rev.)

Subject: The Council's position on the Falklands crisis

The deteriorating situation in the Falklands constitutes a direct threat to peace in the South Atlantic as indeed to world peace. The Council's support for the Thatcher Government is helping to polarize the situation and to undermine the work of the UN.

In view of the major threat which the Falklands crisis poses to world peace, can the Foreign Ministers state whether the governments of the Member States conscious of their duty to preserve international peace - are willing to withdraw their support for an aggravation of the crisis and energetically to assist the Secretary-General of the UN in implementing recent UN resolutions on the Falklands together with previous UN resolutions on the decolonization of the region?

84. Question by Sir Fred WARNER (H-162/82)

Subject: LAOS

What steps do the Ministers propose to take to insure the withdrawal from Laos of Vietnamese troops which are in occupation of the country in defiance of international agreements and to restore the independence of the country?

85. Question by Mrs BOOT (H-163/82)

Subject: Restrictions on Soviet Jewry

In view of the Parliament's resolution passed on the 13 May on Soviet Jewry what representations have the Foreign Ministers made to the Government of the Soviet Union on this subject?

86. Question by Mrs EWING (H-177/82)

Subject: Soviet Jewry

Will the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation state what action they propose to take and have already taken on the resolution¹ adopted by the European Parliament at its last part-session on the continuing problems of Soviet Jewry?

¹ Doc. 1-23/82

87. Question by Mr Lord BETHELL (H-182/82)

Subject: Visas in order to enter the United States

Have the ten governments considered the fact that, while all their citizens require visas in order to enter the United States, American citizens can enter Member States without visas? Are they aware that for several months a bill which would put right this injustice has been pending before the United States Congress? What discussions have they had about this matter and what representations have they made to the United States government?

88. Question by Mr MOORHOUSE (H-195/82)

Subject : Execution of Baha'is in Iran

In a previous answer to a question about the execution of Baha'is in Iran, the President-in Council undertook to make representations to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights in a further endeavour to put a stop to the persecution and systematic elimination of the Baha'i religious minority. What were the results of these representations and what further action is being taken ?

Question by Mr GAWRONSKI (H-204/82)

Subject: Security arrangements for dissidents from eastern bloc countries
residing in the Community

Is the Conference of Foreign Ministers aware of the disappearance in Paris of the writer Virgil TANASE and the assumption that the secret services of the eastern bloc countries are responsible; if so, what action does it intend to take to strengthen security arrangements for dissidents from eastern bloc countries residing in the Community and to shed light on the disappearance of the Romanian writer?

