

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

6 July 1981

DOCUMENT 1-334/81

Oral Questions

Pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME
on 6 and 8 July 1981

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-135/81)

Subject: Forestry policy

In the paper "Reflections on the Common Agricultural Policy", the Commission says: "Efforts to improve the structural aspects of the Common Agricultural Policy should be accompanied by initiatives in the forestry sector".

What initiatives does the Commission propose to take?

2. Question by Mr FELLERMAIER (H-137/81)

Subject: Turkey - Statement by General Evren

Does the Commission agree that following the statement by General Evren the time has come to suspend the EEC-Turkey Association agreement?

3. Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-154/81)

Subject: Parliament's Rules of Procedure

What action does the Commission intend to take in view of the fact that the European Parliament, by changing its Rules of Procedure, is now seeking to assume a greater degree of authority at the expense of the other institutions and in conflict with the Treaty of Rome, which merely provides for Parliament to be consulted and to deliver an opinion?

According to Rules 32, 35 and 36 of the new Rules of Procedure, Parliament will now vote directly on the Commission's proposals and put forward amendments to these, thereby acting in the same way as a national parliament deciding on proposals from the government. At the same time, Parliament is taking upon itself the right to delay matters if the Commission does not adopt the amendments which Parliament proposes. Such action clearly exceeds the terms of the Treaty of Rome, which merely provides for Parliament to be consulted and to deliver an opinion; thereafter, it is entirely up to the Commission and the Council to decide whether or not to take account of Parliament's views.

4. Question by Mr DAVERN (H-181/81)

Subject: Imports of manioc

On 4 July 1980 the Commission stated in reply to my question no. 1891/79¹ on Community agricultural surplus "that some substitute products, particularly manioc, offered disquieting competition to Community cereals, especially fodder, wheat and barley". Furthermore, the Commission stated that it had started negotiations with Thailand, the World's principle exporter, for the adoption of a ceiling on exports, and that it had been asked by the Council to negotiate with other manioc exporters. Can the Commission state what results have since been achieved?

5. Question by Mr FLANAGAN (H-182/81)

Subject: Problem of workers registered as unemployed

Can the Commission state whether or not it has any solution to the problem of people who are officially registered as unemployed but who work either part-time or full-time thereby abusing both the taxation system and the social welfare system?

6. Question by Mr WELSH (H-185/81)

Subject: Subsidised Gas Prices to Dutch Growers

Further to its written answers to my oral questions (H-766/80)² and (H-84/81)³, would the Commission make a statement on its intentions as regards the exercise of its powers under Article 93(2) of the Treaty of Rome to end the subsidisation of gas prices to Dutch growers which continues to cause severe distortions in the market for horticultural products (see answer to question (H-411/80)⁴).

1 OJ no. C206, 11.8.80, p.4

2 Debates no. 268

3 Report of proceedings, 6.5.81 (provisional edition)

4 Debates no. 261

7. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-186/81)

Subject : Voluntary agreement with the steel producers

Will the Commission indicate the latest position in their attempt to reach a voluntary agreement with the steel producers and whether they expect such a voluntary agreement to be in effect by 1st July 1981 when their crisis measures under Article 58 of the ECSC treaty lapse ?

8. Question by Ms CLWYD (H-201/81)

Subject: Action taken on the Parliament's report on the disabled

Will the Commission give a progress report on what action it proposes to take and is taking, on the report on the disabled which was adopted by Parliament in March?

9. Question by Mr BLANEY (H-204/81)

Subject: The situation in the north of Ireland

In view of the Parliament's amended resolution of May 7 on the situation in the north of Ireland, and Mr Haferkamp's confirmation of the Commission's readiness to offer any assistance that may ease the tensions in that area of Ireland, what steps has the Commission taken with a view to helping to solve either the short-term or long-term problems involved?

10. Question by Mr VIE (H-214/81)

Subject: Mutual recognition of qualifications

Is it true that, despite the existing directives, there is no mutual recognition or assimilation of hairdressing diplomas between the Member States of the Community? Is a Member State entitled to refuse permission for a French national holding a Belgian hairdressing diploma to open a hairdressing salon in France?

11. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-235/81)

Subject: Egyptian participation in the Euro-Arab dialogue

The ministerial Euro-Arab conference initially scheduled for July 1981 has been postponed until November 1981. Does the Commission intend to use this extra time to submit to the Council, in accordance with the wish expressed by the European Parliament in its resolution (Doc. 1-882/80) of 13 February 1981¹, specific proposals that will enable Egypt to participate in the Euro-Arab dialogue?

12. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-237/81)

Subject: Commission Portfolios

When does the Commission intend to review the division of portfolios between Commissioners including alterations in the holding of major portfolios?

13. Question by Mr BERKHOUWER (H-239/81)

Subject: Financing the Channel tunnel

What is the Commission's view of the proposal to finance, with the aid of Arab capital, a combined bridge-tunnel across the Channel with concessionary arrangements for a period of 40 years?

14. Question by Mr KIRK (H-21/81)

Subject: Work on harmonization of rules on the design
and road use of caravans

In consequence of the increasing traffic and trade in caravans between the Member States, the need for uniform rules governing for example their width, maximum speeds, registration, connections to gas cylinders and electricity has become increasingly apparent. What is being done to bring about harmonization in this field?

1 OJ no. C50, 9.3.81, p.98

15. Question by Mr HORD (H-133/81) (x)

Subject: C.A.P. frauds

It is reported that in Southern Italy, arrests and charges have been made regarding claims for subsidies for tomatoes that were never grown.

It is further understood that a substantial number of frauds have occurred at the border between Eire and Northern Ireland on livestock transactions.

1. What action is the Commission taking in regard to such frauds under C.A.P.?
2. What was the total amount lost to the Community where fraud cases have been detected?
3. Is the Commission planning to make the Governments of the Member States involved responsible for the loss of revenue to the Community Budget?

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-7/81) transformed into a question for question time

16. Question by Mr CALVEZ (H-80/81)

Subject : Introduction of compensatory duties on steel imported into the Federal Republic of Germany

Does not the Commission think that the introduction of compensatory duties on steel imported into the Federal Republic of Germany, as called for by West German steelmakers, would run counter to the fundamental principles of the common market in steel, which, under the terms of Article 4 of the Treaty, prohibits import duties, or equivalent measures, in trade between countries in the ECSC?

Does not the Commission think, furthermore, that such a measure would cause difficulties for the ECSC, as it would trigger off a chain reaction of similar demands from the other European countries?

17. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-129/81)

Subject: Location of industry

Can the Commission say whether it is true that the major Hong Kong textile group Yantseklang Garment Manufacturing (YGM) is planning to locate a denim production unit in Washington New Town in the United Kingdom; can it specify what this new undertaking will produce, whether its main market will be inside or outside the Community and how many jobs this will create?

18. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-140/81)

Subject : Threats to butter supplies for European biscuit manufacturers

With reference to Article 39(d) of the Treaty of Rome assuring the availability of agricultural supplies, is the Commission aware of the difficulty European biscuit manufacturers, especially those in France, are having in finding butter at a reduced price because of the EEC's sales to third countries and, if so are any measures contemplated for quickly replenishing stocks?

19. Question by Mr KAPPOS (H-142/81)

Subject: Information on the views of Greek officials

With reference to Document No. 3845 of 2 August 1977, can some explanation be given concerning the statements made by Commission authorities that information on the views of Greek officials of the EEC is not being sought?

20. Question by Mrs SCRIVENER (H-147/81)

Subject: Approximation of laws on the labelling of foodstuffs

The 1978 Community directive on the approximation of the laws of Member States on the labelling of foodstuffs represents a first step towards the improvement of consumer protection in the EEC.

Does the Commission intend to update the list of products figuring in the 1978 directive?

21. Question by Mrs EWING (H-170/81)

Subject: The status of internal ferry services

In view of the fundamental importance of internal ferry services to the peripheral regions of the Community (the Greek and Scottish islands in particular), and bearing in mind that these areas are under a constant threat of depopulation due to the excessive additional cost of all goods and services, does the Commission not agree that internal ferry services should be eligible for subsidies under the transport provisions (Title IV) of the Treaty?

22. Question by Mr VON WOGAU (H-183/81) +

Subject: Rules of origin

In its resolution of 12 April 1978¹, the European Parliament called on the Commission to draw up proposals for standardizing and simplifying the rules governing the origin of goods. In the report² underlying Parliament's resolution, the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs stressed the acute need for the rules of origin to be simplified and outlined a number of principles which could be applied.

1. Does the Commission feel that the additional cost to the economy of complying with the rules of origin, which are particularly complicated, is commensurate with the savings in duty thus achieved?
2. What wishes have been expressed by EFTA regarding simplification of the rules?
3. How does the Commission rate its chances of obtaining Council approval for a simplification of the system?
4. When does the Commission intend to submit concrete proposals?

23. Question by Mr BOYES (H-190/81)

Subject: Illiteracy

Does the Commission intend to formulate proposals to the Member States concerning a plan of action against illiteracy ("10-year plan") and could the Commission specify the role played by the European Social Fund in this area?

+ Will not be called if item 167 is kept on the agenda

¹ OJ No. C 108 of 8 May 1978

² Doc. 557/77, particularly paragraph 4.8.7 of the explanatory statement

24. Question by Mr CURRY (H-223/81)

Subject: State aids to agriculture

Why does DG VI consider it necessary to have its own department considering violation of competition rules through state aids to agriculture; how many staff does this part of DG VI have and does the Commission consider it adequate and what is the average time between the beginning of an investigation and the Commission exhausting the legal possibilities open to it?

25. Question by Mr BATTERSBY (H-229/81)

Subject: The Community's relations with the People's Republic of China

Can the Commission advise the European Parliament the results achieved during the EEC-China Business Week held in Brussels, in which over 300 Community firms and organisations participated, and of the action the Commission now intends to take to follow up the success of what was, from all reports, a highly significant event both for the Community and for the People's Republic of China?

26. Question by Mr FRÜH (H-241/81)

Subject: Community food aid for Poland

Does the Commission share the view of the chairman of the Committee on Agriculture of the German Bundestag, Dr Schmidt (Gellersen), that bureaucratic obstacles raised by the Community authorities are to blame for the delays in providing Community food aid for Poland, and, if not, what are the real reasons?

27. Question by Mr SCHWENKE (H-243/81)

Subject: Diplomatic relations between Greece and Israel

What steps has the Commission taken, and with what results, to persuade Greece, now that it is a member of the Community, finally to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel?

28. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-244/81)

Subject: Fixed book prices

Is the Commission prepared to conduct an enquiry into the trend towards concentration and into the competitive situation in the book industry and to draw up the necessary proposals concerning book prices (these to cover the general application of recommended prices, the matter of unrestricted sales by the large distribution centres, transparency and fairness of stock-purchasing conditions applicable to the book trade and the system of subsidies) in order to ensure that, where books are concerned, the Community pursues a policy consonant with the special role of this instrument of education and culture?

29. Question by Ms QUIN (H-246/81)

Subject: EEC apple market

What progress has the Commission made in reviewing the grading system for apples along the lines favoured by the European Parliament in its resolution of Friday 13 March 1981?

30. Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-252/81)

Subject: The international implications of the U.S. Unitary Tax System

What representations has the Commission made to the U.S. Government about the implications of the U.S. system of unitary taxation for international companies?

31. Question by Mr VERGEER (H-253/81)

Subject: Resources earmarked in 1981 and 1982 to aid
Namibian refugees

Following the visit by the United Nations Commissioner for Namibia to the EEC in February, can the Commission indicate the amount of the financial resources mobilized this year and earmarked for 1982 to aid Namibian refugees in the various frontline states and to provide support for the training of qualified young Namibians in exile?

32. Question by Mr DAMSEaux (H-259/81)

Subject: Trade between the EEC and Japan

Given the seriousness of the economic situation in the Community, the almost 50% increase in the Community's trade deficit with Japan in the first four months of 1981 (3,600 million dollars) and the effect on the employment market of the USA/Japan agreement on car imports, how does the Commission view the prospects for self-restraint by Japan as regards its car exports to the EEC over the next two years?

33. Question by Mr GONDICAS (H-260/81)

Subject: Articles on Turkey in EUROFORUM

An article entitled "Turkey begins to shape up on the horizon" was published in volume 4/80 (29.2.1980) of EUROFORM. The following is a quotation from that article:

'Another uncertainty revolves around the impact of Turkey's involvement in the complicated political rivalries in the Eastern Mediterranean. These have surfaced in repeated clashes between Turkey and Greece, which is scheduled to enter the Community next year. These two neighbours have had running disputes over the island of Cyprus, their rights in the Aegean and over other islands in the Mediterranean'.

EUROFORUM refused to rectify the inaccuracies in the article and to publish a reply from a Greek citizen.

How does the Commission justify the fact that, while the EEC condemns the political situation in Turkey and has decided to take a series of measures, the official organ of the Commission praises the Turkish regime, and can the Commission state what measures it intends to take to ensure that these wilful inaccuracies are refuted?

34. Question by Mr BANGEMANN (H-262/81)

Subject: Conversion aids for the fishing sector in Spain

The limits placed on the number of licenses granted to Spanish vessels to fish in the territorial waters of the Community has seriously upset the economy of certain Spanish regions where major infrastructures which had already been set up have been made redundant as a result of the restrictions. Does the Commission intend to provide special aid for these regions in the context of the regional development policy which the Community has devised in order to encourage the economic convergence of applicant countries? Does it, in particular, plan to employ the instruments designed to this effect by the European Investment Bank?

35. Question by Mr DELATTE (H-263/81)

Subject: Position adopted by the German Government on
the common agricultural policy

In a letter to the Commission of the European Communities, the German Government has made what amounts to a call for the common agricultural policy to be dismantled, a call echoed widely in the press. Does the Commission not intend to react officially to this letter so that the European Parliament can learn its views on the almost total abolition of premiums and price guarantees and on the lowest production costs being taken into account for the purpose of fixing agricultural prices without reference to the different inflation rates?

36. Question by Mr IRMER (H-265/81)

Subject: Deposit on imports into Italy

Can the Commission confirm that the recent measures decided by the Italian Government to reduce the balance of payments deficit and to support the Lira do not impede the proper functioning of the EEC and that indeed their application was in conformity with Community procedures? Is the Commission studying financial measures to help Italy to deal with this deficit?

37. Question by Mr COUTSOCHERAS (H-267/81)

Subject: Barring of Greek high-school leavers from French universities

The NUMERUS CLAUSUS system operates in Greek universities, mainly because there are not enough university establishments to meet requirements and because university facilities in general are inadequate. These limitations oblige a number of high-school leavers to go to foreign universities to continue their studies. This is to the benefit of science, to the advantage of the country in which they are educated and to the advantage of the country in which they were born, while it also serves to improve relations between these countries.

However, during Mr GISCARD D'ESTAING's presidency a ministerial decree was issued to the effect that, as from the academic year 1981-1982 Greek students would not be admitted to French universities unless they were already students at Greek universities or high-school leavers who were fortunate enough to be among the restricted number of those accepted by Greek universities. In other words a worthless offer, since when a student secures a place in a university in his own country there is no point in his seeking to continue his studies abroad.

Is the Commission aware of the harmful effects that these anti-educational measures will have and what does it intend doing about them?

38. Question by Mr CECOVINI (H-268/81)

Subject: Indexation of salaries

Does not the Commission believe that one of the prerequisites for achieving the convergence of the economies of the ten member countries is parallelism in the national salary indexing systems and does it not feel that it would be appropriate to recommend a slowing down in the rate of increase of the index in Belgium and Italy, in particular by excluding from the index the effects of oil price increases?

39. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-272/81)

Subject: Establishment of a permanent economic dialogue
between Europe and the United States

Does the Commission not feel that it should propose a permanent economic dialogue between the United States and Europe in view of the recent sharp rise in interest rates?

40. Question by Mrs FOURCADE (H-273/81)

Subject: More stringent quality controls for fruit and vegetables

Does the Commission agree that an improvement in the quality of fresh fruit and vegetables would enable Community producers to obtain better prices on the market and that it should therefore step up its action in this field and introduce stricter quality controls?

41. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-274/81)

Subject: Joint action on interest rates

Does the Commission intend to propose joint action at European level to force the United States to stop the international spiral of interest rates?

42. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-275/81)

Subject: Rules governing flags of convenience

Does the Commission not feel that more effective rules should be adopted at international level for the registration of ships, notably those flying flags of convenience, in order to improve the safety of maritime shipping and avoid the threat of pollution?

43. Question by Mrs LE ROUX (H-277/81)

Subject: American attitude to the introduction of a
Community import duty on certain oils and fats

Can the Commission confirm whether the American Secretary of State for Agriculture, Mr BLOCK, opposed the introduction of a Community import duty on certain oils and fats during his visit to Brussels in May 1981? Has the Commission decided to resist this pressure and introduce this duty without delay?

44. Question by Mrs POIRIER (H-279/81)

Subject: Promotion of agricultural exports from the Community in connection with the worsening of the EEC's trade deficit with Japan

What measures does the Commission propose to take to counteract the worsening of the EEC's trade deficit with Japan, in particular by promoting agricultural exports to that country from the Community?

45. Question by Mr FERNANDEZ (H-280/81)

Subject: Traditional markets of the Community in the Mediterranean countries during the United States embargo against the Soviet Union

Can the Commission confirm whether the United States has taken over some of the Community's traditional markets in the Mediterranean countries during the embargo? If this is the case, what action does the Commission plan to take in response?

46. Question by Mr PAISLEY (H-283/81)

Subject : Integrated operation proposals for Belfast

Will the Commission report what progress has been made in processing the "integrated operation" proposals for Belfast and what is the Commission's view of the UK Government's proposals?

Question by Mr VERONESI (H-286/81)

Subject: Belgain-Algerian gas supplies agreement

What is the Commission's view of the agreement drawn up between the Belgian and Algerian governments on the supply of 5,000 million cubic metres of gas for 20 years as from October 1982? For the agreement contains a clause indexing the price of gas to that of a 'basket' of crude oils (which means a price of about 7 dollars per million BTU for the first three years: 4.80 dollars FOB + one dollar for CIF and gasification + one dollar to cover distribution and the effect of the oil price increase in the first quarter of 1981). Does not the price of 7 dollars, which is much higher than the price of various kinds of gas in Europe, imported or not, frustrate the common policy followed so far by Western buyers, and is it not, moreover, in clear contravention of the agreement reached by the Energy Ministers of the Ten last March in virtue of which indexation of the price of natural gas to oil prices was rejected?

48. Question by Mr PETERSEN (H-287/81)

Subject: Survey of measures taken in the Community for the recycling of materials

The principle of recycling represents a sound means of escaping from our present crisis, since practical recycling measures have the simultaneous effect of creating employment, improving the balance of payments and conserving finite resources, nor can they be criticized on environmental grounds.

Apart from the re-use of surplus heat from electricity production (as practised in over half the power stations in Denmark), the melting down of scrap iron, etc. (as at the steel rolling mill at Preseriksværk in Denmark), the system of returnable bottles and the recycling of paper, there has nevertheless been only very modest interest and investment in recycling both in Denmark and the other Member States.

In Denmark, however, the Minister for the Environment has announced the setting up of local recycling schemes - for household and industrial waste in particular - as an experiment beginning in two districts next autumn.

Since fundamental political importance must be attributed to all practical recycling schemes - seeing that they provide an opportunity for initiating an economic process and developments in society different in nature from the trend in the less austere atmosphere of the 1960's - it is clearly of political interest for a survey of recycling activity in the Community to be made available.

Is the Commission therefore prepared to draw up such a survey, to use this as the basis for proposals for new recycling schemes with Community support, and in general terms to consider recycling as an element of economic policy in the Community?

49. Question by Mrs SCHLEICHER (H-288/81)

Subject : Activities of existing and proposed organ banks in
the Member States

How many organ banks or distribution centres for donated organs exist in the Member States, and where are they located? Does the Commission have a general idea of which organs or tissues are distributed by or stored in these banks, the scale of this activity and the degree of wastage involved?

50. Question by Mr TYRRELL (H-289/81)

Subject : Redundancy payments for steel workers

Under the Community system of readaptation payments in the Steel Industry (Article 56 ECSC Treaty), will the Commission state which Member State it considers responsible for the employees of a multinational steel company with its head office in a Member State other than that in which the employee is made redundant?

51. Question by Mr TURNER (H-290/81)

Subject : Technical barrier to trade

Is the Commission aware that the German Authorities propose to introduce a regulation limiting the transmutation of Nitrosamines and Nitro satable substances from certain articles, notably feeder teats and soothers made from plastics materials with effect from 1st November 1981, although the proposal was only made on 3rd December 1980, and is still subject to further modification before approval by the Bundestag, thus giving industry very little time to adjust production to take account of the requirements and that such a regulation, being unique to one Member State will create another technical barrier to trade in the Community: What steps does the Commission intend taking so that this further technical barrier to trade is not created?

52. Question by Mr BETTIZA (H-292/81)

Subject: Transmission of programmes via satellite

Is the Commission aware of the Swiss project to place a series of geostationary satellites in orbit for the transmission of programmes in German, French and Italian and does it not feel that it would be appropriate to encourage a similar project for the ten Member States which would make a substantial contribution to reinforcing the Community image both inside and outside the Community?

53. Question by Lord DOURO (H-294/81)

Subject : V.A.T. on bloodstock

On 13 October 1980, the President of the Commission informed me in Parliament that the Commission were pressing the Irish authorities to review the arrangements for V.A.T. on training services in the Republic. Will the Commission now state what is the current position both with the Irish authorities and the french authorities over the reduced rates of V.A.T. charged on bloodstock and training services in both countries?

54. Question by Mrs BOOT (H-296/81)

Subject: ERDF reform

Could the Commission explain why the presentation of a draft regulation on the reform of the European Regional Development Fund has been delayed? In view of the fact that the new regulation is supposed to enter into force on 1 January 1982, Parliament must again ask when this draft will finally be forthcoming?

55. Question by Mr WOLTJER (H-298/81)

Subject: World market price of sugar

Having regard to the recent serious criticism expressed by the executive council of the International Sugar Organization, can the Commission indicate the present position of the negotiations regarding the promised accession of the EEC to the ISO, and can it also state to what extent it is able to respond to the above-mentioned criticism and help to ensure that the world market price of sugar is restored to a reasonable level?

56. Question by Mr GRIFFITHS (H-299/81)

Subject : Migration Policy

What standing, if any, does the paper "Consultation on Migration Policies vis-à-vis Third Countries" published in 1978, now have with the Commission?

57. Question by Mr FELLERMAIER (H-138/81)

Subject: Turkey - Statement by General Evren

Does the Council consider the recent statement by General Evran that no former Member of the Turkish Grand National Assembly may stand in future as a candidate for the Constitutional Assembly or Parliament to be compatible with a democratic system and how should the European Communities react to this?

58. Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H 155/81)

Subject: Parliament's Rules of Procedure

Does the Council consider that the European Parliament is within its rights in assuming a greater degree of influence and authority without any legal basis other than a change in its own Rules of Procedure?

In Rules 32, 35, 36, 37 and 39 of its new Rules of Procedure, the European Parliament goes beyond its right to be consulted and to deliver an opinion on future Community legislation by claiming the right to enter into negotiations with the Council and Commission and exerting pressure on the Commission to comply with Parliament's instructions by threatening to delay considerations of its proposals.

59. Question by Mr PETERSEN (H-166/81)

Subject: Proposed renewable energy objectives for 1990

The Community has a clear-cut objective when it comes to oil dependence - to reduce it to 40% by 1990. It has also set itself the objective of generating 70 to 75% of its electricity from coal or nuclear energy by 1990.

In the case of renewable energy, however, no such concrete - and therefore binding - objective exists, merely emphasis of 'the need to prepare for the future beyond 1990 by actively developing renewable energy sources'¹.

Will the Council of Energy Ministers as soon as possible set a specific objective that reflects the political resolve to develop these new forms of energy properly through adequate investments? They not only create jobs and lead to foreign exchange savings, they are also environmentally 'sound'. I suggest that renewable energy should cover 5% of the Community's total energy requirements by 1990 and 15% by the year 2000.

60. Question by Mr FERGUSSON (H-172/81)

Subject: Troika meetings

Which Troika meetings, if any, have taken place to prepare for the change of Presidency of the Council?

61. Question by Miss DE VALERA (H-180/81)

Subject: Unemployment

Have the Finance Ministers and the Social Affairs Ministers any plans to hold a joint meeting to discuss the critical unemployment situation in the Community?

¹ 692nd meeting of the Council - Energy - 3 March 1981

62. Question by Mr FLANAGAN (H-187/81)

Subject: Delay in implementing EMS Monetary Fund

Will the Council explain why the Heads of Government recently recommended the deferment of the implementation of the Second Stage of the European Monetary System?

63. Question by Mr LALOR (H-188/81)

Subject: Proposed Soviet Gas Pipeline to the West

According to recent press reports, the Soviet Union, with aid from the West, proposes to construct a \$15 billion gas pipeline to Western Europe. It is stated that the deal represents the largest commercial transaction negotiated between the East and the West.

Have all the EEC Member States been consulted on this move and what are the commercial implications for the EEC Member States of this pipeline?

64. Question by Mrs Van den HEUVEL (H-191/81)

Subject: Proposal for a meeting between the ten Ministers and the political group chairmen of the European Parliament

Can the President-in-Office state how the foreign ministers reacted to the proposal he submitted at the informal meeting in Venlo for a meeting between the ten ministers and the political group chairmen of the European Parliament, with the aim of improving relations between the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament? When is any such meeting likely to be able to take place?

65. Question by Ms CLWYD (H-202/81)

Subject: Action taken on the Parliament's report on the disabled

Will the Council give a progress report on what action it proposes to take and is taking, on the report on the disabled which was adopted by Parliament in March?

66. Question by Mr BLANEY (H-203/81)

Subject: The situation in the north of Ireland

In view of the amended resolution on the situation in Northern Ireland adopted by the Parliament on May 7, and forwarded to the Council, will the Council indeed, as requested, express its "readiness to offer any assistance that may ease the tensions" in that area of Ireland, and if so, what initiative does the Council envisage?

67. Question by Mr VAN MINNEN (H-219/81)

Subject: Statement by Mr Van der Klaauw

Mr Van der Klaauw is reported in the Dutch press to have said at the end of the informal meeting in Venlo on 9/10 May 1981 that he found it difficult to deal with a European Parliament which he felt was made up of individual Members rather than of political groups.

Can the Council perhaps give a more exact idea of its particular difficulties?

68. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-23/81) ⁺

Subject: Members of Parliament at Council meetings

Will the Council now agree, pursuant to Article 3(1) of its Rules of Procedure¹, to admit members of the European Parliament to discussions on those items on its agenda relating to legislative proposals by the Commission and on which Parliament has given its opinion, so that members can themselves judge the extent to which Council is influenced by opinions of Parliament?

+ Will not be called if item 143 is kept on the agenda

¹ OJ no. L 268, 25.10.1979, p. 1

69. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-100/81)

Subject : Consequences of the Council's delay in adopting
the 'fisheries package'.

Since the Council's delay in adopting the new market organization for fishery products and the new quotas is having a disastrous effect on fishermen's incomes, does the Council intend to give them compensation so as to maintain their standard of living and their purchasing power ?

70. Question by Mrs EWING (H-152/81)

Subject : Fishery Negotiations with third countries

Will the Council state what negotiations it is proposing to make with third countries on fishery agreements?

71. Question by Mr PENDERS (H-193/81)

Subject: Protection of private Community investments in
developing countries

Is the Council prepared to consider further measures to promote and protect private Community investments in developing countries insofar as such investments are acceptable in terms of the plans of the country concerned?

72. Question by Mr HABSBURG (H-195/81)

Subject: Common fisheries policy

Would the Council now say what progress is expected towards the early establishment of a common fisheries policy, and what the issues are which stand in the way of an agreement?

73. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-200/81)

Subject: Negotiations on the accession of the United Kingdom
to the European Monetary System

In view of the fact that certain British institutes are predicting that the United Kingdom will join the European Monetary System towards the end of 1981, is the Council planning to hold negotiations to speed up accession?

74. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-226/81)

Subject: Ambassadorial coordination of the Ten on sectoral matters

To what extent do the ambassadors of the Ten cooperate closely in coordinating their démarches to Governments of third countries, on matters affecting the Community as a whole?

75. Question by Mr KAPPOS (H-232/81)

Subject: Abolition of the system for the collection of
sultanas and figs by cooperatives

There are reports that sultanas and figs are to be included under Regulation (EEC) No. 516/77 and that the existing system for the collection of these products is to be abolished.

Is the Council aware that the cooperatives are insisting on remaining as agents for the collection of these products and are asking for financial assistance to ensure that the system of collection operates smoothly, and will it respect the wish of the cooperatives to retain the system of collection so that the producers are not exploited by exporters at whose hands they have suffered in the past?

76. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-238/81)

Subject: Results of the 'Jumbo-Council'

Is the Council entirely satisfied with the results of the 'Jumbo-Council' of economic, social and financial affairs ministers held on 11 June and can it state what further action will be taken on the agreements reached on that occasion?

77. Question by Mr SCHWENKE (H-242/81)

Subject: Diplomatic relations between Greece and Israel

What steps has the Council taken, and with what results, to persuade Greece, now that it is a member of the Community, finally to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel?

78. Question by Mr MICHEL (H-245/81)

Subject: Humanitarian and food aid from the Community to Vietnam

In its efforts to provide emergency aid and food aid for the victims of disasters and to alleviate the permanent food shortage of many developing countries, the sole concern of the European Community has always been to meet the needs of those in distress.

Can the Council state the political reasons which, in contrast to its traditional open attitude, underlay its refusal to grant any humanitarian or food aid from the Community to Vietnam, even though Vietnam, which, last year, was devastated by a series of typhoons that destroyed a large part of the country's crops, is faced with a very serious food shortage?

79. Question by Lord DOURO (H-248/81)

Subject: The accession of Portugal and Spain to the European Community

What progress does the Council hope to achieve in the next six months in the negotiations on the accession of Portugal and Spain to the Community?

80. Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-250/81)

Subject: The impact of enlargement upon Israel

Can the Council indicate how often it has discussed the impact of the enlargement of the Community upon Israel and can it guarantee that enlargement will not proceed further until Israel's interests are safeguarded?

81. Question by Mr VERGEER (H-254/81)

Subject: Growing dependence of certain ACP States on
South Africa for food

In its relations with ACP leaders in connection with the implementation of the Conventions of Lomé, the Council learns of and supports all schemes for cooperation aiming to give the ACP States, particularly the frontline states, greater economic independence from South Africa.

The Council will thus be aware of the disturbing fact that a number of African ACP States are becoming increasingly dependent on the Pretoria regime for food supplies.

Does the Council not therefore think it would be opportune to allow the Commission to draw up pluriannual food aid programmes for the ACP countries whose food deficit has resulted in a dangerous increase in dependence on South Africa over the last few years?

82. Question by Mr DELATTE (H-264/81)

Subject: Charging the cost of delivering foodstuffs to Poland to the Community Budget

The answer to Oral Question No. 75 (H-673/80)¹ of 11 February 1981 indicates that the cost of the first delivery of foodstuffs to Poland at prices below world levels decided on in December 1980 and the second delivery approved in April 1981 is charged to the EAGGF. Given that these operations do not come under the common agricultural policy, does the Council not intend to enter them in a different part of the budget, as the cost should clearly not be borne by the EAGGF?

83. Question by Mrs LE ROUX (H-266/81)

Subject: Request by Nicaragua for food aid

Nicaragua has asked the Community for food aid. Can the Council say whether it has acceded to this request and, if so, how much aid has been granted and when will it be supplied?

84. Question by Mr GONDICAS (H-269/81)

Subject: Restrictive measures against Greek students in Germany

There are reliable reports that the West German authorities have decided that, as from the coming academic year, Greek students will not be allowed to enter German universities unless they are students in Greek universities.

Since there are no similar restrictions in respect of students from the other Community countries, I should like to know to what extent the Council intends accepting the introduction of this discriminatory measure against Greece?

¹ Debates No. 266

85. Question by Mr BALFE (H-270/81)

Subject : The budget of the Community

Bearing in mind that the budget of the Community is financed under the same system of revenue raising how would the Council view the possibility of staff being declared redundant by one institution accepting a generous payment for termination and then being employed by another institution funded by the Community?

86. Question by Mr SOUSSOUROYANNIS (H-271/81)

Subject: Return to Greece of ancient Greek masterpieces now dispersed in various museums of EEC Member States

Will the Council take upon itself the role of mediator with the governments of the Member States to bring about the return to Greece of all the ancient Greek masterpieces of universal beauty, which are admired the world over, such as the statue of Nike from Samothrace, the Venus de Milo, the Elgin marbles, etc. which are now to be found in various museums of the Member States?

The Council is being asked to undertake this mediatory initiative in accordance with the spirit of the Lomé Convention, which calls for objets d'art to be returned to their country of origin.

87. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-276/81)

Subject: Council action to help young people find their first job

Given the undoubtedly bleak employment prospects which the world economic crisis holds in store for those leaving school this year, does the Council plan to take action this summer to help young people arriving on the labour market in the next few months to find their first job?

88. Question by Mr PRANCHERE (H-278/81)

Subject: The export refunds granted by the Community

During his visit to Brussels of 26 and 27 May, Mr BLOCK, the United States Secretary for Agriculture, strongly criticized the export refunds granted by the Community and threatened to take retaliatory measures. What action does the Council intend to take in response to these threats?

89. Question by Mr SCHMID (H-293/81)

Subject: Research programme in biomolecular engineering

In November 1980, the European Parliament adopted almost unanimously a favourable opinion on the proposal from the Commission for a research programme in biomolecular engineering. The Council has not yet reached a decision. Why are France and the Federal Republic of Germany blocking this research programme and what proposals will the new President-in-Office of the Council be making in order to arrive at a decision?

90. Question by Mr BETTIZA (H-295/81)

Subject: Body searches by customs officials

Does not the Council consider that body searches by customs officials are contrary to the principles of the Treaty of Rome? Will it indicate whether, on the eve of the summer holidays, during which large numbers of citizens from the ten Member States will be travelling within the Community, it intends to take steps to abolish this deplorable practice?

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

91. Question by Mr BALFE (H-161/81)

Subject: Human rights

Do the Foreign Ministers consider that violations of human rights

a) within the EEC and

b) outside the EEC

should be judged in the same way?

92. Question by Mr FERGUSSON (H-171/81)

Subject: European political cooperation

What steps has the former President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers taken to ensure the maximum continuity of policy and operational smoothness between his own presidency and the next in respect of European political cooperation?

93. Question by Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE (H-205/81)

Subject: Arms sales

The Foreign Affairs Ministers of various Member States have repeatedly informed their respective parliaments that a joint European approach is called for on the problem of arms sales. What is the foreign ministers attitude in this matter?

94. Question by Mrs EWING (H-236/81)

Subject: Arab-Israeli relations and the PLO

In view of the protests by the Israeli government at the recent visit paid by the President-in-Office of the Foreign Ministers to Mr YASSER ARAFAT, what useful purpose did this visit serve; what views did Mr ARAFAT express on the options put to him for an Arab-Israeli settlement; and did he, in particular, indicate any intention of renouncing those clauses in the PLO Charter which imply the destruction of Israel as a state?

95. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-81/81)

Subject : Fate of the 2,000 Cypriots missing since 1974

Having regard to the recent statement by the Greek Foreign Minister that his country was prepared to support the Cypriots in seeking a solution to their problems regarding the Turks, and further to the request made by the Cypriot Government to the American Secretary-of-State after the liberation of the American hostages that he should intercede with Turkey regarding the fate of the Cypriots reported missing, do not the Foreign Ministers think that the European Community has a role to play in promoting a dialogue between the Greeks and the Turks in Cyprus and to use its influence with the Government in Ankara to bring about the release of the 2,000 people (1,200 soldiers, 821 men, 155 women and 24 children) reported missing since August 1974 and about whom it is not even known whether they are still alive?

96. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-163/81)

Subject: Cultural rights of the Kurds in Turkey

Given the possibility of a return to democracy in Turkey, do the Foreign Affairs Ministers envisage drawing the attention of the Turkish authorities to the need to grant the Kurds, who make up a quarter of the total population of Turkey, their full cultural rights, i.e. the right to be taught in Kurdish, the right to use their language in the courts, and the right to have a Kurdish literature, press and radio?

97. Question by Mr BEYER DE RYKE (H-197/81)

Subject: Concerted action against terrorism in the Community

Will the President-in-Office bring on to the agenda of the foreign ministers the question of concerted action against terrorism in the Community?

98. Question by Mr BLUMENFELD (H-198/81)

Subject: Security policy

In which areas of security policy do the foreign ministers consider the Community can now make the greatest progress in defining common positions and interests?

99. Question by Mr HAAGERUP (H-213/81)

Subject: CSCE

How do the foreign ministers now see the future of the CSCE process in the light of what has been achieved in Madrid?

100. Question by Mr J. M. TAYLOR (H-228/81)

Subject: New World Information Order

Do the foreign ministers consider that there is a danger that some aspects of the proposed New World Information Order are contrary to the UN Charter and have they considered any collective action within UNESCO to safeguard the freedom of the press?

101. Question by Mr BLANEY (H-234/81)

Subject: Situation in the north of Ireland

What steps have the ministers taken to further a lasting and peaceful solution to the situation of conflict and tension in Ireland, particularly in the north, which since it threatens the peace and prosperity of citizens of the Community is in conflict with the aims and principles of the Treaties?

102. Question by Mr MICHEL (H-247/81)

Subject: Humanitarian and food aid from the Community to Vietnam without political strings

With reference to paragraphs 32 and 33 of the resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 8 May 1981 on the Commission's proposals concerning the regulation relating to food aid in 1981, do the Ministers not agree that no political strings should be attached to humanitarian and food aid from the Community to Vietnam, which is essential in order to avoid a serious food shortage from which children would be the first to suffer?

103. Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-251/81)

Subject: The encouragement of sporting links with South Africa

As the Irish Rugby Tour has resulted in the first non-white playing for South Africa, what proposals do the foreign ministers have for encouraging sporting links with South Africa and would they agree that the South African sporting world has become increasingly multi-racial?

104. Question by Mr VERGEER (H-255/81)

Subject: More coherent action by Europe on South Africa

In view of the divergent positions adopted by the Member States of the European Community at the United Nations General Assembly in a series of important votes, taken in December 1980, on resolutions on nuclear and military cooperation with South Africa, on the oil embargo on that country, on the boycott in the field of culture and universities, on apartheid, on aid to South African liberation movements and on investment in South Africa, I would like to know if the Ministers have had an opportunity to discuss the need for a more coherent European approach, taking into account the lessons learnt from previous intervention, such as the enforcement of the code of conduct for EEC undertakings with subsidiaries and branches in South Africa?

105. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-256/81)

Subject: El Salvador

Have the Ministers taken the necessary action at the United Nations to ensure that the Salvadorean refugees gathered in the El Salvador-Honduras frontier region are properly recognized as refugees and therefore eligible for assistance from the appropriate international relief organizations?

106. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-282/81)

Subject : Afghanistan

What pressure is being exerted currently by the Community on the USSR in order to secure the removal of troops from Afghanistan?

