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ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 16 and 17 November 1982

PE 80.680

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Question by Mr GONFIKAS (H-133/82)

1. Subject: Greek subjects refused permission to enter Denmark

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

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

The incident was reported in the newspaper 'ELEFTHEROTYPIA' on 1 December 1981; Greek public opinion was justifiably outraged.

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

2. Question by Mr PRANCHERE (H-255/82)

Subject: Reducing production costs in countries with a high rate of inflation

In its resolution on farm prices for the 1982/1983 marketing year, the European Parliament called on the Commission 'to propose supplementary measures enabling the increase in production costs to be reduced in countries with a high rate of inflation'.

Does the Commission intend to act on this recommendation and to propose practical measures at an early date?

3. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-305/82) (x)

Subject: Strengthening of the European Monetary System

Does the Commission intend to submit proposals for the strengthening of the European Monetary System, and will these be new proposals or simply a restatement of the proposals already formulated in the past?

*Will not be called if item 271 is kept on the agenda.

4. Question by Mr BALFE (H-312/82)

Subject: Directive on social Security and Sex Discrimination

Could the Commission state what progress and plans have been made by Member States respect of the implementation of the Directive on Social Security and Sex Discrimination?

5. Question by Mrs EWING (H-313/82)

Subject: ratification of international shipping conventions

Will the Commission state what progress has been made with regard to the ratification by Member States of the MARPOL Convention of 1973 (and protocol of 1978) and the ST Convention of 1978 which were identified as two of the three most important international shipping conventions at the Public Hearing on marine pollution which was held in Paris between 20th and 22nd of June 1978?

Question by Mr HOPPER (H-417/82) (x)

Subject: Thermal energy of the oceans

Does the Commission intend to include in its new programme for research into sources of alternative energy for 1983 - 1987 the field of thermal energy of the oceans?

If this is not the case, will the Commission give its reasons, in view of the benefit this research could be to ACP countries with tropical waters?

Question by Mr PRAG (H-344/82)

Subject: Community Action Programme of the social integration of disabled people

Will the Commission confirm that work in the network of the 15-20 districts under the Commission's Action Programme of social integration of disabled people will begin in 1983, and will not be postponed to 1984?

Will the Commission also state what work on this programme it expects to be complete (1) by the end of 1983, and (2) by the end of 1984?

Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-376/82)

Subject: The problem of unemployment in the Greek steel industry

The crisis in the Greek steel industry is having serious repercussions for the problem of unemployment, especially having regard to the magnitude of employment in the Greek steel industry.

Can the Commission state on whose authority and for whose benefit there has been no move to implement Article 56(2)(b) of the ECSC Treaty?

What amounts have been allocated for 1980-81 and having regard to Article 68(5) what is its attitude to the serious differences in subsidy policy and more generally the treatment of unemployed steel workers as between Greece and the other Member States such as Belgium and France?

9. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-378/82)

Subject: The market for Greek raisins

Greece is the only country in the EEC and in the whole of Europe that produces raisins. Today it has stocks of unsold raisins from last year's harvest (95,000 tonnes composed of 70,000 tonnes of sultanas and 25,000 tonnes of currants, ie 70% of the 1981 production) and it is expected that this year's harvest will amount to 150,000 tonnes. Since its accession to the EEC, Greece has been facing strong competition from the USA, Australia, Turkey, etc, which, by reason of the preferential agreements they have with the Community and the dumping prices which they apply, are ousting Community products in the EEC itself, which formerly absorbed 95% of Greek production.

In view of the alarming situation that has been created in the raisin-producing regions of Greece (Crete, West Peloponnese) does the Commission intend taking immediate measures to put into real effect the principle of Community preference, and of protection from the imports of third countries, to provide premiums for exports to the socialist and other countries, and to finance programmes for the promotion of modern scientific methods of cultivation and processing in order to reduce the cost and to increase the production of Greek raisins?

10. Question by Mr ALBERS (H-396/82)

Subject: Falling asleep at the wheel

What action does the Commission intend to take on the findings of recent studies which show that falling asleep at the wheel is attributable more to hours spent at work than to hours spent driving?

11. Question by Mr PAULHAN (H-402/82)

Subject: Development of liquid substitutes for heavy fuel oil

Can the Commission provide information on the results of new combustion experiments on the development of liquid substitutes based on fuel oil/coal mixtures for use in power stations normally fired by heavy fuel oil, carried out inter alia by the BP company in France?

12. Question by Mr DAVERN (H-412/82)

Subject: Deplorable state of farm incomes in County Kerry in Ireland

Is the Commission aware that only 15% of farmers in the County Kerry region of Ireland are generating a satisfactory income level, that 65% are not generating sufficient income to reach viability and that a further 12% are borderline cases and that such an intolerable situation is totally contrary to the aims of the Treaty and that the Community should take immediately steps to improve the incomes situation for all farmers?

13. Question by Mr MAHER (H-422/82)

Subject: Breakdown of C.A.P. finance

What proportion of the finance used in the C.A.P. for the support of European Agriculture is going directly to farmers in the Member States and what proportion is being used under other headings, including administration, at European level and at the level of the Member States?

14. Question by Mr LALOR (H-429/82)

Subject: Radioactive discharges in the Irish Sea

Is the Commission aware that the Irish Sea is now believed to contain the highest concentration of radioactive discharges of any area of similar size in the World and what responsibility does it accept for this situation in view of the standards created under the Euratom Treaty?

15. Question by Mr ADAMOU (H-434/82)

Subject : Restructuring of Greek tobacco plantations

Within the framework of the CAP the Community has decided that in certain regions of Greece (Etolia and Akarnania, Macedonia, Ipiros) plantations growing tobacco mainly for domestic consumption but also for eastern Cyprus must change over to Virginia and Burley tobacco or else to other crops entirely. However, the soil in those regions is poor and infertile and therefore entirely unsuitable for such crops, which can thrive only on fertile soil. Consequently, replacement of the crops currently being grown by Virginia and Burley tobacco or by any other crops would mean economic disaster and remove tobacco-growers completely from those regions.

What measures does the Commission intend taking in order to prevent the implementation of this decision which is inimical to farmers, and to avoid the uprooting of thousands of Greek agriculturists from these regions, particularly under present-day conditions when unemployment has become the No. 1 problem for all countries of the Community?

16. Question by Mr MOORHOUSE (H-436/82)

Subject : North sea gas supplies to Community

What discussions has the Commission had with the Government of Norway about gas supplies to Member States from the northern north sea in the light of the controversy surrounding soviet natural gas supplies to the Community?

17. Question by Mr LAGAKOS (H-441/82)

Subject : Criteria and methods employed by the Commission in filling high-level posts

As Commission figures show (Supplementary and Amending Preliminary Draft Budget - No. 1-1982-Administrative Appropriations), disproportionately fewer A1, A2, A3, A4, A5 and A6 posts are allocated to Greeks than to nationals of other Member States.

Can the Commission state what methods and criteria are employed in allocating the above-mentioned posts according to nationality and subject area and what is its policy for recruiting Greek officials for the Joint Research Centre, given that out of a total staff of 2,219 there is only one official of Greek nationality?

18. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-797/81)

Subject: European Space Policy

Will the Commission detail to Parliament the action it has taken on the motion for resolution contained in the report by Mr. Turcat on European Space Policy?¹

¹ Doc. 1-326/81

19. Question by Mr SEAL (H-301/82)

Subject: Use of 2, 4, 5-T

In view of the reports that the Commission are advising Member State Governments to ban the use of 2, 4, 5-T in each country, due to the risks to health posed by this chemical, would the Commission explain why they are not prepared to issue a regulation or a directive and are they afraid to confront the Council of Ministers knowing the reactionary views of the United Kingdom Ministers on this subject?

20. Question by Mr BONDE (H-356/82)

Subject: EC invitations to tender

Pursuant to the Community rules on invitations to tender, Danish contracts have, in some cases, been awarded to foreign firms even when local unemployment has been extraordinarily high and Danish firms have submitted tenders which, when account is taken of their very high financing costs, were very competitive.

Will the Commission permit the Danish authorities to take account of the higher interest rates which Danish firms have to pay compared with foreign competitors when taking decisions on Community invitations to tender?

21. Question by Mr KIRK (H - 381/82)

Subject: Termination of French VAT credit

With effect from Autumn 1981 the French customs authorities have cancelled, for foreign producers or their agents in France, the VAT credit usually granted to both domestic and foreign firms.

Did the French customs authorities decide on this measure, which constitutes a distortion of competition, with the approval of the Commission or will the Commission take steps to guarantee uniform VAT credit conditions for all Community producers and their agents in respect of sales in France?

22. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-391/82) (x)

Subject: Operation of the European Monetary System and divergence indicator

In the light of the numerous monetary realignments which have taken place within the European Monetary System in the last few months, can the Commission state whether the divergence indicator has been operating effectively in the context of the measures taken by national and European monetary authorities?

x Will not be called if item 271 is kept on the agenda

23. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-401/82)

Subject: Four new Japans

In view of the industrial development in Asia of four new Japans - South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan - which are currently preparing for a transition from labour-intensive industries to high technology, has the Commission implemented the measures needed to ensure that Europe has a concerted plan to respond to competition from these countries?

24. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-403/82) (x)

Subject: Operation of the European Monetary System

Can the Commission indicate whether the margins of fluctuating of the currencies in the European Monetary System seem reasonable in the light of the realignments which have taken place in recent months?

(x) Will not be called if item 271 is kept on the agenda.

25. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-409/82)

Subject: Controls on export of acetic anhydride for the production of heroin

During the debate on the combating of drugs of 13 May 1982 and with particular reference to my question on the production and exportation by Community countries of acetic anhydride without which the production of heroin would be impossible, Commissioner Richard said the following: 'The Commission has recently informed the representatives of the European chemical industry of its concern about exports of this substance to the countries of the Middle East and South-East Asia. But it would be extremely difficult in our view at the present stage to set up rules regarding exports of such widely used chemicals. Taking into account the complex network of exchanges, I feel it has to remain the responsibility of the government authorities of the importing countries to check for what purposes and to what extent imports are justified'. Does the Commission not think that this answer is rather too hasty and compliant and that it has been influenced by the representatives of the chemical industry whereas the question should be examined in greater detail given the proportions which the drugs problem has assumed in the countries of the European Community?

26. Question by Mr SKOVMAND (H-410/82)

Subject: The right of veto

According to a Commission note dated 22 August 1982 (PE 80.247), the Commission President, Mr Thorn, discussing the right of veto with the Finnish Foreign Minister, Mr Stenbäck, said that it was unlikely that politically motivated attempts to obstruct Community proceedings would be tolerated in future.

I would like to have a detailed explanation of the meaning of this statement. Does it mean that in the Commission's view the Luxembourg Compromise's unanimity requirement no longer applies?

27. Question by Mrs van den HEUVEL (H-427/82)

Subject: American boycott of European suppliers in connection with the construction of a pipeline

According to reports in the Dutch press concerning a meeting in the context of political cooperation, the Dutch Foreign Minister expressed his displeasure at the attitude of three Member States of the Community to the American boycott of European supplies for the construction of a pipeline. Did the representative of the Commission, a pre-eminently 'Community' institution, associate himself with the Dutch protest at that meeting and can the Commission state how the Foreign Ministers of the Federal Republic of Germany, France and Italy reacted?

28. Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-430/82)

Subject: Economic guidelines and recommendations to the individual Member States

In the autumn of 1979 the Commission proposed that the Danish cost of living adjustment should be reduced by excluding energy prices from the price index calculations and this was in fact done in Denmark. Since then two successive Danish governments have made conflicting statements on the subject. The first asserted that it was not obliged to follow the Commission's economic recommendations and the present Foreign Minister has stated that it is very difficult for the Danish Government to ignore Community warnings.

To what extent does the Commission expect individual Member States to follow its economic guidelines and recommendations?

29. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-431/82)

Subject: Community aid to the Turkish-speaking part of Cyprus

In the light of its knowledge that the island of Cyprus is currently administered by two separate governments (covering respectively the Greek-speaking and the Turkish-speaking parts of the island), what proportion of Community aid (i.e. (a) EEC grants and (b) EEC loans) and of EEC import quotas has been allocated to the Turkish-speaking part of the island in the last four years and, in the light of this answer, is the Commission satisfied that its current contracts with Cyprus satisfy the requirement of Article 5 of the EEC/Cyprus Association Agreement that the rules governing trade must not discriminate between nationals or companies of Cyprus?

30. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-438/82)

Subject : Appraisal of Wine Regulation

Regarding the Appraisal of Wine Regulation Amendment No. 2144, will a subordinate regulation be issued which includes the Commission's Statement safeguarding ethyl alcohol and spirituous beverage producers against all wine alcohol disposals?

31. Question by Lord DOURO (H-446/82)

Subject : New Regulations concerning duty free goods sold to
intra-community travellers

In view of the large part of the worldwide Duty Free market held by manufactured goods from the EEC, is the Commission not concerned that the new Regulations concerning duty to be charged on third country products sold in Duty Free Shops, could produce retaliatory action by other countries or groups of countries which would be very damaging to EEC manufacturers?

32. Question by Mr KALOYANNIS (H-449/82)

Subject: Failure to use the Community merchant marine for the transportation of material for the construction of the Russian gas pipeline

I have received information that all the various material originating in the Member States of the Community and destined for the construction of the Russian gas pipeline is being transported in Russian vessels. Can the Council confirm whether this is true? If so, why did it not take care to prevent this state of affairs and what action does it intend taking to ensure that from now on these materials are shipped by Community vessels since the Community merchant marine has for some time been going through a serious crisis which is adding considerably to the number of unemployed in the Community and is increasing the number of Community ships laid up? As the Greek fleet accounts for 26% of the Community's merchant marine, the prejudice it suffers is particularly great.

33. Question by Mr NEWTON DUNN (H-450/82)

Subject : Answers to Written Questions

Is it correct that Answers to Written Questions to the Commission are subjected to scrutiny, and therefore presumably to approval, by the Member States before they are sent to M.E.P.s? If so, why? And by what authority?

34. Question by Mr KYRKOS (H-451/82)

Subject: Aid for Agricultural Cooperatives, Unions of Agricultural Cooperatives and Producer Groups in marketing agricultural products

In view of the Greek Government's efforts to streamline marketing structures for agricultural products in Greece for the benefit of farmers and consumers, can the Commission state what specific measures it has taken or is intending to take to promote and aid the marketing of agricultural products by Agricultural Cooperatives, Unions of Agricultural Cooperatives and Producer Groups?

35. Question by Mr PATTERSON (H-453/82)

Subject: Intervention sugar for bee-keeping

In view of the crisis now facing Community bee-keepers, who are obliged to pay the full Community price for sugar needed for the winter feeding of bees, i.e. 700 ECUs per tonne as opposed to the world price of 150 ECUs per tonne available to third country competitors, will the Commission now reconsider its refusal to provide intervention sugar for Community bee-keepers as a matter of urgency?

36. Question by Mr PETERSEN (H-454/82)

Subject: Nuclear power stations

Is the Commission aware that the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in the United States has compiled a report for the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission which concludes that the risk of serious accidents in American nuclear power stations is one major accident per 1,000 reactor years and not, as officially accepted up to now, one major accident per 20,000 reactor years?

How does the Commission judge the relevance of this report to nuclear power policy in the Community, and is the Commission prepared to allow an independent research body, perhaps the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, to conduct a similar examination of the risks associated with nuclear power stations in the Community?

37. Question by Mr ADAM (H-455/82)

Subject : Colour T.V. Tube imports

What action do the Commission intend to take to monitor the import of colour T.V. tubes under Regulation 288/82?

38. Question by Mr de FERRANTI (H-456/82)

Subject : Unfair Treatment of Wine and Whisky Drinkers

A year has elapsed since Ministers failed to agree on proposals for harmonising excise duties on alcoholic beverages. Consumers of wine in Britain and of whisky in France continue to suffer from discriminating tax treatment already ruled illegal by the Court of Justice. Will the Commission now take fresh steps to end this injustice?

39. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-458/82)

Subject : State subsidies for Algerian Natural Gas Supplies

Are the subsidies given by the Government of France and the Government of Italy to their respective national gas undertakings in respect of Algerian natural gas supplies in conformity with the Community's Rules on Competition?

40. Question by Mrs SCRIVENER (H-459/82)

Subject: Vocational training for young people

The Commission is proposing a five-year action programme to enable young people to receive better vocational training before their first job. Has the Commission made specific provision for the organization of practical training schemes operated in a Member State other than that to which the participants belong, with a view to promoting not only the acquisition of greater technical skills but also the opportunity of mastering a foreign language and developing a sense of European identity?

41. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-464/82)

Subject: Aid to the Afghan refugees in Pakistan

In the chapter headed 'Afghan refugees in Pakistan' of its communication to the Council of 4 June 1982 (COM(82) 354 final), the Commission takes the view that it would be appropriate to supply the Afghan refugees with emergency aid of 10 million ECU. In its resolution on the situation in Afghanistan, adopted at the June 1982 part-session, the European Parliament called on the Commission to step up its aid to the Afghan refugees. Does the Commission consider that the action referred to in the abovementioned document fully complies with Parliament's request?

42. Question by Mr DENIAU (H-468/82)

Subject: Development of food aid policy

Does the Commission consider that food aid should be increased or, on the contrary, discouraged, and has it any plans for a programme of substitute measures?

43. Question by Mr AIGNER (H-478/82)

Subject: Namibia

Does the Commission think it appropriate that, in addition to money from the UN and from individual Member States, funds should be flowing into trouble spots such as Namibia from the EEC, when it is apparently quite possible that this money may be reaching revolutionary and terrorist organizations such as SWAPO?

44. Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-483/82)

Subject : French taxation on alcohol

The French Government has recently increased the tax on spirits but not on wine. What action is the Commission taking to deal with this blatant distortion?

45. Question by Mr PESMAZOGLU (H-487/82)

Subject: Unemployment benefit in Greece

Is the Commission aware that unemployment benefit in Greece is exceptionally low and is payable for an unacceptably short period of time, and what measures does it intend taking to reduce these serious inequalities between the States of the Community?

46. Question by Mr MØLLER (H-494/82)

Subject: Swedish devaluation and the trade agreement with the
Community

Does the Commission agree that the devaluation of the Swedish crown by 16% conflicts with the trade agreement between Sweden and the Community and if so, what steps does the Commission intend to take?

47. Question by Mr O'DONNELL (H-496/82)

Subject : Flour supplies in Ireland

Is the Commission aware of the grave crisis facing the Irish Flour Milling Industry with the likely prospects of there being no flour milling industry in Ireland in the near future and in view of the serious consequences which this could have for the security of bread supplies in Ireland will the Commission cooperate with the Irish Authorities in formulating an appropriate strategy which would maintain employment in the industry and safeguard the vital bread supply ?

48. Question by Mr BONACCINI (H-497/82)

Subject: Imports of frozen beef

Whereas, as a result of the questionable application of Regulation (EEC) No 1136/79 of 8.6.79, frozen boned beef for industrial processing into dried salt beef is excluded from the concessions provided for by the special import arrangements; whereas this production is carried on mainly in a predominantly mountainous region (Valtellina) - a region with very few resources that has specialized in high-quality production of this product for centuries - where it provides a living for a large number of small and medium-sized undertakings that employ about 10% of the province's workforce;

whereas frozen beef imports, which in turn are reexported, do not exceed 5-6,000 tonnes per year;

whereas the application of the measure in question clearly benefits Swiss competition in the same product and exacerbates Italy's already severe trade balance problems;

can the Commission state what measures it intends to take to alter this situation?

49. Question by Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU (H-498/82)

Subject: Appointment of officials of Greek nationality pursuant to Article 1 of Regulation (EEC) No 662/82 of 22.3.1982¹

Can the Commission state what it intends to do to fill, pursuant to the above regulation, the as yet unfilled posts of Greek officials as provided for in the Commission's establishment chart within the framework of the 1982 budget? Should these posts not be filled before 31.12.1982, have steps been taken to ensure that the number of posts provided for in that chart remain the same for the following year so that these posts can be subsequently filled within the context of the 1983 budget?

50. Question by Mr MEGAHY (H-500/82)

Subject: Expulsion of member states

What provisions exist to expel from the EEC any Member country which is deliberately flouting Treaty rules?

51. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-507/82)

Subject: Border controls

What progress has been made with work on the draft resolution on the relaxation of border controls at internal Community frontiers which the Commission recently submitted to the Council? When is this work likely to be concluded?

¹ OJ No L78 of 24.3.1982

52. Question by Mr PATTISON (H-513/82)

Subject : Crisis in tanning industry in Ireland

Is the Commission aware of the present crisis in the tanning industry in Ireland, arising from the dumping of various forms of unfinished leather from outside the EEC on the Community market, especially in the U.K., Ireland's main leather market, and of the consequent job losses in the industry; what measures are at its disposal to prevent this dumping and protect employment, and will it implement these forthwith ?

53. Question by Mr COLLINS (H-515/82)

Subject : Prepackaged liquids

Can the Commission say what provisions they have made for monitoring the implementation of the Directive 79/1005/EEC¹⁾ amending 75/106/EEC²⁾ on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the making-up by volume of certain prepackaged liquids and can they say what action has been taken to implement the said Directive in the Member States?

1) J.O. L 308 of 4.12.1979 p.25

2) J.O. L 42 of 15.2.1975 p. 1

54. Question by Mr FERGUSSON (H-516/82)

Subject : Milk consumption

Recognising that the per capita milk consumption of Ireland is 280 litres per annum, of the United Kingdom is 139 litres, and of Denmark is 128 litres; and that the comparable consumption in Italy is 77 litres and in France 71 litres, what would the effect be on the surpluses in the Community's dairy sector if French and Italian milk consumption were raised to the average level of Denmark and the British Isles?

55. Question by Mr KAZAZIS (H-517/82)

Subject: Failure to recruit Greek officials who passed a Commission competition

In 1981 the Commission announced competition (COM/A/337) for Greek-speaking officials. This competition provided among other things specifically for an A4-A5 post to meet the needs of the Directorate-General for Regional Policy. In view of the fact that there are successful candidates on the list drawn up by the Commission and that Greece attaches special importance to the A4-A5 post in the Directorate-General for Regional Policy being filled, why has the Commission so far failed to recruit a grade A4-A5 official for this Directorate-General and could the Commission confirm that a Greek grade A4-A5 official will be recruited before the end of 1982 (when the validity of the list of successful candidates is due to expire)?

56. Question by Mr CLINTON (H-521/82)

Subject : Low usage of barley in compound feedingstuffs

The Commission is obviously aware that the usage of barley and other european grains in compound feeds has declined; however is the Commission aware that this phenomenon is exaggerated in Member States with positive MCAs and that this is coupled with increased use of manioc and maize gluten resulting in greater quantities of barley (and other european grains) being sold into intervention in these Member States? When does the Commission intend to bring this expensive situation to an end?

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-369/82)

Subject: Mandate of 30 May 1980

At the European Council meeting held in London in November 1981, agreement was reached on a number of Community guidelines concerning the first section of the Mandate of 30 May with respect to the restructuring of the Community budget.

In view of the persistent economic crisis and the ever-increasing rate of unemployment, does not the Council feel that practical measures with a sound financial basis are now urgently required to develop a genuine social, industrial and regional policy with the emphasis on the battle against unemployment, and, if so, how does it account for the decisions taken on 28 July by the Council of Ministers for Budget Affairs?

3. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-392/82) (x)

Subject: Operation of the European Monetary System and the divergence indicator

In relation to the numerous monetary adjustments which have taken place during recent months within the European Monetary System, can the Council state whether the divergence indicator has played an effective role in the measures taken by the national and European monetary authorities?

(x) Will not be called if item 271 is kept on the agenda

59. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-404/82) (x)

Subject: Functioning of the European Monetary System

Could the Council state whether the margins of fluctuation of currencies in the European Monetary System seem reasonable in view of the adjustments carried out in recent months?

(x) Will not be called if item 271 is kept on the agenda.

60. Question by Mr DAVERN (H-413/82)

Subject: CAP and the Danish presidency

Can the President of the Council indicate the plans that the Danish Government wishes to see put forward during its Presidency for the CAP?

61. Question by Mr LALOR (H-432/82)

Subject: Plastic Bullets

Will the Council give due reason why it has not discussed the European Parliament's Resolution "on a ban on the use of plastic bullets" which was adopted by a large majority on 13 May last?

62. Question by Mr MOORHOUSE (H-437/82)

Subject : Natural gas policy for the Community

Will the Council put natural gas policy for the Community on the agenda of the next meeting of the Council of energy Ministers in the light of the controversy surrounding soviet natural gas supplies to the Community?

63. Question by Mrs EWING (H-280/82)

Subject: Siting of the European Economic and Social Policy Research Institute

What progress has the Council made in setting up the European Economic and Social Policy Research Institute since my oral question of 8 July 1980⁽¹⁾; why has a decision not yet been reached; and will the Council establish this Institute in central Scotland, where economic and employment problems are serious, and which enjoys good international air links with other Member States?

(1) OJ Annex No. 1-259, page 97

64. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-292/82)

Subject: Norwegian accession to the EEC

In view of the benefits derived by Denmark from its membership of the European Communities, does the Council not feel that talks should be reopened with Norway since, with the passage of time, this country may take a different view of the value to it and Scandinavia of membership of the EEC?

65. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-372/82)

Subject : Citizens of member states - voting rights

To ask what steps Member States are proposing to take to ensure that their citizens who reside or work in other Member States will be able to vote at the European Elections in June 1984?

66. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-390/82) (x)

Subject: Future of the European Monetary System

In view of the numerous currency readjustments carried out within the European Monetary System in the last few months, and the various European currencies' very diverse reactions to the fluctuations of the dollar, does the Council consider that the EMS is working in an optimum fashion, or does it agree that the system ought to be strengthened in order to make it more efficient?

(x) Will not be called if item 271 is kept on the agenda.

67. Question by Mr SKOVMAND (H-411/82)

Subject: Right of veto

According to a Commission note dated 22 August 1982 (PE 80.247), the Commission President, Mr Thorn, discussing the right of veto with the Finnish Foreign Minister, Mr Stenbäck said that it was unlikely that politically motivated attempts to obstruct Community proceedings would be tolerated in future.

Can the Council give an assurance that this is NOT the case?

68. Question by Mr MARTIN (H-447/82)

Subject: Taxes on wine

Does the Council intend to harmonize excise duties on wine as it has frequently been asked to do by the European Parliament, most recently in the resolution on the market in wine it adopted in July 1982?

69. Question by Mr KALOYANNIS (H-448/82)

Subject: Failure to use the Community merchant marine for the transportation of material for the construction of the Russian gas pipeline

I have received information that all the various material originating in the Member States of the Community and destined for the construction of the Russian gas pipeline is being transported in Russian vessels. Can the Council confirm whether this is true? If so, why did it not take care to prevent this state of affairs and what action does it intend taking to ensure that from now on these materials are shipped by Community vessels since the Community merchant marine has for some time been going through a serious crisis which is adding considerably to the number of unemployed in the Community and is increasing the number of Community ships laid up? As the Greek fleet accounts for 26% of the Community's merchant marine, the prejudice it suffers is particularly great.

70. Question by Mr JOHNSON (H-471/82)

Subject : Importation of seal products into the Community

Can the Council confirm, bearing in mind his statement to the Parliament of 15 September 1982 that the Environment Council which will take place on 2 and 3 December 1982, will have on its agenda for adoption the draft Council Regulation concerning the importation of seal products into the Community?

71. Question by Mrs SCHLEICHER (H-460/82)

Subject: Council directive relating to the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning advertising claims in the labelling and packaging of foodstuffs intended for ultimate consumers and in the advertising of these foodstuffs

The proposal for a Council directive relating to the approximation of the laws and administrative provisions of the Member States concerning misleading and unfair advertising was submitted to the Council in amended form by the Commission on 10.7.1979 following the European Parliament's opinion of 8.5.1979.

What is the present state of deliberations, what significant alterations have been made in the meantime to the proposal for a directive, when is the Council expected finally to adopt this proposal for a directive and what are the reasons for the delay? Does the Council consider it appropriate to harmonize detailed laws on advertising claims in the Community before the basic directive on advertising has been adopted?

72. Question by Mr BALFE (H-461/82)

Subject : Plastic bullets

What steps do the Council propose to take to secure a ban on the use of Plastic Bullets throughout the community as called for by the European Parliament in four resolutions passed in May this year?

73. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-472/82)

Subject : Reform of conciliation procedure

Following Parliament's proposals of July 1981 and those of the Commission of December 1981 for reform of the conciliation procedure, what progress has the Council made in this matter since its discussions in May and June 1982; and will the Council agree to reforms by the end of the current Presidency?

74. Question by Mr ADAM (H-475/82)

Subject : Tobacco Taxation

What steps are the Council taking to ensure that in all Member States the specific element of tobacco taxation, as a percentage of total taxation, is not less than 5% and can the Council give an estimate of the date at which this minimum figure is expected to be reached?

75. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-477/82)

Subject : Imports of Ceramics Products from China

Has the Council received from the Commission proposals for the quota levels for imports of ceramic products from China; what levels are proposed; and what action does the Council propose to take?

76. Question by Mr PESMAZOGLU (H-485/82)

Subject: Democratic government and accession to the EEC

Public figures of a country which is negotiating accession to the EEC, in commenting on recent events, said that they felt uneasy about the stability of democracy in their country.

Does the Council not agree that a reminder should have been given that only states which are democratically governed can become and remain members of the European Communities?

A declaration of this kind would significantly strengthen democracy in Europe and underline the solidarity of the Member States in these negotiations.

77. Question by Mr PÖTTERING (H-489/82)

Subject: Double taxation of employed persons - cars

The freedom of movement of persons resident within the Community is hindered by the current taxation provisions applying to the temporary import of certain types of vehicle for private and commercial use.

The removal of these obstacles is particularly important for the realization of the common market.

In 1975, therefore, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Directive on tax exemptions within the Community on the temporary import of certain types of vehicle. The Council has not yet taken a decision on this, the European Parliament having delivered its opinion in 1976.

Is the Council aware that its lack of action has chiefly affected frontier workers, whose vehicles are either subject to double value-added tax or to a virtual ban on importation into the neighbouring Community country?

78. Question by Mr VON WOGAU (H-490/82)

Subject: Double taxation of employed persons - cars

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The removal of these obstacles is particularly important for the realization of the common market.

In 1975, therefore, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Directive on tax exemptions within the Community on the temporary import of certain types of vehicle. The Council has not yet taken a decision on this, the European Parliament having delivered its opinion in 1976.

What is preventing the Council from adopting this proposal for a directive on the basis of Document 6761/80 of 30.4.1980?

79. Question by Mr WEDEKIND (H-491/82)

Subject: Double taxation of employed persons - cars

The freedom of movement of persons resident within the Community is hindered by the current taxation provisions applying to the temporary import of certain types of vehicle for private and commercial use.

The removal of these obstacles is particularly important for the realization of the common market.

In 1975, therefore, the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Directive on tax exemptions within the Community on the temporary import of certain types of vehicle. The Council has not yet taken a decision on this, the European Parliament having delivered its opinion in 1976.

What caused the failure of the efforts of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to produce a final version in the first half of 1982?

80. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-492/82)

Subject: European Parliament or European Assembly

In its answers to the European Parliament and in its correspondence, the Council generally uses the term 'Assemblée' (Assembly) in French.

Does the Council not think that even when it is using the language of Molière the name given to the body which was set up under Article 1 of Section 1 of the Treaties revising the Treaties establishing the European Communities and Acts relating to the Communities should be that sanctioned by usage and enshrined in the Lomé Conventions as adopted by the individual parliaments of the ten countries?

81. Question by Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU (H-499/82)

Subject: Recent appointment of Greek members of the Economic and Social Committee

Pursuant to Articles 193, 194 and 195 of the Treaty of Rome, the Council of Ministers of the European Communities shall appoint, every four years, the members of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities from a list of nominees of the main productive classes who are designated by the appropriate organizations and proposed in turn by the Governments.

During the recent procedure for the appointment of Greek members of the ESC, did the Council of Ministers take adequate steps to ascertain whether the nominees were truly representative since, according to my information, the groups representing the productive classes in the ESC are questioning whether certain of the members appointed are representative, because certain of the nominees designated as the legitimate representatives of their classes are different from those which the Greek Government, strangely enough, proposed to the Council?

82. Question by Mr MEGAHY (H-501/82)

Subject: Open meetings of the Council

What plans have the Council of Ministers for opening their meetings to the press and the public?

83. Question by Mr GAIOTTI DE BIASE (H-502/82)

Subject: Food aid to Poland - humanitarian solidarity

What decision has the Council taken about sending to Poland, within the context of food aid, feeding stuffs for use as animal feed by small independent farmers and does not the Council consider that the worsening political situation in Poland requires that the Community show greater humanitarian solidarity for what flicker of liberty still remains in Polish society as represented by the small independent farmers?

84. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-503/82)

Subject: Frontier checks

Has the Council already begun work on the Commission's proposal for a decision on reducing and facilitating checks at the Community's internal frontiers in view of the generally accepted urgency of the matter, which the Council has itself confirmed, and is it prepared, if necessary to do so as soon as possible, at least as regards the technical details even if the European Parliament's opinion is still in preparation?

85. Question by Mr PRANCHERE (H-505/82)

Subject: Long-term multiannual agricultural supply agreements

Talks have been opened between the Community and certain countries (Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt) on the conclusion of long-term agreements on agricultural products. In the absence of a Council decision, these countries are liable to turn to other exporting countries prepared to conclude multiannual contracts.

Is the Council aware of this situation and will it now implement long-term multiannual supply contracts in agricultural products in common with such major exporting countries as Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States?

86. Question by Mr TREACY (H-512/82)

Subject : Crisis in the tanning industry in Ireland

Is the Council aware of the present crisis in the tanning industry in Ireland arising from the dumping of various forms of unfinished leather from outside the EEC on the Community market - especially the U.K., Ireland's main leather market, and of the consequent job losses in the industry, and will it state what measures it considers can be taken to prevent this dumping, and call on the Commission to institute the necessary anti-dumping measures forthwith ?

87. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-514/82)

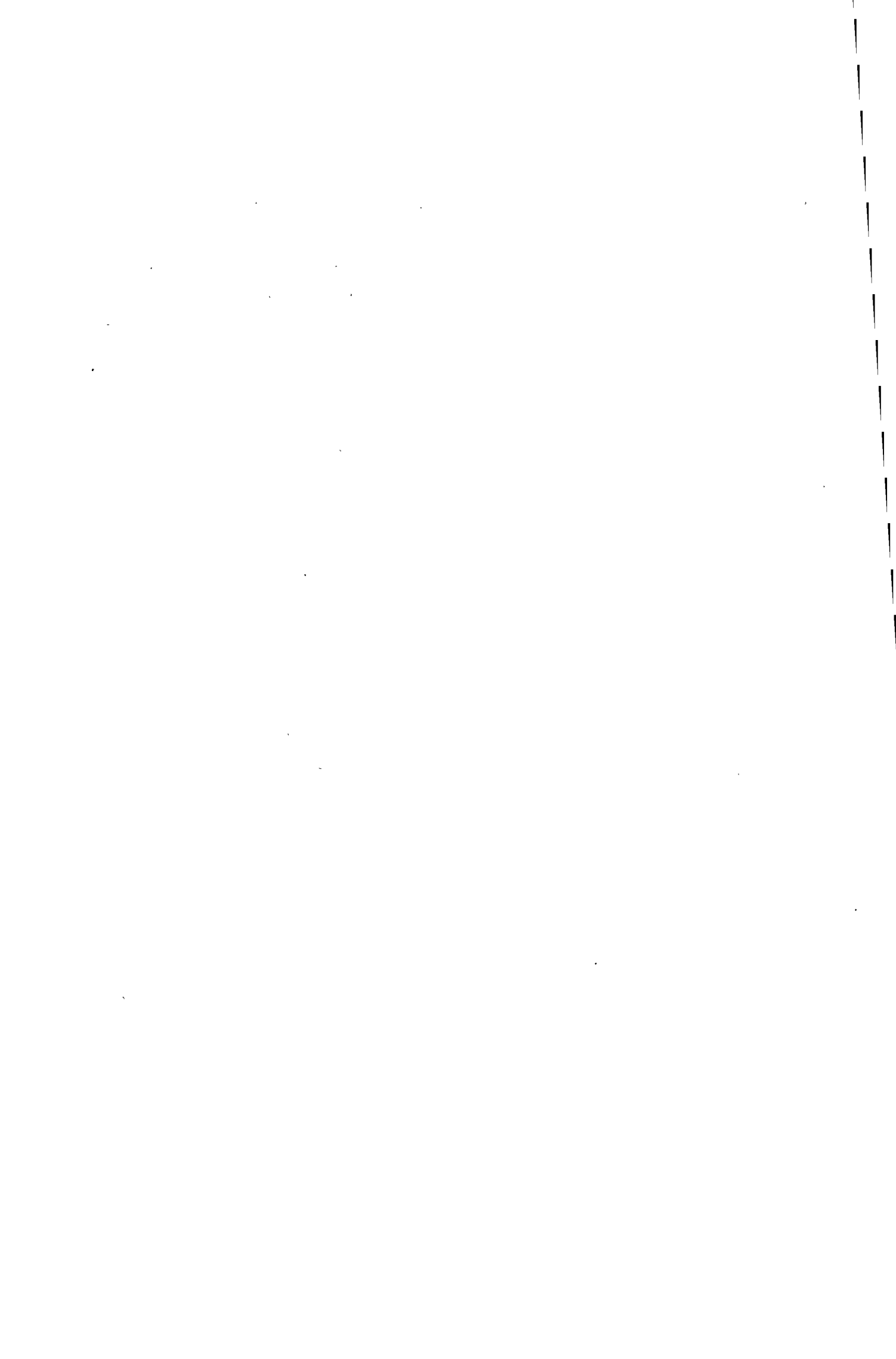
Subject : Community Trade Mark Office

During Question Time, at the October Session of the European Parliament, the Council replied to a question from Mrs Ewing (No. 64) (1) on the siting of a European Trade Mark Office and said that four candidatures had been formally presented to the Council by the respective Governments: London, Strasbourg, The Hague, Brussels, but that at present there had been no decision or deliberation on them.

In the September issue of European Parliament EP News, it was stated that "it has been agreed to site the new Community Trade Mark Office in the United Kingdom, the only problem is deciding which site is most suitable".

Could the Council tell me which statement is accurate and which is untrue?

(1) Verbatim report of proceedings on 13.10.1982, page 203



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

88. Question by Mrs EWING (H-294/82)

Subject: Disunity between Nine on apartheid

In view of the fact that out of 12 key votes on apartheid at the UN in 1979 and 1980, the Nine voted together only once, were split in two directions on seven occasions, and in three directions on four occasions, what new steps are the Foreign Ministers planning to take to put an end to this disunity ?

89. Question by Mr BALFE (H-462/82)

Subject : Plastic Bullets

Will the Foreign Ministers draw to the attention of the Polish Government the four resolutions on Plastic Bullets passed by the European Parliament in May this year?

90. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-463/82)

Subject: Situation in Afghanistan

Have the Foreign Ministers recently held specific discussions on the situation in Afghanistan? Has the resolution on this subject adopted by Parliament in June 1982 succeeded in persuading the Foreign Ministers to open such discussions, and to study in particular the proposals contained in that resolution, i.e. recognition of the Afghan resistance as a legitimate national liberation movement, a review of the level of diplomatic representation of the Kabul Government in the Community Member States and other proposed measures?

91.

Question by Mr MØLLER (H-465/82)

Subject: Mutual recognition of valid legal decisions

Will the Foreign Ministers take steps to ensure the mutual recognition of valid legal decisions adopted by impartial judicial bodies in individual Member States, and thus assist in bringing about, inter alia, the automatic extradition of accused persons, with a view to securing mutual respect for the legal traditions of individual countries?

92. Question by Mrs DURY (H-473/82)

Subject: The future of Hong Kong

In view of the excellent relations which China maintains with the European Community, do the Foreign Ministers not think that they could negotiate the renewal of the lease of Hong Kong with the People's Republic by offering to place the territory under the jurisdiction of the European Economic Community, while recognizing of course, China's sovereignty over this part of its territory?

93. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-476/82)

Subject : Canada

Do the Foreign Ministers attach considerable value to the maintenance of good relations between Canada and the European Community?

94. Question by Mr AIGNER (H-479/82)

Subject: Namibia

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation aware of the fact that reports that a considerable proportion of the Community's money for Namibia is reaching the Soviet-controlled SWAPO are justifiably arousing public concern in the EEC?

95. Question by Mr HABSBERG (H-480/82)

Subject: National minorities

All reports indicate a steady worsening in the situation of national minorities - such as Germans and Hungarians - as a result of the policies of the Ceausescu Government. Would the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation be prepared to use their influence to secure better treatment for these minorities, including the right to emigrate to the country of their choice?

96. Question by Mr Konrad SCHON (H-488/82)

Subject: Yugoslav restrictions on freedom of movement

The Yugoslav Government has imposed a heavy, progressive tax on its citizens' journeys abroad.

Do the Foreign ministers share the view that this is an infringement of the Helsinki Final Act and are they prepared to make appropriate representations in Belgrade on this matter?

97. Question by Mr D'ORMESSON (H-493/82)

Subject: Zimbabwe

In view of the information from Zimbabwe indicating the growing insecurity of the white population and certain black racial groups, do the ministers intend to bear this in mind with regard to the relations they maintain with Harare?

98. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-510/82)

Subject: Ethiopian political prisoners

Can the Ministers say what can be done to hasten the release of the 1,200 Ethiopian political prisoners - men, women and children who were related to the former Emperor Haile Selassie - who have been held for nine years in Addis Abbaba without trial?