

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

7 February 1983

DOCUMENT 1-1212/82

ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 8 and 9 February 1983

1. Question by Mr ARFE (H-692/82) (x)

Subject : Measures in favour of minority languages
and cultures

1. Will the Council state what its reaction has been to Parliament's resolution (1) in the Arfé report of 16th October 1981 on a Community charter of regional languages and cultures and a charter of rights of ethnic minorities ?
2. Does it agree with the principles contained therein and has the problem of minority languages and cultures ever been raised in Council ?
3. What initiatives has it undertaken so far to encourage member states to implement the proposals contained in Parliament's resolution ?

(1) O.J. C 287 9.11.1981 p.106

(x) Former oral question with debate (0-64/82), converted into a question for Question Time

2. Question by Mr COLLINS (H-705/82) (x)

Subject : Consumer Protection Policy

A second action programme for the protection and information of consumers was adopted by the Council on 19 May 1981. The first action programme (1975-1979) resulted in only two directives being adopted by the Council, and now, eighteen months into the second programme, no concrete measures have materialized.

1. Does the Council consider that the present impasse in the area of consumer protection is largely due to resistance at Council level?
2. Would the Council not agree that the political will in the field of consumer protection expressed by the Heads of State and of Government at the Paris Summit in 1972 is now being disavowed? What steps does the Council intend to take to remedy this situation?
3. How many directives are at present pending in the Council, and can any progress be expected during the coming presidency?
4. How seriously does the Council take the requests made by the European Parliament in its resolution on the second action programme?
5. Will the Council set out clearly its priorities over the next two years, within the framework of the second action programme?
6. When will the next Council of Ministers concerned with consumer affairs take place?

(x) Former oral question with debate (O-116/82), converted into a question for Question Time

Subject: Mutual recognition of diplomas and certificates

Pursuant to the EEC Treaty, the Council is obliged 'to lay the foundations of an ever closer union among the peoples of Europe ...' and '... to ensure the economic and social progress of their countries by common action ...', as stated in the Preamble, and to 'issue directives for the mutual recognition of diplomas (and) certificates ...', as stated in the first paragraph of Article 57.

Regrettably, the Council has by no means adequately fulfilled its obligations in this respect. Twenty-five years after the signature of the EEC Treaty, the extent of mutual recognition by Member States of diplomas and university degrees is very limited, while neither the right of establishment nor the freedom to provide services (Articles 48 and 49 of the EEC Treaty) are fully guaranteed.

Given these facts, can the Council state:

1. What directives for the mutual recognition of 'diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications' has it issued, and, where it has not been able to do so, which of the Member State governments were responsible?
2. What directives (pursuant to Article 57 of the EEC Treaty) are currently in force in the European Community, and to what extent are they demonstrably successful in making it easier to 'take up and pursue activities as self-employed persons', in particular in the case of the 'medical and allied and pharmaceutical professions' (Article 57(3) of the EEC Treaty)?
3. What measures does the Council intend to take in order to fulfil its obligations under the Treaty, including those concerning the recognition of non-academic certificates, and how soon does it intend to act?

(x) Former oral question with debate (O-109/81) (Doc. 1-154/82), converted into a question for Question Time

4. Question by Mr LAGAKOS (H-601/82)

Subject: Secret agreement between France and the USSR

According to reports in the international press, a secret agreement has recently been concluded between France and the USSR to trade agricultural produce between the two countries using exclusively French and Soviet merchant shipping. This agreement is in flagrant violation of Community rules on competition and is contrary to the principles of free maritime commerce as laid down by the OECD.

Does not the Council think that a policy of this kind could create a precedent detrimental to the principles of free trade and what measures does it intend to take to ensure that the rules of competition are respected and to protect the other Member States' interests, which are suffering prejudice as a result of the Franco-Soviet agreement.

5. Question by Mrs VON ALEMANN (H-619/82)

Subject: Environmental policy during the German Presidency

What does the German President-in-Office intend to do to solve the environmental problems which arise or could arise in connection with nuclear power stations in border areas?

6. Question by Mr FELLERMAIER (H-634/82)

Subject: Situation in Turkey

Will the President of the Council state the Council's attitude on the application of the EEC/Turkey Association Agreement since the referendum of 7 November 1982 and whether and to what extent the adoption of the draft constitution represents a first step by Turkey towards a return to democracy?

7. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-639/82)

Subject: Common fisheries policy

Will the Council report on the agreements concluded on 21 December 1982 concerning the common fisheries policy?

8. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-640/82)

Subject: Imbalance in trade with Japan

In view of the fact that the Council has decided that it is necessary to press ahead and make certain adjustments to relations with Japan, what practical measures does it intend to take to remedy the present imbalance?

9. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-642/82)

Subject: Spain's entry into the Common Market

In view of the fact that the new Spanish government has recently spoken of normal and reasonable time-limits for Spain's entry into the Common Market, can the Council indicate the present timetable for negotiations and say whether 1 January 1984 still holds good as a target date for the different parties?

10. Question by Mr DENIAU (H-661/82)

Subject: Development of inner-German trade and impact on intra-Community trade

Given the increase in trade between West Germany and East Germany, which is carried out under an exemption system designed to benefit inner-German trade alone, does the Council intend to take measures to stamp out fraudulent practices concerning the origin of goods and the deflection of trade which is disturbing the Community market?

11. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-664/82)

Subject : Collusion - Conservative party and the EEC Commission

In December, the British Conservative Party had a broadcast on T.V. in which they attacked the policy of the Labour Party for withdrawal from the EEC and produced propaganda in favour of continued membership. The following day the Commission started a series of press conferences in Britain on the same theme. It is commonly believed in Britain that this could not have been a coincidence and that there was collusion between the Commission and the Conservative Party in order to denigrate the policy of the Labour Party which is supported by a large majority of the British people.

Does the Council accept the right of the Commission to interfere this way in the internal politics of a country and does it accept the right of the Commission to liaise with one political party against another ?

12. Question by Mr LALOR (H-482/82)

Subject: Regional Fund

As both the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee have delivered their opinion on the Commission's proposal for a Regulation to amend the European Regional Development Fund, when can we expect the Council to adopt a final decision on this proposal?

13. Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-672/82) (x)

Subject : Esperanto

In view of the greater international understanding created by language, would the Council discuss the possibility of encouraging the teaching of Esperanto throughout the Community?

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-114/82), converted into a question for Question Time

14. Question by Mr ANTONIOZZI (H-615/82)

Subject: Conclusions reached at the meeting of the European Council in Copenhagen at the beginning of December 1982

Alarming reports are currently circulating about the economic situation, unemployment, trade relations with the USA, security problems, East-West and North-South political relations and institutional development which is the fundamental instrument of European progress.

What prospects are open to Europe following the meeting in Copenhagen?

15. Question by Mrs BOUÏ (H-739/82)^(*)

Subject: Duty-free import of fuel in normal fuel tanks for all commercial vehicles (including buses) licensed in Community countries

The restriction on fuel contained in the normal tanks of goods vehicles and buses entering France and the Federal Republic of Germany causes considerable inconvenience at the Community's internal frontiers.

The other eight Member States already permit the import of fuel in the normal tanks of goods vehicles and buses free of all duty.

Only France restricts the duty-free quantity to 200 l, while the Federal Republic confines it to 50 l for goods vehicles and 100 l for buses. In contrast to these restrictions at the Community's internal frontiers the Federal Republic of Germany permits the import of full tanks from the GDR duty free.

The general exemption from duty of fuels in the normal tanks of goods vehicles and buses at the internal frontiers of the Community would significantly reduce traffic delays and result in substantial cost savings not only to industry but also to the French and German customs services.

Is the Council prepared to adopt the proposals for the amendment of Directive 68/297 of 19 July 1968¹ and for a directive on VAT exemptions, amended to ensure that, instead of being restricted to 100 litres, fuel contained in the normal tanks of commercial vehicles will remain duty-free throughout the Community's road network?

¹ OJ No. L 175, 23.7.1968, p. 15

16. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-668/82)

Subject : Environment Council Resolution on the importation
of harp and hooded seal products of December 1982

Is it the intention of the Council to review its attitude towards the importation of harp and hooded seals in the light of the conclusions of the studies initiated by the Council on this subject and to remove the restraints on trade if the studies do not contradict the points put forward by the Canadian government?

17. Question by Mr SHERLOCK (H-671/82)

Subject : Proposal for a Directive on Asbestos

In view of the considerable international concern about safety measures for those people working with asbestos, can the Council explain the reasons for its slowness in adopting the named Directive on the protection of workers from the risks incurred through exposure to agents at work: Asbestos?

18. Question by Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU (H-681/82)

Subject: Measures on behalf of farmers in countries with particularly complex problems

Having regard to the unsatisfactory Commission proposal on agricultural prices for 1983-1984, which amounts to an increase of even less than 7% (the lowest percentage resulting from application of the Treaty of Rome, Article 39 ff) and

Whereas it is necessary and just to take special measures in favour of farmers in countries with high rates of inflation,

Will the Council of Ministers state what measures it proposes to take to correct the severe disparities in income between farmers in the various Member States, to implement special development programmes for mountainous and less-favoured areas, especially in the Mediterranean regions of the Community, to adjust the agricultural prices applying in Greece to the level of Community prices - concurrently reducing or cancelling the transitional period - and to provide Greek farmers with subsidies and aids to help them contend with the steep rise in production costs?

19. Question by Mr FERGUSSON (H-683/82) (x)

Subject : Uniform electoral procedure

Can the Council give an undertaking that however difficult it may be to reach agreement on aspects of a uniform electoral procedure concerning the electoral system as such, it could and should be possible to reach a separate agreement on extending the franchise so that all Community citizens resident in the Community will be able to vote at the next European elections in 1984?

(x) Will not be called if item 353 is kept on the agenda

20. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-686/82)

Subject : Soviet Astrakhan Gas Project

What is the policy of the Council in regard to contracts by Community firms for the supply of plant and technology for the Soviet Astrakhan gas project, designed to satisfy domestic Soviet gas demand?

21. Question by Mrs DE MARCH (H-694/82)

Subject: Improvement of Community regulations concerning fruit and vegetables

Is the Council determined to act quickly to conclude an agreement making it possible to improve Community regulations concerning fruit and vegetables, taking into account the resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 16 June 1982 on the basis of the MAFFRE-BAUGE report (Doc. 1-279/82)?

22. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-703/82)

Subject: United Kingdom membership of the European Monetary System

Has the Council recently had occasion to discuss the objective reasons preventing the United Kingdom from joining the European Monetary System and can it indicate these reasons to the European Parliament?

23. Question by Mr MARCK (H-708/82)

Subject : European Foundation

Can the Council indicate which Member States have ratified this Act so far and the reasons why certain Member States have not yet done so ? Could it also indicate whether information could usefully be provided on the decisions and actions already taken by the temporary committee ?

24. Question by Mr BALFE (H-710/82)

Subject : European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

In response to my question H-553/82 (1), the Council stated that it had no position on the matter of the accession of the Communities to the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms "as it has not had occasion to discuss the substance of this matter".

Can the Council state when it expects to have a discussion on the matter ?

25. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-718/82)

Subject: Debate on the Middle East

Has the Council approved the resolution adopted by Parliament at its January part-session as the conclusion to the PENDERS report?

26 Question by Mr ADAMOU (H-723/82)

Subject: EEC trade with and granting of privileges to the Turkish junta

By decision of the Commission, levies on oil imports into the Community from Turkey are being reduced by 5.80 ECU per 100 kilos, and in some cases by 22.36 ECU. Since the issue is not only a technical but a political one, will the Council tell us why the Community, which is so vigorous in its defence of human rights in other countries, continue to trade with and grant privileges to the odious junta in Turkey, which has thrown into prison and tortured to death hundreds of thousands of democrats; and why it is indifferent to the fact that this aggravates the already unfavourable situation of Greek olive-oil producers?

(1) Verbatim report of proceedings on 15.12.1982 (provisional edition).

27. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-725/82)

Subject: Protection of Greece's national carrier airline

At the EEC Transport Ministers' meeting in Brussels in December, Britain, the Netherlands and Ireland urged that EEC airlines be allowed to operate flights to all Greek airports. For the state airline Olympic Airways, if such a plan were to be put into effect it would mean a dramatic fall in passenger traffic and virtual bankruptcy, with unforeseeable consequences for working people and the Greek economy in general. In view of this situation, what measures does the Council intend to take to prevent the above from happening and to protect Greece's national carrier airline?

28. Question by Mr. FLANAGAN (H-730/82)

Subject : European Monetary Fund

Has the Council held any discussions aimed at reviving the call for establishing the second stage of the European Monetary System, namely a European Monetary Fund which would have some of the functions of a Euro-bank ?

29. Question by Mrs. EWING (H-732/82)

Subject : Common Fisheries Policy Negotiations

Will the President - in - Office comment on recent progress made in the Common Fisheries Policy negotiations ?

30. Question by Lord BETHELL (H-736/82)

Subject : Landing cards

Is the Council aware that Greece is now the only Community member state that demands landing cards from visitors arriving from other member states and what efforts has the Council made to persuade the Greek Government to abolish this requirement ?

31. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-742/82)

Subject: USA-EEC Relations

In view of the ever-increasing number of matters for negotiation between the European Economic Community and the United States, particularly in the economic sphere which world developments dictate and will continue to dictate, does not the Council think that even the existence of a system of reciprocal diplomatic representation is strictly inadequate, in the eyes of the public, to maintain the level of importance of these relations and that it would probably be beneficial to seek a method of institutionalizing these relations by setting up a body along the lines of a 'High Commission', bearing witness to the irreversible nature of relations between the EEC and the USA?

32. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-743/82)

Subject: The problem of 'Berufsverbot' in FGR

Can the Council state whether the Ministers of Justice in the course of their consultations have concerned themselves with the problem of 'Berufsverbot' in the FGR, a measure smacking of McCarthyism which is contrary to the principles whereby political parties may operate freely under the law and freedom of opinion, especially in view of the fact that more than 5 000 people have been subjected to the 'hearings' procedure, and that at this moment it constitutes a direct intervention against the German Communist Party in view of the elections in March 1983?

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

33. Question by Mrs EWING (H-295/82)

Subject : UN General Assembly votes on apartheid

Given the Community's frequently declared opposition to apartheid, why have only two Member States consistently supported this stance throughout the 1979 and 1980 UN General Assembly votes on South Africa?

34. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-584/82)

Subject: Acceptance of Laotian refugees

In its resolution on Laos of 14 October 1982 and at the third meeting with the interparliamentary delegation from the ASEAN countries on 17 and 18 November in Strasbourg, the European Parliament stressed the need for a speedy solution to the acute problem of the South-East Asian refugees in camps in Thailand. Do the Ten intend to take any further measures to increase and expedite the acceptance of refugees from Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam in the Community countries on a permanent basis, particularly when this reunites families?

35. Question by Mr PLASKOVITIS (H-628/82)

Subject: Situation in Turkey

What is the Foreign Ministers' position with regard to the exclusion of previously active democratic politicians from engaging in political activity in future under the draft constitution adopted on 7 November 1982?

36. Question by Mrs GREDAL (H-629/82)

Subject: Situation in Turkey

What is the attitude of the Foreign Ministers towards the action taken by France, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway and Sweden to bring Turkey before the European Court of Human Rights?

37. Question by Mr HANSCH (H-631/82)

Subject: Situation in Turkey

Would the Foreign Ministers state what information they have with regard to allegations of torture in Turkish jails, how they regard such allegations, and whether they consider that human rights are being adequately protected and respected in Turkey?

38. Question by Mr FICH (H-633/82)

Subject: Situation in Turkey

Would the Foreign Ministers state their views on the new Turkish constitution, with particular reference to the principle of the division of powers, to fundamental and democratic rights, to the rights of political parties and trade unions to engage freely in their respective activities, and to constitutional guarantees to ensure the complete freedom of the press - particularly after the latest bans on newspapers and attempts to intimidate journalists?

39. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-654/82)

Subject: Genscher-Colombo Act

Will the Foreign Ministers give Parliament the time-table for their discussion on the Genscher/Colombo Act, and particularly on those sections which reaffirm the central importance of the European Parliament in the development of European Union¹, and when will the Foreign Ministers reach a decision on the Genscher/Colombo Act?

40. Question by Mrs BOSERUP (H-537/82)

Subject: Financing of European political cooperation

What measures have been taken by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to avoid the cost of holding their meetings being financed from the Council's budget in a manner contrary to the Treaties?

41. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-669/82)

Subject: The fate of Anatoli Chtaranski

Although seven winners of the Nobel peace prize, including Mr Willy BRANDT, took part on 10 December 1982 in the launching by Amnesty International of a campaign of signatures, calling for the release of all persons imprisoned solely for their beliefs or their origins, nothing more has been heard of the fate of Anatoli Chtaranski. It is not even known whether he is still alive following the hunger strike which he began on 27 September and the barbaric force-feeding to which he was subjected. Can the Foreign Ministers provide any information and say whether the Community has made individual representations to the 'Liberal' Andropov on behalf of the dying prisoner?

¹ Bulletin of the Communities, No 11-1981, point 3.4.1., part II, para. 3

42. Question by Sir Fred WARNER (H-673/82)

Subject : Vietnamese occupying Power

To ask the Foreign Ministers what information has been received by them concerning the fate of His Majesty, the King of Laos, the Crown Prince and other Members of the Royal Family arrested by the order of the Vietnamese occupying Power in 1977 and imprisoned near the Vietnamese frontier?

43. Question by Mr FLANAGAN (H-675/82)

Subject : The European Community and the suppression of Solidarity

Will the Foreign Ministers inform the European Parliament why at its recent meeting in Denmark it failed to state unequivocally its disapproval of the suppression of Solidarity in Poland and failed to provide even moral support to the Polish people in their hour of need?

44. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-698/82)

Subject : Grenada

Will the Foreign Ministers make representation to the Government of Grenada as regards its policy on human rights and its relationship with the Soviet Bloc and, if necessary, freeze Community aid to Grenada?

45. Question by Mr RIEGER (H-700/82)

Subject: European conference on disarmament

In a political declaration addressed to all the countries participating in the ECSC, the Warsaw Pact states made a series of proposals on disarmament and the improvement of East-West relations. Have the Foreign Ministers of the Community examined this declaration and are they prepared to put the mandate of the ECSC into effect and convene a European conference on disarmament?

46. Question by Mr BALFE (H-711/82)

Subject : Plastic bullets

In response to my question H-554/82 (1) asking whether the Foreign Ministers were aware of any European countries other than the United Kingdom where plastic bullets are in use, the Foreign Ministers stated that European political cooperation "does not cover the internal affairs of individual member countries".

Are the Foreign Ministers aware that there are almost twice as many European countries outside the Common Market as there are within it and that in the past Foreign Ministers have frequently passed comment on the internal affairs of individual European countries, for example, Poland and as it is understood that rubber bullets have been used in Switzerland, will the Foreign Ministers condemn this violation of human rights with the same vigour that they have demonstrated with regard to other countries ?

47. Question by Mr BOYES (H-713/82)

Subject : Chilean Exiles

Are the Foreign Ministers aware that 400 people from Chile are living in exile on the continent of Western Europe because they opted for exile rather than a prison sentence at the time of their trial - these people have now completed the agreed period in exile and are not now being allowed to return to Chile - and are the Foreign Ministers trying to do something about this matter ?

(1) Verbatim report of proceedings on 15.12.1982 (provisional edition).

48. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-719/82)

Subject: Attitude regarding the Middle East

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation indicate their attitude to the measures adopted by the European Parliament on the Middle East at its January part-session?

49. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-727/82)

Subject: EEC's political cover for Israel's aggressive policies

The UN General Assembly has in a Resolution called on all countries to cut off military and economic aid to Israel so as not to encourage it to continue its aggressive policies against the Arab countries and the Palestinian people. The USA, Israel and all the members of the EEC except Greece voted against the motion.

Can the Ministers of Foreign Affairs meeting in political cooperation tell us why the EEC continues to give Israel political and economic cover in line with the USA's adventuristic policy in the Middle East, while Israel maintains its barbarous military occupation of Lebanon and other Arab territories?

50. Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-729/82)

Subject: Defence

According to a report which appeared in 'The Economist' on 4.12.1982, defence matters are now discussed informally from time to time at Community meetings and the French Government is no longer so reluctant to give consideration to these issues. I would stress that my question concerns defence and not security matters which do now fall within the terms of reference of European political cooperation.

When meeting to discuss foreign policy, do the Foreign Ministers ever discuss defence matters, either formally or informally?

51. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-744/82)

Subject: The West German Government's so-called 'urgent problem' with regard to its immigrants

Have the EEC Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation considered the West German Government's so-called 'urgent problem' with regard to its immigrants since this Government directly violates immigrants' human rights through its policy of prohibiting entry and residence of immigrants' children aged 6 and over, of deporting children who have reached the age of 18, of expelling immigrants (Turks being particularly affected by this) on various pretexts such as traffic offences, the severe restrictions on the granting of political asylum, etc.?

52. Question by Mr PESMAZOGLU (H-486/82)

Subject: Estimation of unemployment in the Member States of the Community

In some Member States many young people and women do not appear in employment office statistics nor is there any record of the unemployed or under-employed in agricultural areas.

Is the Commission aware of the shortcomings in statistical estimates of unemployment in some Member States of the Community and what measures does it intend to take to ensure accurate, comparable assessments of the number of unemployed in the States of the Community?

53. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-508/82)

Subject: Measures to promote coal sales

What regulative, financial, legal or other measures has the Commission taken during the last five years in order to promote coal sales in the Member States?

54. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-522/82)

Subject : New Media

What steps are the Commission taking to make use of New Media techniques, in particular satellites, to promote the work of the European institutions?

55. Question by Sir Fred WARNER (H-666/82) (x)

Subject : Motorcycle noise

Can the Commission say how it proposes to implement Article 8 of its Directive of 23 November 1978 on the permissible sound levels and exhaust systems of motorcycles without further disadvantaging the European Motorcycle Industry?

56. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-582/82)

Subject : Labeling of energy consuming machinery

What progress can the Commission report on the labelling of industrial and domestic energy consuming machinery and appliances to indicate energy consumption ?

57. Question by Mr PRANCHERE (H-623/82)

Subject: Community rules on sheepmeat

Community rules on sheepmeat have had unfortunate repercussions for French sheep-rearers. Their income has stagnated and the opportunities for development are very limited. In its motion for a resolution on agricultural prices adopted at the November part-session (Doc. 1-837/82) the European Parliament called for the strengthening of 'the measures designed to encourage sheep-rearing and to improve Community rules'.

Has the Commission decided to heed this demand, firstly by proposing specific measures to encourage sheep-rearing when agricultural prices for 1983/1984 are fixed and secondly by submitting in the near future a revision of the Community rules?

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-117/82), converted into a question for question time

58. Question by Mr CHAMBEIRON (H-624/82)

Subject: Statement by Mr NATALI on a common defence policy for the Community

It is reported in the press that on 6 December Vice-President Natali made a public statement in Paris to the effect that the Community should institute a common defence policy.

Can the Commission confirm this statement and, if so, can it say whether a statement of this sort can be reconciled with the fact that the Community has no military powers under the Treaty, the Commission being moreover the 'guardian' of the Treaty, or with the obligation to maintain discretion incumbent upon a representative of the Commission when he is not speaking in his official capacity?

59. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-638/82)

Subject: Trade meetings with the United States

Following the GATT Council, which demonstrated the Community's cohesion, can the Commission describe the content of the discussions with the American delegation in Brussels on 10 December and say whether any commitments were made by either side?

60. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-641/82)

Subject: Bilateral negotiations in the textile sector

Can the Commission report on the bilateral negotiations on textiles; are the agreements with all the exporting countries satisfactory and do they allow the Community's continued membership of the Multifibre Arrangement?

61. Question by Mr DALZIEL (H-655/82)

Subject : Aid to Ethiopia

Will the Commission indicate how much Community aid has been given to Ethiopia under the relevant provisions of the Lomé Convention and, further, whether the concern about human rights in Ethiopia has or will have any effect on such aid?

62. Question by Mrs POIRIER (H-656/82)

Subject : Relations between the EEC and South Africa

Can the Commission confirm the existence of a Communication to the Council of 15.11.1982 concerning negotiations with South Africa within the context of Article XXVIII of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and, if so, can it explain the reasons for and contents of this agreement, even though the international community should be aiming to isolate South Africa in view of the system of apartheid prevailing there and in implementation of the UN resolutions. Can the Commission indicate the actual state of negotiations between the EEC and South Africa ?

63. Question by Mr DENIAU (H-660/82)

Subject : Growth of inter-German trade and repercussions on trade within the Community

In view of the increase in trade between West Germany and Eastern Germany, which is subject to an exemption system intended to favour exclusively inter-German trade, can the Commission indicate whether there exist at present cases of fraud with regard to the origin of goods and "deflected trade"; are not certain products in fact from other COMECON countries and is there not a tendency to re-export in the Community products from Eastern Germany ?

64. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-665/82)

Subject : Regional Fund - Non Quota Section

The Non Quota Section of the Regional Fund is being used to assist areas affected by industrial change including parts of the U.K. Areas of London, particularly in my constituency in the East End and in the constituency of Richard BALFE in South London, have been badly affected by such changes with unemployment in some areas as high as 30 %. Can the Commission give the people in those areas any hope that funds might be made available to help create badly needed jobs?

65. Question by Mrs. THEOBALD-PAOLI (H-721/82) (x)

Subject: Emergency aid for a region hit by drought

1. Since the beginning of the year the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region of France, particularly the department of Var, has been experiencing an acute drought.
2. The economic consequences are disastrous for agriculture and industries drawing on available water supplies and for the Mediterranean forests, which are being ravaged by fire.
The tourist industry may also suffer as a result of the drought.
3. In recent years the Commission has demonstrated Europe's solidarity by granting specific aid to regions hit by natural disasters.
4. Will the Commission now grant emergency aid to this drought-affected region?

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-66/82) converted into a question for Question Time

Subject: Measures to help the southern regions of Italy

- whereas in recent months the Commission has initiated infringement proceedings in respect of a number of regional laws in Sicily, dealing for the most part with support for cooperatives,
- whereas because of the socio-economic conditions in the region, the cooperative experiment is being launched in an unfavourable climate, as it has to compete in a sophisticated economic environment, with well-established private ventures; whereas as a result, the region's legislative measures are intended to overcome the initial handicaps by creating equal operating conditions,
- whereas in recent years Sicily, like all the other southern regions of Italy, has experienced a significant deterioration in its economic situation relative to the rest of the Community, the common agricultural policy having widened this gap by its unequal treatment of Mediterranean products
- whereas the structural measures have not as yet succeeded in offsetting the disadvantages resulting from the lack of a proper market policy,
- whereas the legislative measures adopted by the regional authorities in Sicily are not only intended to create similar conditions of operation and competition in the area of marketing but are also an attempt to deal with a difficult economic situation which has alarming effects on employment and incomes,

1. Will the Commission state its plans for giving Sicily and all the other underdeveloped regions of the Italian Mezzogiorno a real chance to overcome the difficulties created by the present recession and to start a genuine development process within the framework of a Community policy geared more closely to the production requirements of these regions, which are experiencing difficulty in finding an appropriate role within the economic system of the Community?

In particular, what urgent measures does it intend to adopt to bring about changes in the common agricultural policy which would guarantee Mediterranean products adequate market support and effective Community preference and thus ensure the same benefits as those enjoyed by farmers in the Community's central regions?

2. Would the Commission not agree that the contested regional laws are in fact compatible with the common market in virtue of Article 92(3)(a) of the Treaty?

(x) Former oral question with debate (D-69/82), converted into a question for Question Time

67. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-399/82)

Subject: Resumption of the North-South Dialogue

Following the meeting of the IMF General Assembly, it appears that no agreement could be reached by the wealthy nations and the underprivileged countries on a strategy to overcome the current international economic and financial crisis. Nevertheless, the scale of indebtedness of the developing countries is a cause for great concern on the part of the industrialized nations and is itself sufficient to justify a resumption of the North-South Dialogue. Has the Commission, therefore, any plans to submit proposals with this in mind, and if so, what are they?

68. Question by Mr MAHER (H-423/82)

Subject : Equitable sharing of responsibilities between Commissioners

Is it the intention of the President of the Commission to reorganize that body so as to ensure a more equitable sharing of responsibilities between Commissioners?

69. Question by Mrs EWING (H-519/82)

Subject : French Hormone checks on imports of British Lamb

What action has the Commission taken to prevent the unnecessary delay of British lamb consignments at the French borders due to random samples for growth promoters which are not used in the production of British lamb?

70. Question by Mr GONTIKAS (H-548/82)

Subject: Violation of trade union freedoms in Greece

Can the Commission state what measures it intends taking against the Greek Government in view of the way in which the latter has made - and is continuing to make - the various trade union organizations subservient to the PASOK one-party state. I am referring in particular to the election procedure the Greek Government is trying to introduce in the Greek Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

How does the Commission intend to react to the fact that this new election procedure will reduce the representativeness of those elected, limit the range of views expressed and ensure that only persons sympathetic towards the PASOK Government are elected to the Boards of these Chambers?

71. Question by Mr. ADAM (H-552/82)

Subject: Energy aid for glasshouses

According to the National Farmers' Union of England, the maximum allowable aids which the British Government has agreed to pay until 31st March, 1983, will still allow a small but significant advantage to Dutch growers in the important months of January to March 1983.

What action does the Commission intend to take and will the Commission also take steps to include non-oil types of heating fuel in the scheme?

72. Question by Mr DAVERN (H-556/82)

Subject : "Imported" Inflation in Ireland

Is the Commission aware that more than 55% of Irish imports and especially agricultural input is imported from the United Kingdom for reasons of tradition and proximity, furthermore is the Commission aware that because of Ireland's Membership of the E.M.S. and Britain's continued absence, there exists a totally distorted situation to the detriment of the Irish economy and finally do the Commission agree that a substantial part of Irish inflation (9% over two years according to certain eminent economists) is "imported" as a direct consequence of Britain's refusal to-date to join the E.M.S.? What measures do the Commission intend to take to counteract this totally unacceptable and totally anti-community situation?

73. Question by Mr de FERRANTI (H-566/82)

Subject : Testing procedures for biotechnological products

Ten national testing procedures for ensuring the safety of biotechnological products instead of a single Community procedure could impose a crippling and unnecessary cost on a vital new technology as well as causing unnecessary suffering to the animals used in the industry. What progress is being made for a single European framework for testing new biotechnological products?

74. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-644/82)

Subject: Strengthening the Community's internal market

Given that the Council has agreed that a series of appropriate work programmes should be drawn up in the fields of technical standards, company law, certain services and formalities at the Community's internal frontiers, how does the Commission intend to contribute towards this strengthening of the internal market?

75. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-658/82)

Subject : Competitive electricity prices

What is the influence of financial targets, local and regional taxation in Member States on electricity prices for supplies to large industrial consumers?

76. Question by Mr PROVAN (H-667/82)

Subject : Imports of wild game and game products from Eastern Europe

Will the Commission give full details of current arrangements for all imports of wild game and game products from Eastern Europe and do the Commission intend to take any action? I understand that these are at present disturbing the market in the Community and that the local price of pheasants in Scotland has dropped from £ 5.00 per brace to £ 1.50 - the equivalent of 1954 prices. This will soon wreck part of the rural economy and have serious implications for animal conservation in the countryside.

77. Question by Mr FLANAGAN (H-674/82)

Subject : EEC Aid for Northern Ireland

In answer to Question No H-107/82 (1) which deals with Community action in favour of Northern Ireland's unemployment problem, the Commission stated that "in the application of the so-called 'supplementary measures' in favour of the United Kingdom, adopted on 27 October 1980, a part of the financial contribution was earmarked for the funding of programmes in Northern Ireland". Will the Commission state exactly which programmes have been funded in Northern Ireland?

(1) O.J. No. 1-286/82, p. 95

78. Question by Dame Shelagh ROBERTS (H-680/82)

Subject : Protection of occupants of automobiles

What are the main conclusions of the Commission's study on the protection of occupants of automobiles initiated in 1978, and when will they be published and made available to Members?

79. Question by Mrs GAIOTTI DE BIASE (H-682/82)

Subject: Joint university study programmes

Can the Commission indicate what change there has been in the number of applications received in the academic year 1982-83 for joint university study programmes and give details of their distribution between the various countries, particularly Italy? If Italy's level of participation is still low, what, in its opinion, are the main causes?

80. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-688/82)

Subject: Measures on behalf of the aged in Europe

Last February the European Parliament unanimously adopted the resolution on the conditions and problems of the aged in the European Community. What measures have been or will be taken to meet Parliament's requests?

81. Question by Mr LALOR (H-690/82)

Subject : EEC Aid for Community programmes

Does not the Commission agree that an ever-closer union among the peoples of Europe could be achieved if EEC aid were to be granted to organisations such as the Irish Council of the Community Games and the Danish Youth Organisation who organise exchange visits for young people involving educational, social, cultural and sporting activities, but who are faced with considerable difficulties resulting from increased travel costs and that such exchange schemes, if promoted by the EEC between all the Member States, would benefit the entire European Community?

82. Question by Mrs DE MARCH (H-693/82)

Subject: Emergency aid following Mediterranean forest fires

At its October 1982 part-session, the European Parliament adopted a resolution tabled on behalf of the Communist and Allies Group on emergency aid following the serious forest fires in the Mediterranean area. Furthermore, in its answer to my oral question (H-393/82)¹, the Commission took the seriousness of these events into account and declared that it was prepared to consider the possibility of using the various financial instruments at its disposal to provide aid. To date, nothing has been provided for forest fires. Is the Commission determined to take swift action to unblock this aid which is perfectly justified by the extent of the damage?

¹ Debates No. 289 of 13 October 1982

83. Question by Mr RIEGER (H-699/82)

Subject: Multilateral financial aid for Yugoslavia

Did the European Community take part in the multilateral negotiations on the financial and economic problems of Yugoslavia which were held recently in Switzerland and what was the outcome of these negotiations?

84. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-702/82)

Subject: United Kingdom membership of the European Monetary System

Can the Commission explain what, in its opinion, are the objective reasons preventing the United Kingdom from joining the European Monetary System?

85. Question by Mr PEDINI (H-704/82)

Subject: Steel industry

On 8 January 1983, the Italian Minister of Industry attended a meeting in Milan, Lombardy, at which he complained that the cuts in production imposed by the ECSC fall mainly on the private sector and that the Italian public sector steel industry is in a privileged position in that - according to the Minister - it is the main beneficiary of the state contributions specified in Article 20 of Law No. 46.

Is this an accurate description of the facts and, if so, does the Commission not intend to take this into account when calculating the production cuts imposed on the Italian market and does the Commission see this situation as a distortion of competition on the Italian domestic market which would have a detrimental effect on technological innovation in which both private and public steel industries are involved and to which both are equally committed in an effort to restore competitiveness and protect jobs?

86. Question by Mr MARCK (H-707/82)

Subject : Restriction of free trade

Once again serious incidents have hindered free trade within the Community. On 17 December 1982 about 20,000 Belgian eggs were destroyed at Rungis market near Paris. This was detrimental to the normal export trade in a sector already experiencing a grave crisis.

Can the Commission indicate what steps have been taken to condemn these incidents and to prevent them in future and what damages were paid to those concerned ?

87. Question by Mr BOYES (H-712/82)

Subject : Human Rights in Turkey

The Commission will be aware that the members of the Turkish Peace Movement have been imprisoned and treated in a humiliating way. They have been released from prison over the Christmas period but the trial continues and many members face a sentence of up to thirty years imprisonment.

Amongst the members of the Peace Association Executive is one man who is 67 years old and is in need of hospital assistance because he is suffering from cancer.

Will the Commission inform the Parliament what it is doing to stop these trials in Turkey, what sanctions it is taking as a result of the lack of human rights and whether or not it would be prepared to take up the case of individuals who are obviously in difficult circumstances such as health problems in particular ?

88. Question by Mr. O'DONNELL (H-715/82)

Subject : Irish flour milling industry

In reply to my oral question in the November 1982 session of Parliament (H-496/82) (1) the Commission indicated that they were not informed of any crisis in the Irish flour milling industry by the then Irish Government. Has the Commission now investigated this serious problem and if so what are its conclusions ?

89. Question by Mrs DURY (H-716/82)

Subject : Creation of 'employment zones' in Brussels

In view of the publication of contradictory reports in the Belgian press, could the Commission state whether, following its veto delivered to the Belgian Minister for External Relations regarding the creation of 'employment zones' in Brussels (with tax concessions for a ten-year period for a certain type of undertaking), it has in fact forwarded an opinion to the Belgian Government stating that it would accept the creation of employment zones and would give case-by-case consideration to undertakings wishing to establish their activities in such areas ?

90. Question by Mr SKOVMAND (H-720/82)

Subject : Olive oil fraud in Italy

What action does the Commission plan to take to deal with the olive oil fraud in Italy and other Member States ?

(1) Verbatim report of proceedings on 17.11.82, annex

91. Question by Mr ADAMOPOULOS (H-722/82)

Subject : Greek Agricultural Cooperatives

The enormous subsidies given by the Community to the multi-nationals, the monopolies and the various groups of producers for the processing and marketing of farm products deal a real blow to the Agricultural Cooperative Movement.

Since the problem is still greater for Greek Agricultural Cooperatives because they are given no opportunities for development in the shape of infrastructure projects (for marketing, transport, sorting, packaging etc. of farm products), with the result that the movement of Greek farm products is dominated by various middlemen, consumers have to pay high prices for the products and farmers suffer irreparable losses, what measures does the Commission intend to take to strengthen the Agricultural Cooperatives in Greece, to make them economically self-contained and genuinely develop the part they play in processing and moving their products, so that consumers and the farming population are protected ?

92. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-724/82)

Subject : Abolition of subsidy to cattle breeders

It is reported in the Greek press that, at the instance of the EEC, the Greek State is ending the subsidy to cattle breeders as from 1983, whereas according to the Treaty of Accession it should be phased out over a period ending in 1985.

What measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure that these subsidies are not abolished, so that the Greek consumer does not have to pay still higher prices for meat and a number of other stockfarming products, and the already dwindling stockfarming sector in Greece is not hit still further ?

93.

Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-726/82)

Subject : Edible oil

Despite the fact that thousands of Greek farming families make their living from the production of edible oil and demand for it in the Community is great, that product is nevertheless not considered protected by the EEC, which imports edible oil from non-member states, chiefly Spain, at a time when in Greece 30,000 tonnes of last year's production remain unsold, while production this year is expected to be 65% higher.

Given that existing storage space is inadequate for storing all this production, what measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure that this vulnerable product finds sales outlets and Greek edible oil producers are protected ?

94.

Question by Mr SCHMID (H-733/82)

Subject : Planned merger between Grundig and Thomson-Brandt

The planned merger of the two major electrical companies Grundig and Thomson-Brandt would create a group accounting for 45% of all televisions and 22-23% of all hi-fi systems on the German market. Experts also fear that jobs with Grundig in Germany will be threatened.

What is the Commission's opinion of this merger? Has it taken any steps in this matter and, if so, which?

95. Question by Mrs SEIBEL-EMMERLING (H-734/82)

Subject : Planned merger of Grundig and Thomson-Brandt

The planned merger of the two major electrical companies Grundig and Thomson-Brandt would create a group accounting for 45% of all televisions and 22-23% of all hi-fi systems on the German market. Experts also fear that jobs with Grundig in Germany will be threatened.

Has the Commission considered this case and is it planning to take measures involving the Directorate-General for Employment?

96. Question by Mr BETTIZA (H-735/82)

Subject : Heavy taxes and charges on young students with grants

The Commission is aware of the unfair taxes (18% in Italy) and the heavy charges for health services which are applied to study grants in the Member States of the Community and

in view of the seriousness of youth unemployment, does the Commission not consider it appropriate to draw up a Community recommendation to eliminate these discriminatory measures which jeopardize the essential vocational training of thousands of young people ?

97. Question by Mr ANTONIOZZI (H-737/82)

Subject : Impending re-entry of the Soviet COSMOS satellite

In view of the impending re-entry of the Soviet COSMOS satellite which is causing grave concern and unrest in so many parts of the world, what steps has the Commission taken to ascertain the extent and the nature of the danger and to lessen its effect ?

98. Question by Mr. PEARCE (H-740/82)

Subject : Sale of butter to the Soviet Union

Does the Commission believe that France has recently made an agreement with the Soviet Union, in breach of Community legal provisions, for the sale of butter with the benefit of a subsidy from EEC funds and, if so, what action does it intend to take with regard to this situation ?

99. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-741/82)

Subject: EEC/USA relations

In view of the growing frequency of negotiations between the European Economic Community and the United States necessitated by circumstances, particularly in the economic sector, does the Commission not consider that the existence of a diplomatic representation on both sides is not sufficient to bring home to the public the true importance of these relations and that it would be useful to seek a formula for the institutionalization of these relations by setting up a 'High Commission' or similar body which would reflect the irreversible nature of EEC/USA relations?

100. Question by Mrs PRUVOT (H-745/82)

Subject: Violation of Council Regulation 1612/68 relating to the free movement of workers within the Community

What can the Commission do, apart from invoking the legal status of workers, to ensure that the principle of non-discrimination is respected, in view of the fact that it is being blatantly violated at present by the Belgian authorities who impose exorbitant annual enrolment fees on persons from other Community countries studying in Belgium? Furthermore, how can it allow nationals of developing countries, in whose favour it is pursuing an active policy of support, to be compelled to obtain scholarships from their country of origin instead of being treated with a certain benevolence by the Belgian authorities?

101. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-746/82)

Subject: The Belgian textile programme

On 25 October 1982 the Belgian Government requested an extension of the textile programme for 1983 which had been approved by the Commission until 1982 only.

Now that almost four months have elapsed, can the Commission say whether it has agreed to the extension and what form the latter is to take? Is it true that the aid is to be limited to a 7% interest rebate for 50% of investments, that the aid is to be limited to a total of Bfrs 4,000m. for 1983 and that, in certain sub-sectors where ex ante notification was previously required, no aid is henceforth to be given?

102. Question by Mrs VIEHOFF (H-747/82)

Subject: Combating illiteracy in the Community

Will the Commission indicate what actions have already been undertaken to combat illiteracy in the Community; what plans it has to respond to Parliament's resolution¹ on measures to combat illiteracy in general, and in particular relating to the proposals it has tabled to the Council concerning vocational training policies for the 1980s², and also in the framework of the Social Fund, especially relating to the proposals³ for its reform?

¹ Official Journal C 149, 14.6.1982

² COM(82) 637 fin

³ COM(82) 485 fin

103. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-748/82)

Subject : The Lebanon

The European Community has consistently called for the total evacuation of all foreign forces from the Lebanon, recognising that both Israeli and Syrian troops are in the Lebanon against the wishes of the legitimate government of that country.

The EEC has a number of cooperation agreements with third countries, including with Israel and Syria, both of these agreements being identical.

Can the Commission give an assurance that the Community at all times adopts an even-handed approach when dealing with these two states engaging in the Lebanon conflict, and that this has applied and will continue to apply in particular to the two cooperation agreements and their financial protocol.

104. Question by Mr HARRIS (H-750/82)

Subject : Minimum landing size of mackerel

Following my question of 12th May 1982 (H-108/82) (1), can the Commission confirm that the Scientific and Technical Committee for Fisheries has now accepted my proposal that there should be a derogation for handliners if a minimum length size of 30 cm is introduced for the Western stock of mackerel ? What is the current position about the original proposal for a minimum landing size and for a derogation ?

(1) Debates of the European Parliament Nr. 285

