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Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTIONS

Pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME

on 14 and 16 December 1981

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-438/81)

Subject: Common fisheries policy

Does the Commission expect to publish further proposals for a common fisheries policy and if so when?

2. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-496/81)

Subject: Functioning of The New Community Instrument

Could the Commission give a brief assessment of the functioning of the New Community Instrument for borrowing and lending operations to date? Which countries submitted the first applications? Were these applications accepted and what is the balance of loans still available?

3. Question by Mr DENIAU (H-499/81)

Subject: Non-discriminatory levy on all vegetable oils

Does the Commission intend finally to propose the introduction of a non-discriminatory levy on all Community or imported vegetable oils? What obstacles currently stand in the way of this proposal which must be introduced in the interests of fairness and effectiveness?

4. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-501/81)

Subject: Incompatibility of French nationalization measures with the Treaty of Rome

Article 3(c) of the Treaty of Rome provides that the activities of the Community shall include: 'the abolition, as between Member States, of obstacles to freedom of movement for persons, services and capital'. This principle of the free movement of capital has been disregarded by the French Government in its decision to nationalize three companies: CII Honeywell Bull, ITT France and Roussel Uclaf - 'notable for their large foreign shareholdings' (Nationalization Bill tabled by Mr Pierre Mauroy on 23 September 1981).

In these circumstances does the Commission intend to ask the French Government to comply with Article 3(c) of the Treaty of Rome concerning the free movement of capital, and withdraw its plan to nationalize these three companies?

5. Question by Mr CALVEZ (H-502/81)

Subject: Incompatibility of French nationalization measures
with the Treaty of Rome

Article 52 of the Treaty stipulates that 'restrictions on the freedom of establishment of nationals of a Member State in the territory of another Member State shall be abolished by progressive stages in the course of the transitional period. Such progressive abolition shall also apply to restrictions on the setting up of agencies, branches or subsidiaries by nationals of any Member States established in the territory of any Member State'. The French Government's decision to nationalize all credit institutions, with the exception of existing foreign banks is an evident violation of Article 52 of the Treaty and seems to suggest that the banking system is to be frozen. In these circumstances, has the Commission asked the French Government whether new foreign banks will be able to establish themselves in France?

6. Question by Mr de LIPKOWSKI (H-508/81)

Subject: Visit by the delegation of Japanese industrialists
to the Commission

What conclusions do the representatives of the Commission consider should be drawn from the visit of the Japanese industrialists' delegation? Is it thought in Brussels that this visit is likely to bring progress in restoring the balance of trade relations between Europe and Japan?

7. Question by Mr de la MALENE (H-510/81)

Subject: French economic policy

Now that the French government has suddenly adopted rigorous measures affecting prices and public spending, whereas it had proposed an expansionist budget ten days earlier, can the Commission state whether its own recommendations are the cause of this abrupt U-turn by the French authorities?

8. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-512/81)

Subject: Operation of the European Monetary System

Does the Commission consider that the European Monetary System has worked well and that the recent monetary adjustments, notably concerning the French franc and the German mark, are likely to put an end to the speculation of the last few weeks?

9. Question by Mr VIE' (H-514/81)

Subject: Siting of power stations close to frontiers

Can the Commission state what are the current procedural arrangements for consultation on the siting of power stations close to frontiers between Member States? Will this procedure, which forms part of the new Community energy policy, have to be observed in the near future?

10. Question by Mr KIRK (H-517/81)

Subject: The European Community and Greenland

In the debate leading up to the referendum on Greenland's continued membership of the European Community, the Greenland regional government has drawn attention to the possibilities it would have negotiating an association agreement under Articles 131 and 132 of the EEC Treaty (OCT agreements) were the referendum to result in a decision to withdraw.

Does the Commission consider it realistic to imagine that such an agreement could be concluded between the Community and Greenland if the latter decided to withdraw? Could such an agreement contain provision for one-way development aid from the Community for projects in Greenland? Can the Commission confirm that an OCT agreement with Greenland would be conditional to continued Danish membership of the Community?

11. Question by Mr PETERSEN (H-528/81)

Subject: Nuclear Power Station costs

The well-known independent American energy consultant, Charles Romanoff, recently drew attention to the decreasing competitiveness of nuclear power. His calculations show that the capital cost of nuclear power stations has risen by 142% between 1970 and 1978, as against 66% for equivalent coal-fired power stations. By the end of the '80's it will almost be possible to build two coal-fired power stations for the price of one nuclear power station, while the price of nuclear-generated electricity will be at least 25% higher.

Does the Commission accept Mr Romanoff's calculations, and if so, what conclusions has it drawn?

12. Question by Mrs FUILLET (H-533/81)

Subject: Mutual recognition of diplomas

The Economic and Social Committee has approved the proposals submitted by the Commission to the Council concerning the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications of doctors, nurses responsible for general care, dentists and veterinary surgeons respectively.

Why has the Commission not extended the scope of this directive to cover all medical auxiliaries, particularly kinesiotherapists and biological chemists?

13. Question by Mr ENRIGHT (H-546/81)

Subject: Aid to Vietnam

Will the Commission state what political considerations have prevented them from resuming aid to Vietnam and, in particular, whether it has been brought about by relations with ASEAN?

14. Question by Mr BLANEY (H-551/81)

Subject: Economic and social deprivation in the north of Ireland

Does the Commission agree that there is very serious economic and social deprivation in areas of the north of Ireland and that this deprivation is one of the causes of violence, and will it consider taking the initiative in proposing a full-scale effort using the Community funds to improve the lot of the most deprived sections of the Irish population?

15. Question by Mrs PRUVOT (H-555/81)

Subject: Work of the Statistical Office of the European Communities
on the social situation of cultural workers

The resolution on the social situation of cultural workers (Doc. 1-558/80)¹ was adopted unanimously by the Assembly on 16 January 1981. In virtue of Article 122, second paragraph, of the EEC Treaty, the Assembly therefore invited the Commission to 'take immediately the steps needed to ensure that the Statistical Office can start drawing up as soon as possible the necessary statistics on the employment, remuneration and social security benefits of cultural workers in the countries of the Community'. If it is not able to give precise figures, could the Commission at least give an indication of how far the Statistical Office has progressed with its work at the present time?

¹OJ No. C 28 of 9.2.1981

16. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-562/81)

Subject: Energy Investment subsequent to Cancun Summit Meeting

In view of the failure of the Mexico Cancun Summit to agree on the Creation of an energy affiliate to the World Bank, will the Commission investigate the possibility of establishing an energy affiliate to the European Investment Bank, in order to cooperate with members of OPEC in the financing of Third World Energy projects?

17. Question by Mr BEAZLEY (H-571/81)

Subject: OPEC Oil price increases

What are the consequences for the Community's energy strategy of the increase in the price of oil agreed by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries at its meeting 29 October 1981?

18. Question by Mr VON WOGAU (H-311/81)

Subject: Electron beam lithography

Would the Commission agree that research and development in the field of electron beam lithography is of vital importance to the future development of the electronics sector and that Japanese and American companies have, however, achieved an almost unassailable competitive advantage over European companies? Is it prepared to promote research and development in this field and what steps is it taking to do so?

19. Question by Mrs EWING (H-409/81)

Subject : Levy on flights to South Africa

Will the Commission propose, in order to re-emphasise the abhorrence of the Community peoples of apartheid in South Africa, that every passenger flying to a South African airport from an airport in the Member States should pay a levy amounting to 20% of the fare, the proceeds to be devoted by the Commission to supporting international organisations, such as the International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa, which assist the victims of apartheid and arouse international opinion against it?

20. Question by Mr O'DONNELL (H-444/81)

Subject : Shannon Estuary - Ireland

Reports of many studies indicate that the Shannon Estuary has enormous potential for development as a major deep sea port and as an industrial location. Would the Commission be willing to support such development and, if so, by what means?

21. Question by Mr NEWTON DUNN (H-524/81)

Subject : Financial consequences of Article 144

If - and we all hope it will never be necessary - Parliament voted according to Article 144 of the Treaty of Rome, and after the Commissioners had resigned and had been replaced, are there any provisions for ex-Commissioners to receive during the remainder of their four year term a salary-in-lieu or continued contributions towards a pension or a financial benefit of any other kind?

22. Question by Mr COLLINS (H-543/81)

Subject : Effects of lead poison on health

Is the Commission aware of the recent British study by a team headed by Dr. Yule which discloses the effects of lead poison on intelligence and what action does the Commission propose to take in the light of this report to prevent further damage to the health of future generations?

23. Question by Mr CECOVINI (H-564/81)

Subject : European initiative in honour of the memory of Giuseppe Garibaldi

1982 marks the centenary of the death of Giuseppe Garibaldi and committees are being set up in Italy, the United States and the Latin American countries to organize large-scale celebrations. Would the Commission not agree that it would be fitting to promote a European initiative to honour the memory of Giuseppe Garibaldi, who fought for the freedom and unity of the peoples of both Europe and the Americas, and that it would be appropriate, amongst other things, for 1982 to be dedicated to the 'Hero of the two Worlds' and designated 'Giuseppe Garibaldi Year'?

24. Question by Mr HAAGERUP (H-573/81)

Subject: Form of packaging for milk and juice

Further to my oral question No. H-73/81¹, may I ask whether the Commission interprets its proposal for a directive to the effect that an individual Member State, such as Denmark, may opt to retain its present system of packaging for milk and juice, i.e. cartons, and whether the Commission can state how much more expensive a litre of milk is expected to become in Denmark, for instance, if the proposal for a directive is interpreted by the Danish Government in such a way that it is made compulsory to switch to returnable packaging in the form of glass bottles?

¹ Debates of the European Parliament No. 1-272

25. Question by Mr RYAN (H-576/81)

Subject: Inadequate oil refining facilities

Has the Commission considered the problems of insecurity of oil supplies for a Member State arising out of such Member States not having facilities, or adequate facilities, for the refining of oil and if so with what result; if this problem has not been considered should not urgent consideration be given to the matter now?

26. Question by Lady ELLES (K-579/81)

Subject: Parking facilities for the disabled

Can the Commission now state what progress it has made in its efforts to encourage implementation of the recommendation regarding parking facilities for the disabled adopted by the European Conference of Ministers of Transport on 6th December 1979 for Member States to adopt reciprocal arrangements by 2 January 1980?

27. Question by Mrs von ALEMANN (H-580/81)

Subject: Results of the consultations held in France on the construction of nuclear power stations

The consultations held in France showed a majority in favour of further construction work at the nuclear power stations at CHOOZ and CATTENOM. Given the reservations of the citizens of Belgium and Luxembourg living nearby, has the Commission considered the consequences of this situation, particularly in the context of the directive concerning the assessment of the effect on the environment of certain public and private works?

28. Question by Mr LEZZI (H-581/81)

Subject: Cultural cooperation with Third World countries

A short time ago, in Perugia, now in Liège and the next in who knows which other university in a member country of the European Community, students from the Third World are compelled to resort to hunger strikes in protest against government measures - usually ambiguous and arbitrary - which restrict in a discriminatory way their access to universities in the Member States of the Community. What action does the Commission intend to pursue to ensure that, in compliance with the guidelines put forward by the ACP-EEC Assembly and more generally with the right to study, fairer arrangements are applied governing the admission of students from the Third World to universities in the Member States of the Community?

29. Question by Mr CLUSKEY (H-585/81)

Subject : Community campaign against poverty

Will the Commission report on the progress to date in relation to the preparation and publication of its final report on the first programme to combat poverty and outline its proposals for future action ?

30. Question by Mr COMBE (H-588/81)

Subject : Dangers of receptacles for domestic use

As there are no European laws on the dangers to human health posed by cooking receptacles made of enamelled ceramic material or by any crockery normally used in households regardless of its composition, and as certain countries such as the USA already have rules in this field, could the Commission put forward relevant proposals for a directive, a move which would also make it easier to export to countries with such legislation ?

31. Question by Mrs GREDAL (H-590/81)

Subject: Community aid for Greenland

The Danish press has recently quoted Commission sources to the effect that, if Greenland were to withdraw from the European Community, it could negotiate for development aid on the same lines as the present ACP countries. It has also been claimed that Greenland could obtain fishery and development aid agreements similar to those the European Community has with Senegal and Guinea Bissau.

In view of this and the Commission's unsatisfactory answer to Written Question N° 609/81, what comments does the Commission have to make on whether Greenland could count on such aid if it were to withdraw?

32. by Mrs PANTAZI (H-589/81)

Subject: Discrimination against Greek students in Belgium

Given the fact that Greece has been a full member of the EEC for a year now and bearing in mind the Decision by the Council of Ministers of 27 June 1980 on equal treatment as regards tuition fees for students from EEC Member States, we should like to point out that for the current academic year Greek students in Belgium are being required to pay between Bfrs 80,000 and Bfrs 150,000 University registration fees whereas their Belgian fellow-students are only being charged Bfrs 11,000. What measures does the Commission intend to take to put an end to this discrimination against Greek students?

33. Question by Mr MØLLER (H-591/81)

Subject: Imports of Perrier into Denmark

Does the Commission agree that the Danish Government has to accept free imports of Perrier mineral water when the importer undertakes, by means of a deposit arrangement, to see to it that the empty bottles are returned for recycling or reuse?

34. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-592/81)

Subject: Measures to be taken vis-à-vis shoe imports from Brazil

Does the Commission intend, as a result of its inquiry into shoe imports from Brazil, to propose that a duty be levied to countervail the export subsidy granted by the Brazilian Government?

35 Question by Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE (H-598/81)

Subject: Development areas in Belgium

In the absence of a decision by the Belgian Government, the Commission decided of its own accord to draw out the boundaries of the development areas in Belgium. Can the Commission explain why it chose to ignore the objective criteria established by the Flemish Regional Economic Council, thus arbitrarily excluding a large number of potential development areas in Flanders from access to any form of aid?

36. Question by Mr PATTERSON (H-599/81)

Subject : British wine

Does the Commission intend to include British wine growers in the latest proposals for wine regulations specifying the type of sugar added to wine; is the Commission aware that British wine growers would have to import all the specified sugar additives, i.e. liquid grape products - from the Continent, and that this would considerably raise the cost of British wine in view of the large amount of sugar needed in British wine due to the nature of our climate? Does the Commission consider that this would be discriminatory against the UK wine growers which would lead to distortion of competition and in the light of this, will the Commission take steps to ensure a derogation is established for the UK in respect of these proposed wine regulations?

37. Question by Mr BALFE (H-601/81)

Subject : Contribution to the EC Budget

Does the Commission accept that the poorer countries of the EEC should be financial beneficiaries and that the richer countries should expect to pay more into the EEC than they receive in return?

38. Question by Mr van AERSSEN (H-602/81)

Subject: Trilateral monetary agreement

What view does the Commission take of the proposal for a trilateral monetary agreement encompassing the three major currency zones of the Dollar, the Yen and the ECU, under which the margin of fluctuation of these currencies would be limited to roughly 10% either side of a central rate which could be adjusted to take account of any changes in basic economic conditions, an indicator of divergence on the lines of that used in the European Monetary System would be introduced and exchange rates could be stabilized as a result of closer coordination of interest rate policies?

39. Question by Mrs POIRIER (H-603/81)

Subject: Refunds in respect of products of the wine-growing sector and fruit exported in the form of spirituous beverages

The inclusion of whisky and other grain spirits in the common organization of the market in cereals has given rise to discrimination against other spirituous beverages. Protocol n° 19 of the 1972 Treaty of Accession prohibits all forms of discrimination in the field of spirituous beverages. In order to prevent the other producers of spirituous beverages from being penalized, has the Commission decided to propose granting refunds in respect of exports of products of the wine-growing sector and fruits used in the production of spirits?

40. Question by Mr BUCCHINI (H-605/81)

Subject: Community rules relating to clementines

Owing to the almost total absence of Community protection, the clementine producers of Corsica are confronted with many difficulties. In order to remedy this situation will the Commission on the one hand include clementines in the common organization of the market in citrus fruits so as to extend the system of basis and buying-in prices to these producers and, on the other, increase the reference price, which has been frozen since 1975?

41. Question by Mr GRIFFITHS (H-608/81)

Subject : Non-Quota section of the ERDF

Can the Commission explain why of the five measures adopted under the Non-Quota section of the ERDF, the only two which are not underway according to Information Memo P-65, page 5, are those for "certain zones adversely affected by restructuring of the steel industry" and for "certain zones adversely affected by restructuring of the shipbuilding industry"?

42. Question by Mr HABSBURG (H-610/81)

Subject: Transparency of relations with state-trading countries

In its answer to my Oral Question No. H-567/81¹, the Commission shows once again that it fails to understand the facts of the situation. It does not seem to realize that there is a fundamental difference between state-trading countries, with their priorities of political subversion, and the countries of the free world, which operate on the basis of purely economic criteria. In the latter case secrecy is justified, in the former it is not, because under totalitarian regimes manipulation is normal practice.

Is the Commission aware of the fundamental difference between the countries of the free world and the state-trading countries in the field of foreign trade, particularly in foodstuffs and raw materials, and, if so, is the Commission prepared to introduce a new system for relations with state-trading countries which is so transparent to the public and its elected representatives that there can no longer be any justification for the sort of criticisms levelled against us in the past, e.g. to the effect that we deliberately squandered our surpluses on the Soviet Union?

¹ Report of Proceedings of 18.11.1981

43. Question by Mr PROVAN (H-612/81)

Subject: US-Manufacturing Clause in US Copyright Act

As the US Copyright Act disallows some European literary works to enter the American market, will the Commission make representations to the American authorities to make certain that this clause is repealed from the 1st July, 1982 and that US printers lobby to have the clause retained, is abandoned so that free trade can take place?

44. Question by Mr BØGH (H-616/81)

Subject: Measures by the Commission in respect of officials

What measures does the Commission intend to take in respect of officials who, in the course of their work for the Commission, infiltrate the political decision-making process within a Member State?

This question is prompted by two confidential notes from a high-ranking Danish Community official to a Commissioner which were printed on 16 October 1981 in the organ published by Siumut, a political party in Greenland.

In these notes the official proposes, following a visit to Greenland, that large sums of money be used to influence certain organizations and named individuals prior to the referendum on Greenland's continued membership of the Community.

He justifies a massive financial effort by reference to the Community's great interest in Greenland in geographical and political terms and from the point of view of raw materials.

45. Question by Mr DE GOEDE (H-622/81)

Subject: Accession of Spain and Portugal

Spain is regularly faced with threats or attempts to overthrow its new-born democracy, for example the unsuccessful coup by Colonel Tejero, the large demonstration to mark the anniversary of Franco's death etc.

With a view to the future accession of countries such as Spain and Portugal, will the Commission of the European Communities state clearly that membership is conditional upon the maintenance of parliamentary democracy?

46. Question by Miss HOOPER (H-624/81)

Subject: Price of sugar as a raw material

What action does the Commission propose to take to rectify the negative discrimination against the UK confectionery industry, since UK processors pay 10% more for their raw material sugar than other EEC processors, and MCAs no longer apply to the sugar confectionery industry because of the de minimis provision and since refunds on exports of sugar in bulk are up to 50% higher than refunds on exports of sugar-based processed products.

47. Question by Mrs MARTIN (H-625/81)

Subject: Level of refunds for milk products

As the statistics for the last three months show a drop in French exports of milk products, notably butter, butter-oil and skimmed milk powder, does the Commission intend to raise the levels of refunds as a matter of urgency to reflect the increase in the target price last April and to counter the sharp rise in positive MCA's which is increasing distortions of competition between the Member States of the Community?

48 Question by Mr CLINTON (H-627/81)

Subject: Coresponsibility levy on milk

In view of the serious drop in farmers incomes (over 50% in Ireland) will the Commission propose that the coresponsibility levy be dropped?

49. Question by Mr McCARTIN (H-628/81)

Subject: Unemployment - New measures

What new measures does the Commission intend to propose to counteract the high level of unemployment?

50. Question by Mr RIEGER (H-630/81)

Subject: Exploratory talks with Hungary

In view of the positive and attractive development of Hungary's external trade policy, does the Commission not feel it appropriate to open exploratory talks with that country with a view to negotiating a trade and cooperation agreement?

51. Question by Mr BERKHOUWER (H-632/81)

Subject: Supplies of gas from the Soviet Union

Is the Commission acquainted with the substance of the agreements being concluded by certain Member States with the Soviet Union for the supply of natural gas, and has it made any moves to bring the various bilateral negotiations under Community auspices?

52. Question by Mr. PRAG (H-634/81)

Subject: Need for Community legislation to avoid the poisoning of young children by dangerous domestic products

In view of the fact that every year, in England and Wales alone, more than 11000 children under the age of five suffer accidental poisoning by dangerous household and garden products, such as bleach and disinfectant, and that the numbers are increasing at probably more than 15 per cent per year, will the Commission introduce a Directive making compulsory throughout the Community the use of child-resistant containers for such products and, in particular, for liquid household products of this kind?

53. Question by Mr VERROKEN (H-635/81)

Subject: Definition of Community development areas in Belgium

Is not the Commission being careless in its definition of Community development areas, and is its use of the criteria for determining those areas really as consistent as the Commission maintains in Paragraph 1.3.2 of its proposal? Is not the Commission proceeding in fact in an obscure and subjective manner?

Without making any study of the situation, it assimilates the districts of Dinant, Philippeville, Verviers South, Huy, Namur and Thuin into the Ardennes-Condroz-Gaume area, thereby making them development areas. At the same time it merges the Oudenaarde district - which has been damaged more than others by depopulation and the slump in the textile sector - with Courtrai, one of the richest districts in Belgium, which belongs moreover to a different province. As a result, Oudenaarde can no longer be considered a development area. In the provinces of Limburg and West Flanders the Commission uses GNP as its criterion, elsewhere it uses GDP. Neither in West Flanders nor in the Oostende and Zeklo districts is the unemployment percentage considered in absolute terms, but only its trend. Elsewhere Community and Belgian indices of comparison are mixed up.

54. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-636/81)

Subject : Sale of tickets for the World Cup for Football
in Spain

Does the Commission consider that the exclusive contracts between Mundiespana-82 (the Spanish organising authority) and selected national ticket selling agents such as Sportsworld Travel, for the sale of tickets for the World Cup for Football in Spain to be anti-competitive and detrimental to interests of the consumer in the Community and that action should be taken and/or representation made to the Spanish authorities?

55. Question by Mr TREACY (H-639/81)

Subject : Rejection by Council of proposed regulation on the ERDF

Will the Commission give its reaction to the recent rejection by the Council of its proposed regulation on the ERDF, within the context of the May 30th Mandate?

56. Question by Mr PATTISON (H-640/81)

Subject : Proposals to alleviate youth unemployment

Can the Commission state what specific proposals it has currently under review to alleviate unemployment in the under 25 age group in view of the continuing deterioration in employment for that age group?

57. Question by Mr ROSSI (H-643/81)

Subject: Protection of the professional organizations covering wines of designated origin

Could the Commission state what legal and economic requirements a proposal for a wine agency would have to fulfil in order to be considered compatible with the Treaty of Rome? While an agency of this kind might be useful in the case of wines not covered by fixed arrangements (table wines, local wines), would it be compatible with the provisions of the Treaty if it also dealt with registered designations of origin which for many years have been subject to a disciplined and efficient interprofessional organization that has produced entirely satisfactory results? Could the Commission also consider the case in which the wine agency did not take in the interprofessional organization but included the National Institute for Registered Designations of Origin, as this would effectively deprive the profession of the free management of its designations.

58. Question by Miss DE VALERA (H-644/81)

Subject: Report on the handicapped

In view of the report which the Commission has promised to come forward with before the end of 1981, on the measures taken for the handicapped, will the Commission outline the areas where it now believes new initiatives can be taken for handicapped persons?

59. Question by CRONIN (H-645/81)

Subject: Midlands regional development strategy study

Will the Commission state to what extent Community support can be provided for various development projects set out in the Irish Midlands regional development strategy study, which was co-financed by the EEC?

60. Question by Mr DAVERN (H-646/81)

Subject: Financial aid to the Irish poultry industry

Will the Commission provide details of financial aid under the EAGGF Guidance scheme which has been provided to the Irish poultry industry since Ireland's accession to the Community, and furthermore, will the Commission give the assurance that Irish poultry projects will continue to be considered for financial assistance under the EAGGF Guidance scheme, 1982 and 1983?

61. Question by Mr FLANAGAN (H-647/81)

Subject: Directive for informing and consulting the employees of undertakings with complex structures, in particular transnational undertakings

Will the Commission make known the progress it has made in its consultations with the Irish Government in relation to the drafting of the proposal for a directive for informing and consulting the employees of undertakings with complex structures, in particular transnational undertakings?

62.Question by Mr LALOR (H-648/81)

Subject: Soviet Union gas

Does the Commission agree that common sense demands that the potential of the Aquitaine basin in France and the North Sea area should be explored as future major sources of natural gas before hazardous commitments are made to the Soviet Union to supply Western Europe with natural gas?

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

63. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-405/81)

Subject: Meetings of Ministers of the Community Member States outside regular Council meetings

Can the Council say what meetings have been held between the Ministers of the Community Member States - for example, 'Gymnich'-style conferences - outside Council meetings, and which of them have led to the formulation of policies afterwards officially adopted in a regular Council meeting?

64. Question by Mrs SCRIVENER (H-462/81)

Subject: Indexing of wages in the EEC

Can the Council indicate what action it intends to take on the communication from the Commission concerning the indexing of wages in the EEC and does it hope to follow the Commission's recommendations concerning the adjustment of the reference price index and limits on automatic wage adjustments given that European trade unions have recently expressed their opposition to any form of Community instrument on indexing?

65. Question by Mrs EWING (H-483/81)

Subject: The revision of the Regional Fund Regulation

Does the Council share the opinion that respect of the principle of additionality is an indispensable precondition for an efficient functioning of the European Regional Fund' and, if so, is the Council willing to consider positively the introduction of new mechanisms ensuring respect of the principle of additionality in connection with the revision of the fund regulation?

66. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-487/81)

Subject: Incompatibility of the French nationalization programme with the Treaty of Rome

Article 7 of the Treaty of Rome states that within its scope of application 'any discrimination on grounds of nationality shall be prohibited'. However, Section II of the French Nationalization Bill of 23 September 1981 concerning the nationalization of banks and in particular Article 13, paragraph 2, subparagraph 3 states that those banks whose capital is largely owned, either directly or indirectly, by natural persons not resident in France or by legal persons whose registered place of business is outside France will not be nationalized.

Are these provisions not discriminatory, under Article 7 of the Treaty, against banks whose capital is largely owned by French natural or legal persons? If so, what measures does the Council intend to take to ensure that Community law is respected?

67. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-497/81)

Subject: European social area

As some Members of the Council have referred to the need to establish a European social area, can the Council state what it understands by 'European social area' and what means does it intend to use to achieve this objective?

68. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-519/81)

Subject: Hänsch Report - relations between the European Parliament and the Council of the Community

Would the President in Office say which items in the Hänsch Report, adopted by the European Parliament on 9th July 1981, have been accepted by the Council and which items he expects to be accepted during the next six months?

69. Question by Mr BLANEY (H-552/81)

Subject : Economic and social deprivation in the north of Ireland

Is the Council aware of the very serious social and economic deprivation affecting areas of the north of Ireland, does it recognise this deprivation as one of the root causes of violence, and would it welcome proposals from the Commission for a crash programme using Community funds to improve the lot of the most deprived sections of the Irish population?

70. Question by Mr BEAZLEY (H-570/81)

Subject: OPEC oil price increases

In the light of the decision by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to raise the price of marker crude oil by \$2 to \$34 per barrel, at its meeting of 29 October 1981, what instructions has the Council given to the Commission to bring about a significantly reduced role for oil in the world economy?

71. Question by Mr BATTERSBY (H-572/81)

Subject : Students from the Peoples' Republic of China in
the European Community

Given that the training of students is an area of high priority in the Chinese Peoples' Republic and that the Chinese authorities in recent years have been sending an ever increasing number of students to higher educational institutions in the Member States of the Community, do the Council Education Ministers, in the interest of solving EEC-China relations intend to co-ordinate and pool information on Chinese students currently studying in the Community, and on the courses of study and places available to students from the Peoples' Republic of China?

72. Question by Mr KIRK (H-574/81)

Subject: Temporary extension of the technical measures for the
conservation of fishery resources

At the meeting of the Council of Ministers responsible for fisheries of 27 October 1981, a permanent extension of the technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources was vetoed by Denmark.

Can the Council state whether any Member States expressed opposition to a temporary extension of the technical conservation measures at the above meeting, and if they did not, what prevented the Council from taking a decision on a temporary arrangement?

73. Question by Mr RYAN (H-577/81)

Subject: Inadequate oil refining facilities

Has the Council considered the problems of insecurity of oil supplies for a Member State arising out of such Member States not having facilities, or adequate facilities, for the refining of oil and if so with what result; if this problem has not been considered should not urgent consideration be given to the matter now?

74. Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-583/81)

Subject : Draft directive on the harmonisation of regulations relating to Collective Investment - Undertakings in Transferable Securities

Can the Council indicate what progress it has made in considering this draft directive ? Is the Council aware that this directive is supported by the industry in each Community Country ?

75. Question by Mr CLUSKEY (H-584/81)

Subject : Community's Poverty Programme

Will the Council call on the Commission to expedite work on its Poverty Programme, and adopt as speedily as possible the Commissions draft decision, in order to facilitate the setting up of a further Community Programme to combat poverty ?

76. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-593/81)

Subject: Effect on small and medium-sized undertakings of the increased price of iron and steel

What does the Council intend to do to halt the increase in the price of iron and steel sold to small and medium-sized undertakings as a result of the obligation to submit price scales?

77. Question by Mr SEELER (H-595/81)

Subject: Directives on the harmonization of taxes in the European Community

At present, 14 proposals for directives on the harmonization of various taxes in the Community are pending before the Council. These have been approved by the European Parliament; in some cases, the proposals were drawn up and Parliament's opinion on them delivered more than ten years ago.

Does the Council agree that the harmonization of tax systems is an important precondition for further development of the Common Market and in particular for the gradual ending of checks on goods at frontiers between the Member States? Will the Council give its attention to the proposals for directives which are before it as soon as possible and decide whether or not to adopt them?

78. Question by Mr BALFE (H-600/81)

Subject : Presidency of the Council

Is it the Council's intention that the Prime Minister of the country holding the presidency will always seek to address the Parliament during the presidency?

79. Question by Mr PRANCHERE (H-604/81)

Subject: British contribution to the Community budget

Can the Council confirm that the United Kingdom's net contribution to the Community budget for 1980 and 1981 will be considerably less than provided for in the agreement of 30 May and has the Council decided to rectify this situation and, if so, how?

80. Question by Mr C. JACKSON (H-606/81)

Subject : Grants for Higher Study within the EEC

Does the Council believe there would be merit in a grants scheme at Community level for students who are EEC nationals and wish to study in EEC countries other than their own and will the Council also give a report on the progress achieved in discussion within the Education Committee since 1978 on the question of a reciprocal grants scheme?

81. Question by Mr GRIFFITHS (H-609/81)

Subject : Non-Quota section of the ERDF

Can the Council explain why of the five measures adopted under the Non-Quota section of the ERDF, the only two which are not underway according to Information Memo P-65, page 5, are those for "certain zones adversely affected by restructuring of the steel industry" and for "certain zones adversely affected by restructuring of the shipbuilding industry"?

82. Question by Mr CHAMBEIRON (H-614/81)

Subject: European passport

In view of the differences of opinion between the Member States as to the form which a European passport might take, particularly concerning the use of a set of computerized data, does the Council not think it preferable to abandon a scheme which, in the final analysis, could prejudice the rights and freedoms of the citizens of the Community?

83. Question by Mr BØGH (H-615/81)

Subject: Community information activities

Does the Council agree that funds set aside for Community information activities are being allocated on the basis of political considerations?

This question is prompted by a statement made by the Commission representative at a meeting of the Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport on 23 September 1981.

He stated that in future the appropriations set aside for information purposes would be used selectively, a greater proportion of them being applied in the United Kingdom, Greece and Denmark - the three Member States where continued membership of the Community is a current political issue.

84. Question by Mr DE GOEDE (H-621/81)

Subject: Accession of Spain and Portugal

Spain is regularly faced with threats or attempts to overthrow its new-born democracy, for example the unsuccessful coup by Colonel Tejero, the large demonstration to mark the anniversary of Franco's death etc.

With a view to the future accession of countries such as Spain and Portugal will the Council of the European Communities state clearly that membership is conditional upon the maintenance of parliamentary democracy?

85. Question by Miss HOOPER (H-623/81)

Subject: Price of sugar as a raw material

Is the Council aware of the discrimination against UK confectionery manufacturers since UK processors pay 10% more for their raw material than other EEC processors, and MCAs no longer apply to the sugar confectionery industry because of the de minimis provision, and since refunds on exports of sugar in bulk are up to 50% higher than refunds on exports of sugar-based processed products, and what action does the Council propose to take?

86. Question by Mr HORGAN (H-626/81)

Subject: Social Affairs Council

Will the Council briefly report on the outcome of the recent Social Affairs Council?

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

87. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-554/81)

Subject: Official recognition of the PLO by Greece

Were the Foreign Affairs Ministers meeting in political cooperation informed in advance by the Greek Government of its intention to recognize officially the Palestinian Liberation Organization? Do the Foreign Affairs Ministers consider that the process of political cooperation is facilitated by this initiative?

88. Question by Mr SCHWARTZENBERG (H-569/81)

Subject: Failure of Greece to recognize Israel

Given that one of the objectives of the European Community is to achieve a certain minimum agreement on common positions in foreign policy matters, are the Foreign Ministers aware of the serious anomaly of Greece's refusal to recognize the State of Israel, which places it at total variance with the other nine Member States?

89. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-578/81)

Subject: Peace in movements in Europe

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation intend to give serious consideration to the mass anti-war movement which is developing in Western Europe? Do they also propose to put into effect the peoples' wishes, as expressed by the recent demonstrations in support of peace in the capitals of the Member States of the EEC, and condemn the USA's unacceptable designs regarding 'limited nuclear war' in Europe?

90. Question by Mr BALFE (H-596/81)

Subject : Presidency of the Council

Is the President in Office aware that since the Direct Election of the European Parliament in 1979 no President in Office of the Council of Foreign Ministers has survived a full six months in office? Does this impair political co-operation and is the President in Office hopeful of a place in the Guinness Book of Records as the first person to survive a full term?

91. Question by Sir Jack STEWART-CLARK (H-613/81)

Subject: More visible and effective unity in foreign policy

Recognising that trade is already effectively conducted on a Community basis, recognising also that the unity or division of foreign policy and trade varies greatly between the countries of the Community, what positive steps do the foreign ministers intend to take to achieve a more visible and effective unity in foreign policy which can, in turn, be linked to trade?

92. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-617/81)

Subject: Disappearance of citizens in Argentina

Do the Ministers not agree that there is a need for urgent action to defend human rights given that more than 20,000 suspected opponents of the military junta, many of whom are citizens of Community countries, have disappeared in Argentina?

93. Question by Mrs CINCIARI RODANO (H-618/81)

Subject: Violation of human rights in Argentina

With regard to the situation in Argentina, where government agencies continue to abduct suspected opponents of the military junta, often including members of their families and even young children, who then disappear without trace, where torture is still practised and the authorities refuse to inform European governments of what has happened to citizens of Member States of the Community who are in Argentina and have disappeared, do the Ministers not intend to take appropriate steps to seek an end to such serious violations of human rights?

94. Question by Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE (H-620/81)

Subject: Release of Armando Valladares

Are the Ministers prepared to take joint action in the framework of political cooperation to press the Cuban government to release Armando Valladares, a Cuban poet who has been imprisoned for the last 20 years because of his political beliefs and who has been subjected to the strictest and most degrading form of imprisonment?

95. Question by Mr DENIS (H-629/81)

Subject: Aggression against the Republic of the Seychelles, an ACP State

The bloody but, fortunately, unsuccessful attack mounted on 26 November by mercenaries from South Africa against the Republic of the Seychelles, a sovereign state and signatory to the Lome Convention, underlines once again the threat to peace in this region of the world posed by the racist and aggressive policy of the Pretoria Government. In the light of such aggression and of the daily attacks against the 'front line' states, will the ministers at last take appropriate measures in accordance with the recommendations of the UN, notably as regards the oil embargo and the ban on sales of arms to South Africa? Do they not also agree that such actions constitute the real threat to the sea links on which the countries of the European Community depend for their supplies of energy and other strategic raw materials?

96. Question by Mrs EWING (H-633/81)

Subject: Amnesty International's campaign for the "disappeared"

Will the foreign ministers meeting in political cooperation take account of the Amnesty International campaign for the "disappeared" when coordinating their policies on the countries which have been black-listed in this campaign?