

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1981 - 1982

15 February 1982

DOCUMENT 1-998/81

ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME

on 15 and 17 February 1982

1. 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?

2. 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'?

3. 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?

4. 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?

5. 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?

6. Question by Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE (H-598/81)

Subject: Development areas in Belgium

In the absence of a decision by the Belgium 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?

7. 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?

8. 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?

9. 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 Eeklo districts is the unemployment percentage considered in absolute terms, but only its trend. Elsewhere Community and Belgium indices of comparison are mixed up.

10. 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?

11. Question by Mr 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?

12. 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?

13. 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?

14. 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?

15. Question by Sir David NICOLSON (H-715/81) (x)

Subject: British Plant Hire Industry - NACE
Classification

Mr Ortoli in his reply to my written question no. 1848/79 (1) released on February 29, 1980 stated that the Statistical Office of the European Communities and the United Nations Statistical Office were actively engaged on a project to revise NACE classifications and that proposals regarding the treatment of plant hire industry would be put forward by the Community.

The industry which has been steadily expanding in the European Community is based on the efficiency and plant utilisation attainable by specialist firms maintaining, manning and hiring expensive equipment to different contractors for the limited periods of time they actually need it. It is therefore an important service to the Community construction industry and makes for cost saving and greater competitiveness.

This has now been recognized by the British Government in modifications to the Finance (No. 2) Bill: Hiring/Leasing which were enacted in the U.K. Parliament in July 1980, and which exempt short-term leasing or hiring that is normally for a year or less from the adverse provisions on first year capital allowances. This action was of great significance and confirms that this industry should be identified as a sub-group of the construction heading in the NACE system, a proposal which is supported by the British Department of the Environment which sponsors the construction industry in the United Kingdom. It is in no way operating in the same way as traditional leasing firms.

Under the circumstances can the Commission now confirm that it has made appropriate representations and advise on the likely outcome without further delay?

(1) OJ no. C 156, 25.6.1980, p. 62

(x) Former oral question without debate (O-20/81), converted into a question for question time

16. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-317/81)

Subject: Community Energy Objectives for 1990

What are the principal lacunae in the energy programmes of Member States?

17. Question by Mr von WOGAU (H-319/81)

Subject : European Standards

What is the Commission's general policy towards the use of reference to standards in harmonization directives?

18. Question by Mrs FUILLET (H-538/81) (x)

Subject: Information campaign on the facilities of the European Social Fund

In Chapter 2 - Social Fund - of the resolution on the position of women in the European Community which it adopted in February 1981, the European Parliament called on the Commission and the Member States:

'to organize a large-scale information campaign in order to make the citizens of the Community more aware than hitherto of the facilities offered by the European Social Fund.'

I feel this matter is particularly important in view of the present state of female employment; can the Commission therefore state:

- Whether it has launched such an information campaign?
- How it proposes to organize the campaign in the Member States?
- If not, when it intends to start?

(x) Former oral question without debate (O-30/81) converted into a question for Question Time

19. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-439/81)

Subject : Disabled people in the Community

To ask the Commission if it will now report on what action it has already taken and what action it proposes to take to improve the well-being of disabled people in the Community during the International Year of the Disabled?

20. Question by Mrs SCRIVENER (H-460/81)

Subject: EEC regulation on exclusive distribution contracts

Does the Commission intend to replace the present EEC rules governing exclusive distribution contracts, due to expire in 1982, and does it plan to put an end to the exclusive distribution agreements in which retailers undertake to sell only certain products supplied by one producer, an abuse that occurs particularly in the brewing industry? If not, can the Commission explain in what circumstances certain undertakings will be able to obtain exemption from the EEC's rules on competition?

21. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-486/81)

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 Commission intend to take to ensure that Community law is respected?

22. Question by Mr CALVEZ (H-504/81)

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 fundamental rule of the free circulation of capital is not being respected in the nationalization of three French 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 view of this, does the Commission intend to invoke Article 169 of the Treaty of Rome?

23. Question by Mrs PRUVOT (H-566/81)

Subject: Right to set up as an acupuncture specialist in
the EEC countries

Can the Commission give details of the training required of persons wishing to set up as acupuncture specialists in the Community Member States and can it tell Parliament whether the directives relating to the mutual recognition of diplomas apply to acupuncture?

24. Question by Mr KIRK (H-575/81)

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

Since the technical measures for the conservation of fishery resources have been adopted as temporary measures on several occasions by the Council, and in view of the Community's special obligations concerning fishery resources, why has the Commission requested the Member States to adopt national measures, when at the Council meeting of 27 October 1981 there was apparently no opposition to the technical conservation measures being temporarily extended?

When does the Commission intend to submit a new proposal on technical conservation measures?

25. Question by Mr LEZZI (H-582/81)

Subject: Urban Renaissance

1981 was declared 'Urban Renaissance Year' by the Council of Europe. To this end, a campaign was launched in London on 21 October 1980 and will end in Berlin early in 1982. In the context of increased cooperation between the Council of Europe and the European Community, what action has the Commission taken or what are its plans for making public opinion aware of the problem of urban renewal?

26. Question by Sir Fred WARNER (H-594/81)

Subject : Effect of U.S. legislation on European Industry

What representations are being made by the Commission to the Government of the United States to ensure that clause 601 of the U.S. Copyright Act is repealed with effect from 1st July 1982 and what steps does the Commission intend to take in the event that repeal is frustrated by the bill HR3940 introduced in the House of Representatives on 17th June 1981?

27. Question by Mr C. JACKSON (H-607/81)

Subject : National Aids relating to apples

What progress has the Commission made in meeting the requests made by Parliament in its Resolution of 13th March 1981, and in particular what action has been taken regarding the requests to examine distortion of competition by national aids and make the list of National Aids available?

28. Question by Mr DELEAU (H-631/81)

Subject: Fraudulent importation of textile products

Has the Commission made appropriate arrangements for an effective campaign against fraudulent importation which is often based on false certificates of origin? Has the Commission acquired the requisite technical and administrative means to enable it to react quickly in the cases of fraud which it uncovers and what are these preparations and means?

29. Question by Mr NEWTON DUNN (H-637/81)

Subject : Choosing who makes studies for the Commission

Will the Commission explain clearly why they prefer to choose privately themselves who is to carry out the many studies financed by them each year, and why they prefer not to advertise these opportunities throughout the Community by using the "S" series of the Official Journal?

30. Question by Mr DELATTE (H-641/81)

Subject: Community accession to the International Sugar Agreement

Could the Commission say what stage the negotiations on Community accession to the International Sugar Agreement have reached, given that during the meeting held in London on 19 and 20 November 1981 between representatives of the Commission and members of the Executive Committee of the ISA it was decided that a joint working party should be set up?

31. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-650/81)

Subject: Possible abolition of duty-free sales on journeys within the Community

Given the possibility that duty-free sales on journeys within the Community may be abolished, can the Commission say what measures it intends to take to include in its Community customs arrangements some provision to safeguard the acquired economic and social rights of workers and consumers in the Community?

32. Question by Mr GEURTSSEN (H-652/81)

Subject: Factors distorting competition in the glasshouse sector

The Commission obviously believes that the price paid by Dutch market-gardeners for natural gas to heat glasshouses distorts competition in the Community. Competition can of course also be distorted by other factors such as special fiscal and/or social measures, subsidized interest rates and the like. Will the Commission therefore conduct a thorough investigation into the special arrangements and measures in the various Member States which may influence prices and earnings and as a result competition in market-gardening under glass and, where its investigation points to the existence of such arrangements and measures, take the necessary steps to put an end to them and will it present the results of this investigation to the European Parliament?

33. Question by Mr PENDERS (H-656/81)

Subject: Food aid to Poland

In Poland nobody knows that food aid is being provided by the EEC. Is the Commission prepared to take steps to ensure that goods supplied to Poland as food aid are clearly marked to show their Community origin?

34. Question by Mrs LENZ (H-657/81)

Subject: Supplies of Community aid to Poland

Does the Commission intend to take steps to ensure that in future supplies of Community aid to Poland are clearly designated as such? Otherwise there is a danger that these substantial Community consignments will be marked incorrectly as to their consignor, so that neither the Poles nor indeed the European public as a whole will be aware of their origin.

35. Question by Mr ADAM (H-659/81)

Subject: Coal research

Technical coal research is currently supported by the ECSC budget. Will the Commission undertake to introduce proposals whereby financial support will also be available from Community funds?

36. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-660/81)

Subject: Nuclear power

Does the Commission agree that only a substantial increase in the use of nuclear power for the generation of electricity over the next two decades can avoid the energy crisis reaching proportions where there is not enough electricity to meet the demand and, if so, does it deplore the current campaign by the anti-nuclear lobby to denigrate the use of nuclear power for civil as well as for military purposes?

37. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-661/81)

Subject : Research in the coal industry

Given the required and important rôle of coal in meeting the Community's future demand for energy, does the Commission consider that the technical coal research allocation in the 1982 ECSC Budget is sufficient to maintain research and development in this area at the necessary level?

38. Question by Mr PATTERSON (H-665/81)

Subject: Imports of fruit pulp from third countries

Following allegations and reports of dumping of fruit pulp from Poland and Yugoslavia in the 1981 marketing season, can the Commission report on its negotiations with third country importers - particularly Poland and Yugoslavia - to guarantee prices of fruit pulp entering the Community for the 1982 season?

Is the Commission satisfied with the undertakings - if any - it has received?

39. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-666/81)

Subject: Unemployment as a factor in calculating the allocation of resources to Member States

According to the latest EEC statistics on unemployment in the Member States, it appears that in November 1981 the unemployment rate in Greece was 0.8%.

The unemployment rate is a major factor in deciding on the allocation of resources to Member States. Does the Commission base itself on this figure of 0.8% for Greece and if not, then what unemployment figure is used as a basis for calculating the allocation of resources?

40. Question by Mr ADAMOY (H-667/81)

Subject: The marketing of Greek citrus fruits

In 1980-1981 EEC countries accounted for only 3% of Greek citrus fruit production (oranges, lemons and tangerines) compared with 93% which went to Eastern bloc countries.

What concrete measures does the Commission intend to take - given that this year's production of oranges is 36% up on last year's - to increase the percentage share of Greek citrus fruits going to EEC countries and to ensure that the principle of Community preference is applied to Greek citrus fruits and fruit juices?

41. Question by Mrs POIRIER (H-668/81)

Subject: EEC food aid

According to the FAO the food situation in the developing countries, and especially in the least developed countries, is likely to continue to deteriorate over the next decade. Does the Commission envisage a major increase in food aid to meet the needs of these countries above and beyond the special food aid for LDCs it has just proposed? Does the Commission not consider that the EEC should do everything within its power to guarantee the security and independence of the developing countries with regard to food so as to put them out of reach of political pressure or financial speculation?

42. Question by Mr PRANCHERE (H-669/81)

Subject: EEC food aid

In a notice to the Council on special food aid to the least developed countries the Commission considers that the Community food aid programme for cereals is inadequate to meet the needs of these countries.

With a view to achieving a lasting and significant increase in food aid, does not the Commission consider that urgent action should be taken to promote the development of these agricultural products within the EEC in order to enable the EEC to pursue such a policy?

43. Question by Mrs LE ROUX (H-670/81)

Subject: Aid for fuel used in non-industrial inshore fishing

Rising fuel costs are leading to higher production costs for fishermen. Is the Commission prepared to off-set this trend by proposing a regulation on aid for fuel used in the non-industrial inshore fishing sector?

44. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-672/81)

Subject: Consumer protection in the cosmetics sector

Throughout their lives, both men and women use cosmetics, including toiletries for everyday use. The effects of using these products over a prolonged period, even in the absence of any contra-indication, may, after a certain number of years, prove very serious.

In view of this, does the Commission plan to issue a framework directive containing standards designed to protect the consumer from the production stage onwards by requiring producers to give full manufacturing details which would provide a clear indication of the proportions of active ingredients and additives used, the exact quantities and the controls, including restrictions on the filling of containers, that are necessary before a product qualifies as a cosmetic?

45. Question by Mr VAN AERSEN (H-673/81)

Subject: GATT conference of ministers

What preparations is the Commission making for the GATT conference of ministers in November 1982 and if it is to prepare appropriate guidelines or a brief, what does it envisage as the main points?

46. Question by Mr PAPAESTRATIOU (H-679/81)

Subject: Community aid for citizens of the Member States who have been forced to leave certain African countries

It is a well-known fact that several thousand citizens of the Member States have been forced to leave African countries such as Zaire, Angola and Zimbabwe, frequently in tragic circumstances, and to abandon small or large assets without any compensation after several years' residence in and service to the country in question. The Community grants economic aid to a number of these African countries. What steps is the Commission thinking of taking to aid European refugees from African countries, and to what extent could it grant temporary financial aid pending final reimbursement of the lost assets by the ACP States?

47. Question by Mr PINTAT (H-682/81)

Subject: Floods in South-West France

Following the torrential rain which affected the French departments of Gironde and Lot-et-Garonne for more than a week and the consequent widespread flooding caused by high water levels in the Garonne and its tributaries, especially in the Langon and La Réole areas, can the Commission state how it intends to help the victims, knowing that the damage caused by the rain is not covered by insurance?

48. Question by Mr WEDEKIND (H-683/81)

Subject: Delivery charges for newspapers and periodicals within the Member States

Is the Commission aware that inland delivery charges for newspapers and periodicals in the Member States of the Community are subsidized but that full rates are charged in the case of delivery to another Member State? This means that the cost to a foreign subscriber, especially in the case of Dutch-German transactions, is more than 110% higher than the inland price. Does not the Commission feel that it has a duty under the Treaties of Rome to make every effort to ensure that goods may be sent from one Member State to another without frontiers or national subsidies in one Member State adversely affecting citizens of other Member States, and does it see any possibility of establishing a uniform rate for newspapers and periodicals along the lines of the harmonized inland and intra-Community postage rates for letters?

49. Question by Mrs SALISCH (H-685/81)

Subject: Community cohesion in the face of possible future divergences

Can the Commission give a summary of Community instruments or actions, either existing or in preparation, which it feels are (or were) appropriate to improve, or at least maintain, Community cohesion in the face of possible future divergences?

50. Question by Ms CLWYD (H-688/81)

Subject: Commission's response to the Parliament's resolution on the handicapped

Will the Commission state what action it has taken in response to the report on the Year of the Disabled adopted by Parliament in March 1981?

51. Question by Mr CAILLAVET (H-690/81)

Subject: Exceptional aid and funds for flood victims

South-West France, especially the Lot-et-Garonne department, has been devastated by floods, with substantial damage caused to agriculture, craft trades and commercial, industrial and wage-earning activities, not to mention buildings.

Can the Commission indicate what exceptional aid and funds it could grant to the flood victims, as it had done in the past, and what measures will be taken?

52. Question by Lord BETHELL (H-692/81)

Subject: Airline tariffs

On August 7th the Commission wrote to Member States' Governments enquiring about the system under which airline tariffs within the EEC are fixed. On August 31st the Commission wrote to airlines within the EEC enquiring about alleged violations of competition policy.

Which Governments and which airlines have replied and which have not replied? Did any airline refuse to give a substantive reply and what measures has the Commission taken against the Governments and airlines which have not replied or whose replies have been unsatisfactory and will the Commission make the replies already received available to members of the European Parliament?

53. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-695/81)

Subject: Energy plan for Italy

What steps can the Community take to contribute to the successful implementation of the energy plan for Italy, announced by the Italian Government, 7 December 1981?

54. Question by Mr HABSBURG (H-696/81)

Subject: Polish refugees

During the December part-session the European Parliament adopted a motion for a resolution for entry in the register asking the Commission to allocate money for Polish refugees, for example in Austria.

Has any action been taken already and what is to happen in the foreseeable future?

55. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-699/81)

Subject: Development areas

Can the Commission indicate, with regard to the economic aid measures which Member States may apply, whether there is a Community rule or norm defining the concept of 'replacement investment' and what criteria are used to determine whether a particular investment project serves the purpose of 'replacement' or 'expansion'?

56. Question by Dame Shelagh ROBERTS (H-703/81)

Subject: Stunning of animals before slaughter - exceptions

Since the introduction of European Community Directive 74/577 relating to the stunning of animals before slaughter, has the Commission reviewed the effect on the welfare of animals of the exceptions for special methods of slaughter which are required for particular religious rites; is it satisfied that no suffering is caused to the animals slaughtered by such methods, and, if the answer to either part of this question is no, what action does the Commission propose to take?

57. Question by Mr de COURCY LING (H-704/81)

Subject: Excise duty on alcoholic drink in the U.K.

The method of payment of excise duty on alcoholic drink in the United Kingdom at present differs, I understand, with respect to wine, made wine and beer. Is the Commission aware of this diversity? Does the Commission consider that this might fall foul of the Community rules on differential taxation and/or free movement of goods? If so, what is the Commission doing, or what does it propose to do about it?

58. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-705/81)

Subject: Aid to Cambodian refugees in Thailand

Can the Commission detail its intended policy to help to improve the position of Cambodian refugees in Thailand and can it indicate whether, as has been suggested, it intends to reduce radically or even halt all emergency aid to voluntary organizations looking after Cambodian refugees in Thailand?

59. Question by Mr BALFOUR (H-707/81)

Subject: Time limits for payment of grants and subsidies to agricultural producers

Will the Commission propose that payments to agricultural producers arising from Community Regulations or Directives, should be subject to a time limit, in order to ensure that recipients of structural and similar aids are not penalised financially by excessively long delays by the national authorities in effecting payment?

60. Question by Ms QUIN (H-709/81)

Subject: Tax on vegetable oils

What in the Commission's view would be the effect on consumption of vegetable oils in the E.E.C. if a non-discriminatory levy on these oils were to be agreed?

61. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-714/81)

Subject: Definition of development areas

Does the Commission apply the same methods of assessment in all the Member States in defining development areas and, if not, what are its criteria?

62. Question by Mr MULLER-HERMANN (H-719/81)

Subject : Aid programme for Egypt

At its meeting in London following the assassination of President Sadat, the European Council and the Commission announced that the European Community would make a special aid programme available to the Egyptian Government for the development of that country.

Can the Commission say whether these fine words have since been translated into concrete action and whether it has drawn up and initiated a European aid programme for Egypt on the basis of the Council's recommendation?

63. Question by Mr GRIFFITHS (H-722/81)

Subject: Car prices

Does the Commission have any view about the wide differences of car prices in the E.E.C. besides those mentioned in their Bulletin of the European Communities, Supplement 2/81 entitled 'The State of the European Automobile Industry'?

64. Question by Mr DENIAU (H-724/81)

Subject: Negotiations on the Multifibre Arrangement

Following the conclusion on 22 December 1981 of negotiations for the renewal of the Multifibre Arrangement and in view of the fact that final accession thereto is dependent on the satisfactory conclusion of bilateral agreements with the exporting countries, what are the Commission's intentions as regards the establishment of overall ceilings for imports of the various products?

65. Question by Mr. Basil de FERRANTI (H-734/81)

Subject: Electron beam machines

Does the Commission still intend to subsidize the development of electron beam machines for making electronic circuits despite the Mackintosh report's statement that their throughput is extremely low and their costs extremely high?

66. Question by Mrs GAIOTTI DE BIASE (H-738/81)

Subject: Application of the EEC-Yugoslavia agreement

Negotiations have now been concluded on the adjustments of the EEC-Yugoslavia agreement following Greece's accession to the Community. The Community has agreed to increase the quantity of baby beef exported by Yugoslavia to the Community market by 15,600 tonnes per annum, bringing the total quantity Yugoslavia can export under the preferential arrangements to 50,400 tonnes per annum. At the same time, the Community has maintained the principle of limiting Yugoslavian exports to 4,200 tonnes per month, and has thus agreed only in part to Yugoslavia's request that the system of monthly quotas be changed to allow for special arrangements for the tourist season.

What action does the Commission intend to take in due course to adjust the system to ensure that the entire annual quota of 50,400 tonnes of baby beef which may be imported into the Community is actually used up, since this concession is essential in helping to re-establish a balance in trade between the Community and Yugoslavia and to safeguard the political considerations and economic interests on which Yugoslavia's agreement with the Community is based?

67. Question by Mr Guy FERNANDEZ (H-739/81)

Subject: Complaints by American steel producers

American imports of steel from the Community reportedly fell by 16% between 1979 and 1981. The Commission maintains that the complaints by American steel producers are unfounded.

Can the Commission give more detailed figures on trade in steel between the United States and the Community and undertake that it will firmly and resolutely defend Europe's steel industry during the negotiations with the American authorities in order to retain important markets and hence safeguard large numbers of jobs in an industry which is so crucial to the economies of all the Member States?

68. Question by Mr GEROKOSTOPOULOS (H-740/81)

Subject: Action taken on the motion for a resolution (Doc. 1-141/1981) on economic aid for the artistic treasures of Mount Athos

On 7 May 1981 (O.J. No. C. 144, p. 92) Parliament adopted a motion for a resolution tabled by former M.E.P. Mr G. Dalakouras and others (Doc. 1-141/81) concerning economic aid and the provision of every other kind of assistance for the preservation of the artistic treasures of Mount Athos in Greece.

What action has the Commission taken - if any - on the above-mentioned reservation adopted by Parliament?

69. Question by Mr MICHEL (H-743/81)

Subject: Arbitrary disqualification of areas affected by persistent serious economic depression as Community development regions

With reference to the Commission's letter of 19.11.1981 to the Belgian Foreign Minister concerning the Belgian economic expansion act of 30.12.1980 and the authorization of regional public aids, can the Commission state what objective criteria guided its decision not to recognize the VERVIERS area as a development region, even though that area is suffering severely from a profound and persistent economic depression as evidenced by a very low level of employment, an all-round industrial slump and a growing need to provide work both for the very large number of young people due to arrive on the labour market in the coming years and the large number of people already out of work, who are given very little incentive to retrain?

70. Question by Mr PATTISON (H-746/81)

Subject: Development of the role of local airports

What analysis has been made within the context of a Community transport policy of the role of local airports and what Community aid is available for their development?

71. Question by Mr TREACY (H-747/81)

Subject: Interest equalization subsidy for farmers

Will the Commission state, in the interests of securing equality of treatment in terms of costs for all farmers throughout the Community, whether or not it is proposed to introduce an interest equalization subsidy to farmers.

72. Question by Mr DE GOEDE (H-749/81)

Subject: Entry of the United Kingdom into the European Monetary System

The substantial fluctuations in the exchange rate of the Pound Sterling are having an adverse effect on trade between the United Kingdom and the other Community Member States.

What steps has the Commission taken so far to persuade the United Kingdom to join the European Monetary System and what further action does it intend to take to bring this about as soon as possible?

73. Question by Mr PROVAN (H-757/81)

Subject: Prices for cereals

Will the Commission consider returning to Duisberg prices for cereals and thus create the right conditions for proper production patterns within the Community, and therefore, rescind the regional pricing policy, and if not, will it give its reasons?

74. Question by Mr MEGAHY (H-761/81)

Subject: Import curbs

To what extent is the Commission now prepared to accept proposed import curbs by individual nation states?

75. Question by Mr BOYES (H-765/81)

Subject: The health and social impact of unemployment within the Community

Over 10 millions are now unemployed within the Community, more than 3 millions within the U.K. alone, and the numbers are rising. Evidence exists to demonstrate a link between rising unemployment and an increase in incidents of suicide, mental illness and death.

Is the Commission aware of this evidence and if so, what is it doing about it?

76. Question by Mrs VIEHOFF (H-769/81)

Subject: The Kreyssing Fund

When does the Commission intend to submit to Parliament a report on the activities during 1981 financed by the Kreyssing Fund?

77. Question by Mrs DUPORT (H-770/81)

Subject: Finance for training organizations from the European Social Fund

Many training organizations, particularly those running courses for foreigners, which have been in existence for several years and hitherto received 50% of their finance from national sources and 50% from the European Social Fund, were apparently informed between August and October 1981 that the ESF financing would be 'weighted' i.e. reduced on average from 50% to 15% of the overall total.

Some of these organizations face serious difficulties as a result.

Can the Commission explain why it had to take these steps during the current year in relation to duly accredited organizations, ignoring the problems thereby created for the students concerned and the staff of the organizations, and state whether it sees any solution to these problems?

78. Question by Mr HORGAN (H-771/81)

Subject: Community aid for planned "Southern Cross" route for Dublin

Can the Commission state what support is available to aid the "Southern Cross" route planned by Dublin Co. Council, to channel juggernauts and other heavy traffic away from residential areas in south Dublin and does the Commission agree that such a by-pass is essential for environmental reasons and can it make such support available as rapidly as possible after receipt of the appropriate proposals from the relevant authorities?

79. Question by Mr PANNELLA (H-781/81)

Subject: Actions prejudicial to Community agreements and interests

What measures has the Commission taken or does it propose to take in response to the endlessly recurring incidents of intolerance in the wine sector in a country where criminal law, and the rights of freedom of movement and personal security are apparently flouted in face of the demands of certain social or professional categories which the French Governments apparently consider have an implicit right to indulge in peasant uprisings and violence and to serve as a lever to constantly undermine Community agreements and interests?

Quite apart from the legitimate interests which are harmed in this way, what consequences do such political methods and practices have for the European tax payer and for the French tax payer in particular?

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

80. Question by Mr GALLAND (N-489/81)

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

Since 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 State established in the territory of any Member State', and since, in particular, Article 53 expressly states that 'Member States shall not introduce any new restrictions on the right of establishment in their territories of nationals of other Member States', what steps will the Council take to ensure that the French Government complies with the rule on freedom of establishment in all fields, including the banking sector?

81. Question by Mrs EWING (H-611/81)

Subject : Fisheries Negotiations

Will the President-in-Office make a statement on the outcome of the recent Fisheries Council?

82. Question by Miss BROOKES (H-649/81)

Subject : Coal enrichment

What steps is the Council taking to expedite agreement on the second tranche of appropriations for demonstration projects in the field of coal enrichment?

83. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-651/81)

Subject: Arrangements for outward processing traffic in textiles
in the Community

In the light of the situation in the Community textile industry, the problems surrounding the renewal of the Multifibre Arrangement and the interest in certain sectors of production, in particular the clothing industry, in being allowed to develop outward processing traffic, can the Council explain why it has been unable, after three years of discussion, to overcome the differences of opinion in certain Member States on the technical aspects of the new arrangements proposed by the Commission which have prevented their adoption until now and state whether it will be able to take a decision on the draft OPT regulation within the near future?

84. Question by Mr COTTRELL (H-653/81)

Subject: Radar facilities at airports

On Tuesday December 1st 1981 a DC 9 airliner carrying 174 people crashed at Ajaccio in Corsica killing everyone on board. It was reported that the airport at Ajaccio does not have radar facilities. While this may or may not have been a contributing factor to the accident, does the Council not feel that as a general priority all airports in the Community should be equipped with all-weather radar facilities and if the Council's feeling is positive, ought this not to be a subject for a binding regulation?

85. Question by Mrs VON ALEMANN (H-654/81)

Subject: The discussion of enlargement at the London European Council

On the 1st December 1981, Mr. Atkins reported to the European Parliament/Spanish Cortes Joint Committee on the discussion on the enlargement of the Community to include Spain and Portugal held at the London European Council on 26 and 27 November. From this report emerges the impression that such a discussion was neither in depth nor detailed. Could the Council explain why there has not been a more serious discussion on this issue?

86. Question by Mr ADAM (H-658/81)

Subject: Length of Presidency

Has the Council given any recent consideration to the length of the Presidency? Would Member States welcome some change whereby (now that there is an even number of members) the same countries would not hold the Presidency during the month of August?

87. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-662/81)

Subject : Informal meeting of ministers of the interior

Can the Council confirm that an informal meeting of ministers of the interior was held in London on 8 December? Can it also state whether the question of terrorist activities in the Community was raised, in particular the recent bomb explosion in Antwerp?

88. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-664/81)

Subject : European space technology

What measures has the Council of Research Ministers taken to promote the investigation of Community wide cooperation in the use of space technology in order to improve the world wide competitive position of the Community's space industry?

89. Question by Mr DE FERRANTI (H-675/81)

Subject: The internal market

As no decisions were reached on the improvement of the internal market during November, would the Council indicate what plans it now has for making progress with the internal market?

As the lack of decision is costing £ 15 million per day, can the Council give any reassurance that it is dealing with these decisions with appropriate urgency?

90. Question by Miss DE VALERA (H-676/81)

Subject : EEC Research aid into the cause of cot deaths

Under the heading "health problems" in the proposals recently forwarded to the Council by the Commission on a second programme of medical research on which a Council decision is due, will the Council state if it would agree to aid vital research in Ireland and indeed the Community into the cause of "cot deaths" which presently claim three lives a week?

91. Question by Mr DAVERN (H-677/81)

Subject : Special aid measures for young farmers (1)

Will the Council give due reason as to why the proposal for a Council Directive dating back to 1974 on a special aid measure for young farmers who have been farming for less than five years and are implementing a development plan has not yet been introduced?

92. Question by Mr LALOR (H-678/81)

Subject : Report of the "Three Wise Men"

To what extent would the Council accept the view that the guidelines established by the report of the "Three Wise Men" have proved to be a totally inadequate response to the need for improved transparency, coherence and efficiency of the Community institutions?

93. Question by Lord DOURO (H-680/81)

Subject : The Draft Seventh Directive on V.A.T.

Why is the Commission's proposal (COM/77/ 735) for the Seventh Draft Directive on VAT, and the amendment to the proposal (COM/79/249), transmitted to the Council on 16 May 1979, still awaiting a decision in the Council?

94. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-681/81)

Subject : Council discussions on relations with Parliament

Will the Council inform Parliament of the timetable for its discussions on the proposals contained in the resolutions on relations between Parliament and the Council, and on the legislative initiative of Parliament, which were adopted on 9 July 1981; and will the Council fix a deadline for these discussions so that decisions can be taken by the Council or the European Council by the end of March 1982?

95. Question by Mr EYRAUD (H-684/81)

Subject: Imports of New Zealand butter into the United Kingdom

The Commission has just published its annual report on exports of New Zealand butter to the United Kingdom in 1980. This report merely confirms earlier trends: consumption in Britain is decreasing - from 486,000 tonnes in 1975 to 333,000 tonnes in 1980 - although its production is increasing sharply while sales of New Zealand butter remain steady. As a result, Community butter finds itself excluded from the British market. For example, in 1980 the United Kingdom imported 95,000 tonnes of butter from New Zealand but only 1,832 tonnes from France. Since provisional figures show that this trend has continued in 1981 and will be even more marked in 1982, what does the Council intend to do to ensure compliance with the principle of Community preference, i.e. with the Treaty of Rome?

96. Question by Ms CLWYD (H-689/81)

Subject: Council's response to the resolution on the handicapped adopted by Parliament

What recommendations has the Council made, or does it intend to make, to the Commission, arising from the resolution on the International Year of the Disabled adopted by Parliament in March 1981?

97. Question by Mr BUCCHINI (H-691/81)

Subject: Access to Mediterranean fishing zones

At present, Corsican fishermen have exclusive access to the six-mile zone off the two Corsican departments. With a view to protecting the interests of the fishermen and the Corsican economy, will the Council maintain their exclusive access to this zone and prohibit access to vessels from the other Member States?

98. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-693/81)

Subject: Identity checks at frontiers

Has the Council noticed that the European Parliament is devoting increasing attention to the abolition of identity checks at the Community's internal frontiers, and is it prepared - in accordance with its professed desire for improved cooperation between the Community's institutions - to make the abolition of such identity checks a central feature of its 1982 programme with a view to making gradual progress towards further simplifying these identity checks in an appropriate manner and, where necessary, by means of provisional agreements between governments, irrespective of whether or not the Commission has submitted proposals to that end?

99. Question by Mr HABSBURG (H-698/81)

Subject: Introduction of the European passport

Does the Council consider it possible to bring forward the date for the introduction of the European passport from 1 January 1985 to 1 January 1984 at the latest, in view of the fact that as a member of the European Parliament the new President of the Council was one of the first advocates of the passport and that the Community's citizens are entitled to see visible evidence of progress in Europe before the next European elections?

100. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-706/81)

Subject: Voting system in the Council

Under several presidencies of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the European Communities I have asked whether efforts would be made to respect the Treaty. These were written or oral questions. I only received dilatory replies or promises which produced no results. I would be grateful if the presidency would indicate its views on this matter.

101. Question by Mr ADAMOUC (H-710/81)

Subject: Electricity prices

The Council of Ministers have recommended 'a price structuring for electricity in the Community'; this provides, among other things, that electricity prices are no longer to be kept down for social or deflationary reasons.

In Greece, farmers are allowed certain reductions in electricity prices but some farmers' organizations are rightly asking for lower prices still.

Does the Council understand the negative consequences this will have on the incomes of Greek farmers, especially at a time when they are suffering under the Communities' unacceptable price policy and is the Council willing to exempt Greek farmers and Greece as a whole from these regulations?

102. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-711/81)

Subject: Prices of agricultural products for the 1982-83 period

According to official Community statistics published on 22 December, the average rate of inflation in the Community is 12.5%; in Greece, however, the country with the highest rate of inflation, it is 23-25%, about double the Community average.

Does the Council at last recognize that Greece is a special case in this respect? And as regards price increases for agricultural products, is the Council considering introducing special prices for 1982 to reflect the high rate of inflation and the increase in production costs in Greece? This would prevent a recurrence of the situation in 1981, when Greek farmers suffered a very severe drop in their incomes because of CAP prices, which are based on the average rate of inflation in the Community.

103. Question by Mrs CASTLE (H-718/81)

Subject: Regional policy

Will the Council in deciding the location of the Community Trade Mark Office give overriding priority to the needs of regional policy?

104. Question by Mr MULLER-HERMANN (H-720/81)

Subject : Aid programme for Egypt

At its meeting in London following the assassination of President Sadat, the European Council announced that the European Community would make a special aid programme available to the Egyptian Government for the development of that country.

Can the Council say whether these fine words have been translated into concrete action and what steps it has taken to initiate a European aid programme for Egypt?

105. Question by Mr WELSH (H-723/81)

Subject: Subsidized gas - Council meeting of 20 January 1982

Would the Council confirm that the issue of subsidized natural gas for horticultural growers in Holland was discussed at its meeting on 20 January under the heading 'any other business', and would the Council make a statement on its conclusion, with particular reference to Parliament's resolution at its December part-session¹?

¹(Docs. 1-814/81 and 1-794/81)

106. Question by Mr DENIAU (H-725/81)

Subject: Negotiations on the Multifibre Arrangement

Following the conclusion on 22 December 1981 of negotiations for the renewal of the Multifibre Arrangement and in view of the fact that final accession thereto is dependent on the satisfactory conclusion of bilateral agreements with the exporting countries, what is the Council's position as regards the establishment of overall ceilings for imports of the various products?

107. Question by Mr WURTZ (H-727/81)

Subject : Denunciation of the Community's association agreements with Turkey

In view of the serious violations of human rights in Turkey which contradict the assurance given by the representatives of the junta of their desire for a return to democracy, do the Foreign Ministers not think that the time has come to denounce the Community's association agreements with Turkey?

108. Question by Mrs GAIOTTI DE BIASE (H-737/81)

Subject: Application of the EEC-Yugoslavia agreement

Negotiations have now been concluded on the adjustment of the EEC-Yugoslavia agreement following Greece's accession to the Community. The Community has agreed to increase the quantity of baby beef exported by Yugoslavia to the Community market by 15,600 tonnes per annum, bringing the total quantity Yugoslavia can export under the preferential arrangements to 50,400 tonnes per annum. At the same time, the Community has maintained the principle of limiting Yugoslavian exports to 4,200 tonnes per month, and has thus agreed only in part to Yugoslavia's request that the system of monthly quotas be changed to allow for special arrangements for the tourist season.

What action does the Council intend to take in due course to adjust the system to ensure that the entire annual quota of 50,400 tonnes of baby beef which may be imported into the Community is actually used up, since this concession is essential in helping to re-establish a balance in trade between the Community and Yugoslavia and to safeguard the political considerations and economic interests on which Yugoslavia's agreement with the Community is based?

109. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-763/81)

Subject: Chooz nuclear power station

Is it true that in talks with the French Government, the President of the Council, Mr Tindemans, and the President of the Council of Energy Ministers, Mr Knoops discussed the construction of French nuclear power stations at Chooz, an area practically completely surrounded by Belgium, without any reference at all to the need to complete the European consultation procedure for such installations near frontiers?

110. Question by Mr BOYES (H-764/81)

Subject: The health and social impact of unemployment within the Community

Over 10 millions are now unemployed within the Community, more than 3 millions within the U.K. alone, and the numbers are rising. Evidence exists to demonstrate a link between rising unemployment and an increase in incidents of suicide, mental illness and death.

Is the Council aware of this evidence and if so, what is it doing about it?

111. Question by Mr von WOGAU (H-766/81)

Subject: Designation of origin for certain textile products

The European Parliament has considered this matter at length and on 9 April 1981¹ rejected the proposal for a Council directive in this field. In September 1981 the Commission withdrew its proposal and pursuant to Article 113 of the EEC-Treaty submitted a proposal for a regulation to the Council in December 1981.

Does the Council intend to consult the European Parliament?

¹OJ C 101, 4.5.1981, p.48

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

112. 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?

113. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-702/81) (x)

Subject : Baha'is in Iran

What is the current position of the Baha'is in Iran and what action is being taken by the Community to help them?

114. Question by Mrs FUILLET (H-638/81)

Subject: Political prisoners in Colombia

Roughly a thousand people have so far been subjected to arbitrary arrest in Colombia. Could the Foreign Ministers give further information on the position of political detainees in that country?

(x) Former oral question without debate (O-51/81) converted into a question for Question Time

115. Question by Mrs CASTELLINA (H-655/81)

Subject: Participation of Uruguayan troops in the 'Sinai peace-keeping force'

Are the Ministers aware that certain non-European countries, including Uruguay where a dictatorship is in power, are intending to send contingents of their troops to participate alongside European troops in the projected Sinai peace-keeping force, and do the Ministers not consider that such collaboration confers legitimacy on a deeply repressive regime?

116. Question by Mr DENIAU (H-674/81)

Subject: Strengthening political cooperation

Following the meeting of Foreign Ministers in London and the November meeting of the European Council, how do the Foreign Ministers plan to set about strengthening political cooperation and what policies do they propose to adopt to restore strength and independence to a Europe currently caught up in East-West, North-South difficulties?

117. Question by Mr HABSBURG (H-697/81)

Subject: Polish refugees

During the December part-session the European Parliament adopted a motion for a resolution for entry in the register calling on the Foreign Ministers to urge the ten governments to accept Polish refugees - in particular from the overcrowded camps around Vienna - in the Community countries. What action has already been taken and what action is to be taken?

118. Question by Mr MOORHOUSE (H-708/81)

Subject: Execution of members of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Iran

In view of the news that eight of the nine members of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of Iran were executed on 28 December, would the Foreign Ministers report on the efforts they have been making to bring pressure to bear on the Iranian authorities to desist from this barbarous persecution?

119. Question by Lord BETHELL (H-713/81)

Subject : Visas

Are the Foreign Ministers aware that, while American citizens may visit EC Member States without visas, citizens of EC countries require visas in order to visit the United States and will they approach the American Government and request them to adjust this arrangement on the basis of friendship and reciprocity?

120. Question by Mr KYRKOS (H-721/81)

Subject : USA support for the military regime of Turkey

The United States Minister of National Defence, Mr Weinberger, during his visit to Ankara, and the Head of the State Department, Mr Haig, in an interview with the press in Brussels, praised the military government in Turkey, which has been openly condemned by the European Parliament for abolishing the freedoms of the Turkish people.

In view of these statements and in view of the American Government's warm support for murderous regimes, such as those of El Salvador and Guatemala, do the ministers consider that the peoples of the Community can have any faith in American declarations concerning the protection of human rights? If not, what position do the ministers intend to adopt so as to distinguish Community policy from American hypocrisy?

121. Question by Mrs WIECZOREK-ZEUL (H-728/81)

Subject : Venice Declaration

What steps have the Foreign Ministers taken to translate the Community's 1980 Venice Declaration on the Middle East into practice?

122. Question by Mr SCHMID (H-729/81)

Subject: Venice Declaration

Do the Foreign Ministers share the view of the French Foreign Minister that the Community's 1980 Venice Declaration on the Middle East is 'wrong and absurd'?

123. Question by Mr ALBERS (H-730/81)

Subject: Venice Declaration

In the view of the Ten is the Community's Venice Declaration on Middle East policy still as important as ever?

124. Question by Mr VAN MINNEN (H-731/81)

Subject: Venice Declaration

Does the European Community now have a new policy for the Middle East region and, if so, what is it?

125. Question by Mr SCHINZEL (H-732/81)

Subject: Venice Declaration

Do the Community's Foreign Ministers support the main points of the Fahd Plan for the Middle East?

126. Question by Mr MOREAU (H-733/81)

Subject: Repression of trade union activity in Poland

What action do the Foreign Ministers of the ten Member States intend to take within the Geneva International Labour Organization over the complaint by a number of trade unions, particularly French trade unions, about the repression of trade union activities in Poland and do they intend to adopt a common position in support of that complaint with the aim of instituting an international enquiry of the kind contemplated by the ILO's constitution?

127. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-744/81)

Subject: European Middle East initiative

Can the President of the foreign ministers meeting in political cooperation describe the outcome of his talks on the above matter with Mr Colombo and Mr Cheysson and, in particular, can he confirm that, at the close of his official visit to Italy, it was agreed that the Belgian Presidency would ensure that this initiative was pursued further and, if so, what steps does the Presidency intend to take in this direction?

128. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-750/81)

Subject: The situation in Poland

Are the Foreign Ministers satisfied that they have done everything in their power to encourage a unanimous Community response to and a united Community policy on the events in Poland which have culminated in the suppression of all socio-economic freedom and a deterioration in the situation of the Polish people? Do they feel that these events have jeopardized the process begun in Helsinki and what attitude do they intend to adopt in future?

129. Question by Sir Peter VANNECK (H-751/81)

Subject: Protecting the Community's vital interests outside the NATO area

What would be the most appropriate institutional framework for consultations and in what timescale could action be taken, if the Community's vital interests outside the NATO sphere of responsibility were threatened?

130. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-752/81)

Subject: Sending of observers to elections in El Salvador

Are the Foreign Ministers convinced that free elections without any form of intimidation or terror are possible in El Salvador at the present time, or do they take the view that to send one or more observers in the context of European political cooperation or on the initiative of one or more Member States of the European Community to monitor and assess the validity of the elections which may be held in March 1982 would not be incompatible with the letter and spirit of the UN resolution on the violation of human rights in El Salvador of December 1980, the attitude adopted by the majority of Member States at that time and the Franco-Mexican declaration of August 1981 and do they therefore intend to send such observers to El Salvador?

131. Question by Mr MEGAHY (H-760/81)

Subject: East Timor

What representations have been made to the Indonesian Government following recent alarming reports of killings and arrests in East Timor?

132. Question by Mr PANNELLA (H-772/81)

Subject: Military dictatorships

What do **the Ministers** think of the theory which seems to be gaining increasingly wide acceptance that military dictatorships may be the best and surest way of restoring order and democracy?

Do **the Ministers** not feel that, if this is true, the same military dictators could be more effectively employed in maintaining order and democracy?

What is the **Minister's position on the statements made by the Secretary-General of NATO, Mr Luns, on 29 January last to the effect that 'the difference between the Polish generals and the Turkish generals is identical to the distinction between traitors and patriots' and that 'the generals in Warsaw are terrorizing their population while those in Ankara are restoring a national awareness of individual security'?** How does the Council view that affirmation in the light of the daily evidence of mass executions, indiscriminate acts of torture in Turkish prisons, tens of thousands of arrests and the positions adopted by the European Parliament and the other institutions on the situation in Turkey?

Do **the Ministers** not feel that it is opportune and urgently necessary to seek clarification of these statements from the NATO Secretariat and Council?

