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ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 8 and 9 March 1983

1. Question by Mr DENIAU (H-787/82) (x)

Subject: Relations between the EEC and Vietnam

Although food aid to Vietnam was suspended several years ago, that country was granted emergency aid last year.

It seems necessary to draw the Vietnamese Government's attention to the European Community's desire to see an improvement in the human rights situation in its country as regards the citizens, residents and governments of the ten Member States.

Hundreds of humanitarian appeals to the Vietnamese Government to permit the reunion of families one of whose members is domiciled in a Member State of the Community have failed to produce a reaction of even a reply despite repeated well-founded requests by our governments.

Humanitarian concern cannot be a one-way business: there must be a corresponding effort on the part of a government which is a potential recipient of our aid to respond to the concern for human rights felt by the Member States of the Community.

What are the Council's feelings about the means to be adopted to achieve this aim?

(x) Former oral question with debate (O-107/82),
converted into a question for Question Time

2. Question by Mrs BOOT (H-739/82) (x)

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

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

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

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

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

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

¹ OJ No. L 175, 23.7.1968, p. 15

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-137/82), converted into a question for QUESTION TIME

Subject : Collusion - Conservative party and the EEC Commission

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

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

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

Subject: Improvement of Community regulations concerning fruit and vegetables

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

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

Subject: United Kingdom membership of the European Monetary System

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

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

Subject : European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

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

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

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

Subject : European Monetary Fund

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

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

Subject : Common Fisheries Policy Negotiations

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

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

Question by Mr COUSTÉ (H-643/82)

Subject: Amendment of the Social Fund arrangements

Can the Council state what progress has been made as regards amendment of the Social Fund arrangements so as to render more effective efforts to combat unemployment in Europe?

10. Question by Mr COLLINS (H-679/82)

Subject : Asbestos

It is now 8 months since the European Parliament delivered its opinion on the Proposal for a second Council directive on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to agents at work: asbestos (Doc 1-488/80) and during these months it has become clearer than ever that such a Directive is necessary and this is accepted by both workers and employers. Will the Council agree that 8 months is too long to wait for a decision and will they say how much longer it will be before a final decision is reached?

11. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-684/82)

Subject : Community Coal Policy

What steps is the Council taking to implement Community Coal Policy in the light of conclusions reached at its meeting 16 December 1982 and in the context of 30 May Mandate?

12. Question by Mr SCHWENCKE (H-717/82)

Subject: Community offices in the Federal Republic of Germany

Is the Council prepared to support the call for establishing two more Community offices in the Federal Republic of Germany, specifically in the capital of Lower Saxony, Hanover, where an important trade fair is held, and in Stuttgart?

13. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-749/82)

Subject : The Lebanon

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

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

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

14. Question by Mr SCHINZEL (H-753/82)

Subject: European passport

In the debate on Question H-545/82¹ by Mr Schön, the President of the Council claimed that the introduction of a European passport would facilitate border checks and reduce waiting times. Members from all groups questioned the seriousness of this view.

Can the Council explain in detail how the intolerable waiting times - especially at German border crossing-points - can be shortened by means of the European passport, without the passport merely being an aid to supra-national cooperation by surveillance agencies?

¹ Verbatim report of proceedings, sitting of 11 January 1983

15. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-756/82)

Subject: Employment policy

The President-in-Office of the Council has stated that employment policy is first and foremost the responsibility of the Member States, but that the Community must demonstrate its ability to make an essential contribution on this vital issue.

Does the President not agree that, certain provisions of the Treaties, although couched in very general terms, oblige the Community to address these problems?

16. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-760/82)

Subject: Border controls and the movement of persons and goods

What discretionary powers do border control officials possess in the Member States with regard to spot checks, etc. and what can the Council do to ensure that such powers are used to help speed the flow of goods and passenger traffic between the Member States?

17. Question by Mrs WEBER (H-763/82)

Subject: Waste from Seveso

The President of the Council promised in the debate on Question H-621/82¹ that he would endeavour in the Council to clarify the question of the disposal of waste from Seveso.

What efforts have so far been made to obtain information on the route taken by and final storage place of this highly toxic waste, so as to dispel the concern felt by the populations of several Member States?

¹ Debates 11 January 1983

18. Question by Mrs Le ROUX (H-783/82)

Subject: Pilotage off the English coast

A recent proposal by the British authorities to remove 160 coastal pilots from the South coast of England has provoked strong feelings among the inhabitants of the North Sea coastlines, in view of the serious risks which such a decision would involve.

Is the Council aware of this proposal and does it intend to raise this issue at a time when various coastal states are striving to prevent accidents caused by possible pollution?

19. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-784/82)

Subject : Implementation of Resolutions on Institutional Questions

When will the Council reply to those of the proposals, contained in the resolutions on relations between the institutions adopted in July 1981, December 1981 and February 1982, which are neither covered by the letter of Mr. de Keersmaecker of 8 April 1982 to the President, nor by the Genscher-Colombo Act, in view of the fact that the Commission has already replied to most of those proposals which concern its relations with Parliament ?

20. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-805/82)

Subject: Despatch to Members by certain Member States of documents justifying their policies

Does the Council consider that the despatch to every Member of the European Parliament of documents justifying the policies of certain Member States is an action compatible with the rules of discretion which governments must observe?

21. Question by Mr KEY (H-806/82)

Subject : Wine Frauds

In the light of the reports on current investigations into wine sector frauds in the Rheinland Palatinate, is the Council satisfied that existing Community legislation is adequate to ensure that the flat rate refunds to Member States of costs incurred in collecting own resources are in fact fully used for that purpose and that proper attention is paid in the Member States to the training of investigating officers so that they may make use of current technological innovations in the fight against fraud to the detriment of Community funds ?

22. Question by Mr DEL DUCA (H-809/82)

Subject: Application of Directive 77/486/EEC¹ on the education of the children of migrant workers

A decision has recently been taken in a district of Brussels to close ten out of eighteen primary schools from September this year. Implementation of this decision would particularly affect the children of immigrant workers, who constitute 93% of the pupils of the schools concerned. Does the Council not consider that this decision is contrary to the provisions of Directive 77/486/EEC on the education of the children of migrant workers ?

¹ O.J.No. L 199, 6.8.1977, p.32

23. Question by Mr ALAVANOS(H-811/82)

Subject: The Greek Presidency

In the second half of 1983 the Greek Government is due to assume the Presidency of the EEC Council of Ministers; however, the issues raised in the memorandum on relations between Greece and the EEC have not yet been resolved and the Greek Government is known to disagree with the EEC on a series of fundamental questions concerning the competence of the Council of Ministers and political cooperation on foreign policy.

Since Community circles have begun a campaign to influence and modify the policy of the Greek Government before it assumes the Presidency, can the Council state what are the powers, the duties and the rights of a Member State and which of these are based on the legal provisions of the Treaties?

24. Question by Mr ADAMOU (H-813/82)

Subject: Increase in the price of fertilizers in Greece

Following the drastic reduction in national subsidies for agricultural fertilizers in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of accession, the Greek Government has now decided to increase prices by 40%. It is evident that this decision will lead to still higher production costs for Greek agricultural produces.

What measures does the Council intend taking to protect the incomes of Greek farmers from the painful consequences of this increase?

25. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-815/82)

Subject: The problem of Greek lemons

The existing measures referred to by the Council in its answer to Oral Question No. H-609/82¹ on finding outlets for Greek lemons are inadequate to provide a solution to the problem of lemons, at least for this year; this is particularly serious since total exports up to 31.12.1982 amounted to 1,668 tonnes compared with 29,575 tonnes in 1981 - a fall of 95% - and the EEC accounted for only 355 tonnes compared with 1,578 tonnes last year.

Can the Council give a clear answer proposing specific measures for dealing with the problem of lemons, an area to which - as suggested by the figures quoted - the principle of Community preference does not apply?

26. Question by Mr RIPA di MEANA (H-818/82)

Subject: Instances of xenophobia in Belgium

Can the Council indicate what steps it intends to take to deal with the situation in the Commune of Schaerbeek - one of the nineteen communes which comprise the extremely civilised city of Brussels - whose mayor, Mr Roger NOLS, has decided to close ten primary schools attended by the children of immigrants and, moreover, to levy an additional education tax on immigrants?

Instances of this kind undermine the fundamental rights of children of immigrants, particularly their right to study, and constitute a serious manifestation of racial intolerance. This situation is likely to be aggravated by the worsening of the economic crisis which in Belgium is hitting the families of immigrant workers hardest and fuelling the upsurge of racist feeling among Belgians, in particular the view that foreigners are responsible for the country's present difficulties.

¹ 11.1.1983 Debates of the European Parliament. Provisional Edition

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

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

Subject : The European Community and the suppression of Solidarity

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

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

Subject : Grenada

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

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

Subject : Plastic bullets

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

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

30. Question by Mrs EWING (H-296/82)

Subject : Reduction in Community trade with South Africa

In view of the fact that over 1000 Community-based companies operate in South Africa and that the South African Government shows no signs of abandoning the abhorrent policy of apartheid, will the Foreign Ministers now recommend to national governments and to such companies a reduction the Community's economic presence in South Africa by withdrawing investments and seeking alternative trade markets?

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

Question by Mr SCHMID (H-751/82)

Subject: Initiatives to be taken by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs
(Political Cooperation) on the Middle East

Do the Ministers not feel that they must define their official position following the adoption by Parliament of the Penders report during the January part-session?

Question by Mr GALLAND (H-755/82)

Subject: An international conference for Afghanistan

On the third anniversary of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan Mr GENSCHER, Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany, called again on the USSR to withdraw its troops from that country and to allow the Afghan people to exercise freely its right to independence and autonomy. Mr GENSCHER also revived the proposal made by the Commission of the European Communities for an international conference which he saw as the only realistic way of finding an acceptable solution.

Do the ministers intend to associate ~~them~~ self with this renewed proposal and, if so, in what way?

Question by Mr ALBERS (H-770/82)

Subject: Relations with Israel

Does the President-in-Office of the Council of Foreign Ministers feel that the Ten's disapproval of Israel's settlement policy in the occupied territories will cause the Israeli Government to change this policy and, if not, what measures does the Council intend to take in its relations with Israel in order to give more forcible expression to its disapproval?

34. Question by Mr KYRKOS (H-775/82)

Subject: Crimes committed by Israel in Sabra and Chatila

The report by the government committee of investigation on the massacres at Sabra and Chatila has confirmed the criminal responsibility of the Israeli Defence Minister in the genocide and the indirect responsibility of Prime Minister BEGIN.

In the light of these dramatic revelations, will the Ministers recognize the PLO and seek a solution which will guarantee the right of the Palestinians to establish their own state, now that it has been confirmed that the 'terrorists' are not in their ranks and that the Zionist leadership of Israel and its international protectors are doing everything they can to prevent a democratic solution being found to the problems of the Middle East?

35. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-790/82)

Subject : Civil Defense

Will the ministers discuss improving the effectiveness of civil defense measures by exchanging information between member nations and by considering the possibility of mutual aid in the event of one member suffering a nuclear attack ?

36. Question by Mr ANTONIOZZI (H-801/82)

Subject : Middle East

What is the Ministers' position on the conclusions of the Committee of inquiry into the massacres in Sabra and Chatila and the murder of Bechir Gemayel in Lebanon, and what political initiatives do they intend to take not only to express their views on these dramatic events but also to ensure that there will be no recurrence of such grave violations of human rights ?

37. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-816/82)

Subject: The visit of Vice-President Bush of the United States to the
Federal Republic of Germany

While popular peace movements and political leaders in Western Europe and also in the USA are reacting increasingly sharply to plans to deploy American missiles in Europe, the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the present incumbent of the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, announced during the visit of Vice-President Bush its support for the NATO dual decision and President Reagan's 'zero option' which is leading to a deadlock in negotiations on Euromissiles and poses a grave threat to Europe.

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation state whether the alignment of the government of the Federal Republic of Germany with that of the USA on the foremost problem facing the peoples of Europe today involves the EEC as a whole since other governments of the Ten hold totally different positions from that of the government of the Federal Republic of Germany?

38. Question by Mr MOREAU (H-788/82) (x)

Subject: Relations between the EEC and Vietnam

Although food aid to Vietnam was suspended several years ago, that country was granted emergency aid last year.

It seems necessary to draw the Vietnamese Government's attention to the European Community's desire to see an improvement in the human rights situation in its country as regards the citizens, residents and governments of the ten Member States.

Hundreds of humanitarian appeals to the Vietnamese Government to permit the reunion of families one of whose members is domiciled in a Member State of the Community have failed to produce a reaction or even a reply despite repeated well-founded requests by our governments.

Humanitarian concern cannot be a one-way business: there must be a corresponding effort on the part of a government which is a potential recipient of our aid to respond to the concern for human rights felt by the Member States of the Community.

What are the Commission's feelings about the means to be adopted to achieve this aim?

(x) Former oral question with debate (0-108/82), converted into a question for Question Time

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

Subject: Emergency aid for a region hit by drought

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

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

Subject: Resumption of the North-South Dialogue

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

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

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

Subject : Equitable sharing of responsibilities between Commissioners

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

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

Subject : "Imported" Inflation in Ireland

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

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

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

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

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

Subject : EEC Aid for Northern Ireland

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

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

Subject : EEC Aid for Community programmes

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

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

Subject: United Kingdom membership of the European Monetary System

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

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

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

Subject: Steel industry

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

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

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

Subject : Creation of 'employment zones' in Brussels

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

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

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

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

50. Question by Sir Fred WARNER (H-796/82)

Subject : The Shooting of Thrushes

Would the Commission say what action it is taking to reverse the illegal decision of the French Government to permit the shooting of thrushes during their breeding season up to 21 March, contrary to the EEC Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds ?

51. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-509/82)

Subject: Coal production

What data does the Commission have on coal production in the Member States in 1982, and how does it assess the trend by comparison with production in the past ten years?

52. Question by Dr. Gordon ADAM (H-563/82)

Subject : Specific Element of Tobacco Taxation

Will the Commission give an estimate of the date at which the minimum figure of 5 % laid down in Directive 77/805/EEC will be achieved and are the Commission satisfied with their progress bearing in mind that the operative date was laid down as 1st July 1978 ?

53. Question by Mr. MOORHOUSE (H-759/82) (x)

Subject: State Aids for Air Transport

1. What action does the Commission propose to adopt or execute in order to apply the rules on State aids (Articles 77 and 92 to 94) to air transport ? If so, when does it expect to take such action?
2. How does the Commission envisage the application of the state aid rules to air transport, and will the exception in Article 77 apply?
3. Will the Commission give details of all national aids given to airlines operating in the Community, and the number of those that have been notified to the Commission?
4. Will the Commission give figures of the number of state aids that it found to be in accordance with, and contrary to, the rules as laid down in Articles 77 and 92 to 94?

(x) Former oral question without debate (O-133/82), converted into a question for Question Time

54. Question by Mr GONTIKAS (H-622/82)

Subject: Dismissal of a member of the local staff employed in the
Commission's Athens Office

Mr N. KERAMIDAS was recruited on 15 June 1977 as a member of the local staff and has worked continuously until now; as the reports from his superiors in his personal file indicate, his work was considered first-class. His contract was terminated by the Commission as from 1 January 1983 without any reason being given.

Can the Commission state why Mr KERAMIDAS was dismissed since at the same time four (4) more officials are being recruited as well as a large number of hourly-paid workers?

55. Question by Mr de FERRANTI (H-602/82)

Subject : Nail plates used in house construction

What progress is being made towards removing technical barriers to trade by the establishment of common standards and mutual recognition of testing procedures for nail plates used in house construction ?

56. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-685/82)

Subject : Labelling of Energy Consuming Machinery

What are the results to date in each Member State for the more efficient use of energy of the directive on labelling of energy consuming appliances?

57. Question by Mr NEWTON DUNN (H-687/82)

Subject : Cheap butter at Christmas

What proportion of the EEC subsidised butter bought by Community citizens around Christmas 1982 went for an increased consumption of butter ?

58. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-689/82)

Subject: 8 March, Women's Day

The practice of marking 8 March as Women's Day is becoming more and more widespread in the Community countries. Has the Commission any plans in future to organize special events to focus the attention of public opinion and the institutions on the present situation of European women (who form the greater part of the Community's population), preferably by taking specific initiatives such as reducing working hours, which could contribute to improving the situation of women, especially at a time of crisis?

59. Question by Mrs POIRIER (H-695/82)

Subject: Improvement of Community rules on FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Does the Commission intend to take account of the resolution adopted on 16 June 1982 on the basis of the MAFFRE-BAUGE Report (Doc. 1-279/82) when finalizing its 1983-1984 farm price proposals in the FRUIT AND VEGETABLES sector?

60. Question by Mr PRANCHERE (H-696/82)

Subject: Restrictions on timber imports into France after
the storm in November 1982

The violent storm which hit many areas in the South of France on 6 and 7 November 1982 caused considerable damage to forests. The volume of trees felled exceeds ten million cubic metres.

To prevent a collapse of price levels on the market and enable the ruined timber to be sold off on satisfactory terms, does the Commission not intend, in agreement with the French Government, to propose restrictions on timber imports into France?

61. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-697/82)

Subject : Directives on Lorry Weights and Diversions

As at least one Member State has made it clear that it cannot accept the Commissions proposals if the maximum allowable gross weight is 40 tons and if certain axle weights are not altered, will the Commission now propose a fresh directive either in terms of a range of key weights and dimensions, determined by what Member States are prepared to accept, or in the form of model rules rather than a mandatory requirement?

62. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-709/82) (1)

Subject: Coal consumption in the Community

Could the Commission state if it intends to make proposals to the Council on the definition on a Community strategy to develop coal consumption, and when it will present its proposals?

63. Question by Mr SKOVMAND (H-728/82)

Subject : Subsidies on olive oil

To judge from information that has emerged in connection with the Italian olive scandal, it appears that larger subsidies are being paid on olive oil than has hitherto been allowed for. Against this background, will the Commission make a fresh calculation of how many thousand million kroner Spain's accession to the Community will cost farmers in the other Community countries?

64. Question by Mrs EWING (H-731/82)

Subject : EEC Fisheries Agreements with third Countries

Will the Commission state what progress has been made on fishery agreements with third countries for 1983 following the Council's failure to conclude an agreement on a Common Fisheries Policy before the 1st of January 1983 ?

65. Question by Mr WEDEKIND (H-776/82) (x)

Subject : Differing technical and postal regulations for radio equipment and similar products within the Community

Is the Commission aware that, owing to differing technical and postal regulations for radio equipment and similar products within the Community, free movement of goods is not possible and what measures has the Commission hitherto taken to achieve standardization of these regulations, thereby allowing a common market to be created ?

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-155/82), converted into a question for Question Time

66. Question by Mr BALFE (H-785/82)

Subject : Invalidity arrangements at the European Commission

Will the E.E.C. Commission comment on reports that a growing number of its officials are taking advantage of the very generous invalidity arrangements which allow for premature retirement on about 70 % of salary in cases of persistent sickness ?

Will the Commission state how many Commission staff have been granted invalidity and is it correct that as many as 50 or 60 cases occurred last year and will the Commission also give an assurance that all those receiving invalidity pensions are given proper medical examinations at intervals after leaving E.E.C. employment?

67. Question by Mr SEAL (H-786/82)

Subject : Employment Zones

In view of the Commission decision to examine each of the proposed "employment zones" put forward by the Belgian government and to veto the one proposed for Brussels, can it now be assumed that Article 92 of the EEC Treaty will be used for all Member States who set up "employment zones" ?

Do all the British "enterprise zones" give aid which is considered compatible with Article 92 of the EEC Treaty ?

Were the proposals for these British "enterprise zones" examined individually before they were allowed to be established ?

Are the Commission to examine any proposals to give measures of aid to industry by a future British Labour government to ensure that they too will be compatible with Article 92 of the EEC Treaty ?

68. Question by Mr WELSH (H-752/82)

Subject : Diary of the Commissioner responsible for Regional Policy

Does the Commissioner for Regional Policy plan to visit the County of Lancashire in the United Kingdom during 1983 ?

69. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-761/82)

Subject : Bias in favour of American Multinational

Will the Commission tell why it accepted a tender for the protection of glass surfacing of the Berlaymont building from an American multinational corporation, whose product had been tested by the U.S. Government's National Bomb Data Centre and found inadequate, when there was a tender for a superior product from a European company ?

70. Question by Mr KAZAZIS (H-764/82) (x)

Subject: Fixing farm prices for the 1983-84 period

What special measures has the Commission taken in fixing the 1983-84 farm prices (and deciding on supplementary measures) to take account of the special problems confronting countries with high inflation rates?

71. Question by Mr KEY (H-768/82)

Subject : Olive Oil

Does the Commission consider that its information offices (in Brussels and elsewhere) are providing an adequate service in informing the general public of the policies and responsibilities of the Community ?

72. Question by Mr SCHWENCKE (H-769/82)

Subject.: Community information offices in the Federal Republic of Germany

When will the Commission submit its proposal on the setting up of one or possibly two, additional Community information offices in the Federal Republic of Germany and will priority be given to Hanover in view of that city's role as 'Land' capital and trade fair centre?

73. Question by Mr RIEGER (H-773/82)

Subject: Community authority to take action in the area of foreign policy

In the External Relations section of the Commission's Programme of Work for 1983 it is proposed that a Community legal instrument should be created to enable an action to be brought when international law is violated by third countries. Can the Commission say why it is making this proposal and in what cases it envisages application of the instrument?

74. Question by Ms QUIN (H-779/82)

Subject : Visit of Commissioner HAFERKAMP and
Commissioner DAVIGNON to Japan

During their visit to Japan in February, did the Commissioners discuss the subject of shipbuilding and if so, what was the outcome of their discussions ?

75. Question by Mr CLINTON (H-791/82)

Subject : U.K. Variable Premium Scheme

Since the fall in the value of sterling and the drop in cattle prices in the United Kingdom, the operation of the variable premium scheme in the U.K. for cattle exports is effectively resulting in the subsidisation of exports. This is creating a serious distortion of trade and competition.

The present situation allows cattle to be dumped on the Irish market by Northern Irish exporters who are subsidised by the variable premium scheme. This has grave implications for an industry which has already been badly hit by the effects of the economic recession.

Will the Commission please state whether it has considered emergency measures to remedy this situation, and what action it proposes to take over the longterm to ensure that artificial distortions to the livestock trade are eliminated ?

76. Question by Mr CURRY (H-792/82)

Subject : Use of canthaxanthin as an additive in feeds for
salmon and trout

When does the Commission propose to authorise the use of canthaxanthin as an additive in feeds¹⁾ for salmon and trout, under Annex I to EEC Directive 70/524, in line with the favourable opinion expressed by the Scientific Committee for Animal Nutrition on 14 December 1982 ?

1) OJ L 270, 4.12.70, p.1

7. Question by Mr WOLTJER (H-798/82)

Subject: Herring fishing

Is the Commission prepared to do its utmost to ensure that a decision on herring fishing in the central area of the North Sea is taken by 1 May 1983 so that, in the event of an affirmative decision, fishermen are able to meet the great demand for 'maatjes' herring?

78. Question by Mr HUME (H-799/82)

Subject : Commission's response to Parliament's Resolution
on Community Regional Policy and Northern
Ireland

Will the Commission state what has been its response to the proposals contained in the Martin Report,¹ adopted by Parliament in June 1981,² on Community Regional Policy and Northern Ireland ?

79. Question by Mr ANTONIOZZI (H-800/82)

Subject: Withdrawal of Commission proposals

Can the Commission indicate how many proposals it has withdrawn as being no longer topical (see PE 82.919, point 3), which proposals are involved and the real reasons for the withdrawal? Since one is to assume that the proposals put forward were relevant, who was responsible for the delay or failure to consider the proposals on time?

¹ Doc.1-177/81

² OJ C 172 of 13.7.81

80. Question by Mr TREACY (H-803/82)

Subject : Outcome of London Convention on the Dumping of
Nuclear Waste

Was the Commission represented at the recent London Dumping Convention, and, if so, in what capacity ? Will it report on the outcome of this meeting, particularly in relation to the discontinuing of the dumping of nuclear waste off the Irish coast ?

81. Question by Mr PATTISON (H-804/82)

Subject : Promotion of Development of Native Energy Resources

What measures and policies exist at Community level for the promotion of the development of native energy resources - such as coal - and to what extent have the Irish authorities availed themselves of any existing measures ?

82. Question by Mr DENIS (H-807/82)

Subject: Preparation for the next UNCTAD conference (Belgrade, June 1983)

Can the Commission specify the proposals it will put forward in preparation of this conference, given what is for the developing countries the catastrophic state of the raw materials market, and particularly in the light of the programmes on this subject devised by the UNCTAD secretariat, which cover the conclusion of commodity agreements, provisions for storage and mechanisms to regulate supply?

83. Question by Mr DEL DUCA (H-808/82)

Subject: Application of Directive 77/486/EEC¹ on the education of the children of migrant workers

In one of the municipal districts of Brussels, it was recently decided to close ten out of the eighteen primary schools from next September onwards. This decision, if implemented, would principally affect the children of immigrants, who make up 93% of the pupils in the schools concerned by the measure. Does the Commission not believe that such a decision is in breach of Directive 77/486/EEC on the education of the children of migrant workers?

84. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-810/82)

Subject: Application of Article 130 of the Treaty of Accession of Greece to the EEC

Following a request by the Greek Government for protective measures to be applied to 22 imported products primarily in the agricultural sector which has been particularly affected by imports following accession, the EEC Commission agreed to protective measures only in respect of 11 products (representing less than 1% of the total volume of imports) for a limited period of time and the method of calculation used was based not on import figures for 1980 (the last year prior to accession) - as the Greek Government had requested - but on 1982 figures.

Can the Commission state why it has seriously weakened the impact of the measures of Article 130 of the Treaty of Accession for all the categories of products requested by the Greek Government at a time when a huge volume of imports of goods from the EEC or third countries with preferential agreements has had a very adverse effect on the Greek economy?

¹ OJ L 199 of 6.8.1977, p. 32

85. Question by Mr ADAMOU (H-812/82)

Subject: The grubbing up of vineyards in Greece

Under EEC Regulation No. 456/80 wine-growers in the Nomi of Ilia, Achaia and Messinia are required to abandon the cultivation of certain traditional varieties of vine, to complete grubbing up by 31.3.84 and to undertake not to replant vines for a period of approximately eight years.

Since the application of this Regulation directly harms farmers in these regions and their families who live exclusively from the cultivation of vines, can the Commission state what measures it intends taking to avert these adverse consequences and to protect traditional wine-growing in the regions of Ilia, Achaia and Messinia?

86. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-814/82)

Subject: The destruction of fruit and vegetables

Since Greek accession to the EEC in 1981 until now approximately 500,000 tonnes of fruit and vegetables have been destroyed; this undoubtedly has a damaging effect on the agricultural economy and the national economy in general and has a devastating impact on the farming population. Moreover, the compensation provided is very much lower than production costs and the level of inflation.

What steps does the Commission intend to take to deal with the consequences of the destruction of Greek fruit and vegetables on the agricultural economy and farmers' incomes especially in view of the fact that this year more than 100,000 tonnes of oranges have already been destroyed?

87. Question by Mr EISMA (H-817/82)

Subject: Medical training

When did the Commission ask the Advisory Committee on Medical Training and the Committee of Senior Officials on Public Health for their opinions? When were these opinions delivered, or when can they be expected, and when will the Commission submit a proposal to the Council?

88. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-820/82)

Subject: Imports of low-carbon ferrochrome into the Community

In view of Europe's heavy dependence on outside sources of energy and raw materials and the fact that Turkey has always been a regular supplier of ferrochrome to the Community via its Antalya plant (ferrochrome is an essential raw material in the production of stainless steel), can the Commission explain why it has agreed, in response to a request from a single German producer and against the advice of other countries, which are concerned to protect the general interest, to conduct an anti-dumping inquiry with respect to Turkey, at the risk of penalizing European consumers?

In these circumstances, and when the Community has agreed to many investments in Turkish industry, what led the competent Member of the Commission to take such a decision?

