

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 9 and 10 March 1982



QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1. 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?

2. 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made by the Commission to the Government of the United States to ensure that clause 601 of the U.S. Copyright Act is repealed with effect from 1st July 1982 and what steps does the Commission intend to take in the event that repeal is frustrated by the bill HR3940 introduced in the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?

3. 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?

4. 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?

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

Subject: Research in the coal industry

Given the required and important role 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?

6. 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?

7. 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?

8. 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?

9. Question by Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU (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?

10. 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?

11. Question by Mr DENIAU (H-724/81)¹

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?

¹ Will not be called if items 6 and 7 are kept on the agenda

12. Question by Mr PATTERSON (H-726/81)

Subject: Vocational preparation and work preparation courses for young people

Does the Commission not agree that in the light of the very high unemployment rates and poor job prospects in many areas of the Community, it would be both undesirable and unfair to seek to require that vocational training and preparation courses for young people should be directly linked to current specific labour market needs?

13. Question by Mr 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?

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

Subject: Action taken on the motion for a resolution (Doc. 1-141/81)
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 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?

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

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

Over 10 million are now unemployed within the Community, more than 3 million 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?

16. Question by Mrs FUILLET (H-539/81) (x)

Subject: Abortions

In paragraph 39 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:

'to set up a programme to reduce the number of abortions, in particular by:

- early provision of adequate information for young people;
- a broad and suitable range of reliable means of contraception;
- full recognition of the needs of single parents and special provisions for parents of large families;
- appropriate provisions for day nurseries.'

What progress has been made with this programme, which could play a major role in reducing the number of abortions?

(x) Former oral question without debate (O-31/81), converted into a question for Question Time

17. Question by Mrs SCRIVENER (H-463/81)

Subject: Community legislation in the field of chemical products

In accordance with the sixth amendment to the Council directive of 27 June 1967, the procedures for testing and notifying new chemical products should be the same in all Member States of the European Community as from 18 September 1981.

Can the Commission indicate which countries have taken the necessary measures to ensure that the above-mentioned directive is implemented at the appropriate time and to what extent Article 169 of the Treaty of Rome can be invoked against those Member States which do not comply with the EEC directive?

18. Question by Mrs EWING (H-484/81)

Subject : The functioning of the European Regional Fund

Does the Commission agree that the Regional Fund Regulation in its present form does not contain any efficient mechanisms to prevent Member States receiving aid from the Fund from reducing the amount of national aid correspondingly; does the Commission find this situation satisfactory; if not, has the Commission considered proposing the introduction of new mechanisms, guaranteeing respect of the principle of additionality in connection with the next revision of the Regional Fund Regulation?

19. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-488/81)

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 Commission take to ensure that the French Government complies with the rule on freedom of establishment in all fields, including the banking sector?

20. Question by Mr CALVEZ (H-505/81)

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

Article 3(c) of the Treaty of Rome states 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 on the free movement of capital is being contravened by the nationalization of three French companies, CII Honeywell Bull, ITT France and Roussel Uclaf, 'which are notable for a high level of foreign shareholding' (from the nationalization bill of 23 September 1981, introduced by Mr Pierre Mauroy). If, in these circumstances, a Member State intended to bring this matter before the Court of Justice, what action would the Commission take under Article 170 of the Treaty of Rome?

21. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-586/81)

Subject : ECSC Budget 1982

The Council having amended the 1973 arrangements for coking coal and coke for the iron and steel industry of the Community, 27th October 1981, does the Commission consider that the ECSC Budget for 1982 is sufficient to maintain technical coal research at the necessary level ?

22. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-619/81)

Subject: EEC/Romania trade relations

Following the first meeting of the EEC/Romania Joint Committee, what measures the Commission intend to propose to remedy the situation where Community exports to Romania are stagnant while imports from the latter are increasing?

23. Question by Mrs Tove NIELSEN (H-671/81)

Subject: Enlargement of the Community to include Spain and Portugal

With a view to the prospective enlargement of the Community to include Spain and Portugal, will the Commission state what steps it intends to take to ensure that, as from the date of enlargement, interpretation to and from Danish is available during its meetings on the same basis as interpretation to and from English, French, German, etc? Moreover, does the Commission intend to extend to its established Danish interpreters the same facilities to follow necessary language courses during working time as are available to English, French and German interpreters?

24. Question by Mr CECOVINI (H-694/81)

Subject: Harmonization of copyright laws

The Commission is presumably aware of the considerable differences that exist within the Community as regards the freedom of expression of writers, the assistance they receive and their remuneration. To remedy this, what measures does it intend to propose with a view to unifying or at least coordinating copyright laws?

25. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-700/81)

Subject: Herbicide 245-T

In its reply to Mr NEWTON DUNN's oral question no. H-709/80 on 9 March 1981¹, the Commission undertook to report to Parliament its findings regarding the herbicide 245-T and to make proposals regarding its control if justified. Would the Commission now let us know what has transpired and if it intends to make any proposals?

Subject: Prison sentences for prisoners from
Community states

Under German legislation, prisoners who are to be deported on completion of their sentence, i.e. against whom an enforceable deportation order has been issued, are not entitled to any relaxation of prison regulations, e.g. open prisons, leave of absence, day passes, etc. As the majority of these prisoners are unable to communicate, or can only do so with difficulty, when in German prisons, the sentence is reduced to one of mere detention. Rehabilitation or reintegration, which are important objectives in the German penal system, are thereby made impossible. The vital factor, however, is the reintegration of these prisoners into their own society as they are not permitted to remain in the Federal Republic of Germany.

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1. Does the Commission support the idea that a prisoner convicted in another Community state should be allowed to serve his sentence in his native country?
 2. If so, does it share the view that serving prisoners should therefore be entitled to the privileges granted in that country, provided they prove themselves eligible for these?
 3. Can the Commission provide figures showing the number of prisoners from Community countries serving sentences in countries of which they are not nationals and who are to be deported at the end of the sentence?
 4. Would the Commission then agree that the European Community could serve the public interest through a proposal allowing prisoners to serve their sentences in their own country?

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-90/81), converted into a question for question time

27. Question by Mr DAVERN (H-717/81)

Subject: UK legislation governing packing of liquid milk

Is the Commission aware of the United Kingdom's proposal to submit imports of cream and flavoured milks to that legislation (concerning the packing of liquid milk for retail sale to premises registered by the U.K. authorities) which is currently being challenged by the Commission before the European Court under Article 169 of the Treaty, and, if so, can the Commission confirm that it has protested in the strongest terms to the U.K. Government about this proposed legislation and, in the event of its being made law, will it include this further breach in its Article 169 application to the Court?

28. Question by Mr MÜLLER-HERMANN (H-736/81)

Subject: Intra-Community barriers

What action does the Commission intend to take to ensure that the French Government refrains from measures aimed at creating new intra-Community barriers as a means of solving problems on its domestic market?

29. Question by Mr DE FERRANTI (H-753/81)

Subject: Belgian wiring rules

In view of the advantages for consumers of common safety standards for electrical equipment what will the Commission do about the Royal Belgian Decree of 30 March 1981 establishing wiring rules which are in contradiction with the Directive 73/23/EEC ("Low Voltage Directive"), and have any Member States or interested partner requested the application of Article 9 of this Directive or will the Commission itself act, according to the general rules in the Treaty?

30. Question by Mr von WOGAU (H-754/81)

Subject: French furniture

Can the Commission confirm that the French Government recently doubled, on a temporary basis, a tax on furniture sold in France with a view to using the expected revenue of FF 90 million to recapture the domestic market? Is it true, moreover, that the French furniture trade has declared its readiness to cooperate with French manufacturers in replacing one third of current imports with domestic products? Does the Commission consider these measures compatible with Article 92 of the EEC Treaty?

31. Question by Mr BALFE (H-758/81)

Subject: Meetings between the Commission and South African officials

How many meetings were held during 1981 between members of the Commission and officials and other people representing the South African Government, and how many meetings were held during 1981 between officials of the Commission and officials and other people representing the South African Government?

32. Question by Dame Shelagh ROBERTS (H-759/81)

Subject: Oil pollution

Is the Commission aware that between 15 December 1981 and 31 December 1981 a considerable number of dead seabirds were washed up on the South and East coasts of the United Kingdom? All were suffering from oil pollution. This pollution was caused by various types of fuel oil flushed from the tanks of merchant vessels and occurs regularly during the Christmas period each year.

Does the Commission intend to include in its Environment Action Programme, 1982 - 1986, measures to detect and prevent this pollution, including for example aerial reconnaissance and the introduction of powers to enable all Community Port Authorities to prosecute ships of any nation accused of pollution on entering their ports?

33. Question by Mr PRAG (H-784/81)

Subject: Community disaster relief unit

What action has the Commission taken in respect of Parliament's Resolution of 18 December 1980 (paragraph 11) urgently requesting "the creation on a permanent basis of a Community disaster relief unit to intervene urgently in the event of disasters, at the request of the Governments concerned, and including specialized technical units from the armed forces of the Member countries"; what discussions have taken place with other international bodies and what have been the results?

34. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-785/81)

Subject: Part-time farming

What steps is the Commission taking to establish an up to date picture of the extent to which farmers have gainful activities outside their farms?

35. Question by Mr DALZIEL (H-786/81)

Subject: Nursery education

Is the Commission aware of the great importance and need for the provision of adequate nursery education and what is the Commission doing to encourage or support the wider availability of nursery education facilities in the Member States?

36. Question by Mrs VON ALEMANN (H-789/81)

Subject: January report of the German Bundesbank

In its monthly report for January 1982, the German Bundesbank states that in 1981 the European Community cost each person in employment in the FRG DM 540.

The impression received from telephone inquiries to various Commission departments was that the Commission had issued no comment on this matter and had no intention of doing so.

Would the Commission state its views on this report and, if appropriate, strongly refute the assertions made?

37. Question by Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE (H-796/81)

Subject: Contradictory Commission decisions relating to the Belgian steel concern, Sidmar

Sidmar was the first Community steel firm to install new continuous annealing plant. The resultant increase in capacity was expressly provided for in the Hanzinelle steel agreements between the Belgian Government and the European Commission signed by Mr Davignon for the Commission on 8 February 1981. The agreements contain no provision for a reduction in capacity. However, notwithstanding the Hanzinelle agreements, the Commission decided in early February 1982 to limit Belgian state aid to Sidmar and to authorize such aid only on condition that the Ghent steel firm closed down a 520,000 ton continuous annealing plant.

Why has the Commission unilaterally broken the express agreements of 8 February 1981 and why, in the space of 11 months, has it taken two totally contradictory decisions which seriously endanger the economic viability and competitiveness of this Flemish concern?

38. Question by Mr EYRAUD (H-799/81)

Subject: Milk refunds

In view of the contract concluded between the USSR and New Zealand for the supply of 30,000 tonnes of butter and 20,000 tonnes of whole milk powder each year for 4 years, which will in fact allow the US to dispose of its milk stocks, why has the Commission proposed reducing appropriations for milk refunds when it knew that the sale of the US stocks would lower prices?

39. Question by Mr PETERSEN (H-800/81) ¹

Subject: The JET project

The JET thermonuclear fusion project is one of the largest projects ever undertaken by the Community. Its long-term objective is to produce vast quantities of energy cheaply. Many serious political, environmental, ecological, social and psychological problems have arisen in connection with the existing nuclear power plants.

Can the Commission therefore state whether, on the basis of the above criteria, any technological study is being made to assess the fusion energy involved? If not, is the Commission willing to initiate such a study?

¹ ~~it~~ not be called if item 17 is kept on the agenda

40. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-801/81)

Subject: Beet cultivation and sugar production in Greece

Prior to Greece's accession to the EEC, beet-growing was one of the most dynamic sectors of Greek agriculture and beet was one of the most successful earners of foreign currency.

In view of the fact that the beet producers' associations at their meeting in Veroia made a reasonable request for the expansion and modernization of beet-growing and for the establishment of a sixth Greek sugar refinery, and since there have been interesting proposals this year concerning Yugoslavian and Bulgarian imports from Greece - which will be impossible to implement owing to the present EEC restrictions on Greek beet production and trade barriers with the Socialist countries - why is the Commission insisting on these restrictions on beet-growing?

41. Question by Mr COLLINS (H-807/81)

Subject: Lead in petrol

When will the Commission bring forward proposals to eliminate lead from petrol completely and what barriers does it see standing in the way of Member States who want to achieve this ban now?

42. Question by Mr FERGUSSON (H-810/81)

Subject: Commission issuing information about resolutions adopted by the Parliament

What steps does the Commission take, as a matter of course, to ensure that Commission offices in countries outside the Community are fully and promptly informed of the resolutions directly concerning those countries adopted by the European Parliament?

43. Question by Mr JUNOT (H-811/81)

Subject: Customs Union

The establishment of a customs union within the European Community is a major objective as regards the internal market. However, only five texts were adopted in 1981 and progress towards a customs union is marking time.

What specific measures does the Commission intend to initiate in order to secure definitive harmonization of existing legislation in the Member States?

44. Question by Mr PAULHAN (H-812/81)

Subject: Decline in farm incomes in the European Community

Given a decline in EEC per capita farm incomes in 1981 of 4.2% in real terms (which, added to the reduction over the two previous years, amounts to 24% since 1978), what proposals does the Commission intend to make to halt this downward trend?

45. Question by Mr Christopher JACKSON (H-817/81)

Subject: Quality of bathing water directive

This directive lays down standards of water pollution to be observed by 1985 in respect of beaches used by a certain number of people.

Can Member States of their own accord grant, in respect of a certain beach, a derogation from the "quality of bathing water" provisions laid down in this directive; and what powers does the Commission have to ensure compliance with the standards laid down?

46. Question by Mr HABSBURG (H-821/81)

Subject: Abolition of identity checks at the internal borders of the European Community

In a resolution adopted almost unanimously, the European Parliament called on the Commission to submit a report on the projected abolition of identity checks at the internal borders of the European Community. What progress has been made in drawing up this report, and when will it be submitted to the European Parliament?

47. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-827/81)

Subject: Additional regional aid for the Westhoek region

In the light of the detailed information contained in the Flemish regional authorities' counterproposals concerning Belgian development regions, will the Commission state whether or not it considers that the social and economic conditions obtaining in the sub-region of Westhoek are such as to warrant a six-month extension (until 30 June 1982) of additional regional aid for that area and whether it is endeavouring to reduce or increase regional disparities?

48. Question by Mrs BUCHAN (H-830/81)

Subject: El Salvador

A resolution passed by the Parliament on 17.09.81 and forwarded to the Commission stated that it 'supports all efforts to facilitate negotiations between the Junta and the Government on the one hand and the opposition FDR on the other'. Would the Commission please give details of any action it has taken to facilitate such negotiations?

49. Question by Mr CABORN (H-833/81)

Subject: Elections in El Salvador

On Sunday March 28th, 'elections' are to be held in El Salvador, 'elections' from which the majority of the people and their representative political organisations will be excluded. In view of the fact that these 'elections' are not democratic and will not solve the divisions within the country or legitimise the Government, will the Commission state what steps it is taking to bring pressure to bear on the United States of America to realise the futility of these planned elections?

50. Question by Mr PESMAZOGLOU (H-834/81)

Subject: Oil prices

What is the Commission's assessment of the causes, extent and duration of the fall in oil prices and what policy is proposed to take advantage of this change?

51. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-835/81)

Subject: Aid to Namibian refugees

Will the Commission indicate what assurances it has received, and from whom, that aid announced at the beginning of February to Namibian refugees will be used for peaceful and humanitarian purposes, and not directed to military purposes; and what steps it will take in the future to see that these assurances are honoured?

52. Question by Miss DE VALERA (H-840/81)

Subject: UN report on cancer

Has the Commission carried out an assessment of the United Nations' recent report on the causes of cancer, in particular the implications for workers in chemical, insulation, mining, gas and chromium industries and if so what are the views of the Commission?

53. Question by Mr CRONIN (H-841/81)

Subject: "Non-quota" section of Regional Fund

What guarantees can the Commission provide that the benefits of an increased "non-quota" section of the revised Regional Fund will be awarded to the most needy areas of the Community, particularly the border counties of Ireland?

54. Question by Mr FLANAGAN (H-842/81)

Subject: United Kingdom aid to Northern Ireland

What assurance does the Commission intend to seek from the United Kingdom authorities that the recently announced £90 million Public Expenditure Programme for Northern Ireland which includes funds to the Housing Executive to construct 4,500 new houses will be additional to the aid to be provided by the EEC for housing purposes?

55. Question by Mr LALOR (H-843/81)

Subject: Cost of export refunds

Would the Commission indicate the relative costs of intervening in the Community beef market through the export refund system and intervention and furthermore, does the Commission consider the export refund system more important at the present time to supporting the beef market than intervention?

56.

Question tabled by Mrs LIZIN (H-844/81)

Subject: Chooz nuclear power station

On 3 February 1982 the Commission of the European Communities revised its recommendation concerning the application of Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty. The new procedure now in force provides for two preliminary information and safety analysis stages for the construction of nuclear reactors.

1. A list of general data concerning the site, installation, waste and its radiological effect, a list of accidents examined in the preliminary safety report and an evaluation of the radiological effects of specific accidents must be provided before building permission is granted.
2. A highly detailed and much more comprehensive list of general information is to be submitted, if possible one year before any waste is produced.

The Commission is now in a position to seek information from the Member States during the preliminary stage, i.e. before building permission is granted for any nuclear reactor. Does it intend to apply this stricter new procedure:

- in the case of Belgium, with regard to the proposed sites on the lower Meuse,
- in the case of France, with regard to the Chooz project?

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

57. 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?

58. 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?

¹ COM 74/2001 - final

59. 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 totally inadequate response to the need for improved transparency, coherence and efficiency of the Community institutions?