

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTIONS

Pursuant to Rule 47a of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 16, 17 and 18 January 1979

In accordance with the directives on the conduct of Question Time, questions may be answered only if the questioner is present or has notified the President in writing. before Question Time begins, of the name of his substitute.

Questions to the Commission which have not been answered on Tuesday for lack of time are called on Thursday. If the questioners are unable to attend, they may of course, notify the President in writing of the name of their substitute before the questions are called on Thursday.

1. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-359/78)

Subject : Opening up of government contracts to companies
from all Community countries

Which Governments in the Community have followed the example of the British Government and applied the directive designed to open up Government contracts to companies from all Community countries and which Governments not applying the directive have undertaken to do so within the next six months?

2. Question By Mr NORMANTON (H-381/78)

Subject : Taxes other than turnover taxes which affect the
consumption of manufactured tobacco

In view of the fact that only two Member States (France and Italy) appear to have failed to implement Directive 77/805¹ with regard to the fixing of rates of excise taxes that fall within the limits specified in that directive, will the Commission state :

What steps it has taken to ensure that the Directive is implemented at the earliest opportunity and its intention to ensure that the implementation by France and Italy is by retroactive effect to 1 July 1978 so that compliance with Community law is respected uniformly by all Member States.

¹OJ No. L338, 28.12.1977, page 22

3. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-391/78)

Subject: Implementation of the action programme on
safety and health at work

In its opinion¹ on the draft resolution of the Council of the European Communities on a Community action programme on safety and health at work, the European Parliament urged the Commission to take positive action as soon as possible and propose further measures within the framework of this programme, considering it a matter of urgency that the necessary funds and personnel should be made available at the earliest opportunity.

Can the Commission say how it intends to implement the action programme on safety and health at work, what staff it intends to allocate, what funds it intends to provide and when the programme can start operation?

¹ OJ No. C 163, 10 July 1978, page 13

4. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-395/78)

Subject : Vehicle traffic

What is now the Commission's estimate of the car ownership per head of population in each of the nine Member States in the year 2000, and will they indicate what increase this represents on present levels and the implications for vehicle traffic and Community transport policy over the next two decades?

5. Question by Sir Brandon RHYS WILLIAMS (H-402/78) ^x

Subject : Social security systems in Community countries

What action has been taken by the Commission in response to the European Parliament's resolution of 13 May 1976¹ ; when the data will be published making possible a realistic comparison of the net effective rates of benefit payable under the different social security and personal taxation systems of the Member States; and if the Commission will not state its policy in view of the persistence of wide divergences in the effective rates of benefit in Member States, which undoubtedly have a significant effect on attitudes to remuneration from employment, the incentive to work and the attainment of an acceptable minimum standard of living in the Member States?

¹ OJ No C 125 of 8.6.1976, p. 42

^x Will not be called if item 362 is kept on the agenda.

6. Question by Mr RYAN (H-405/78)

Subject : Human intake of noxious fumes

With a view to reducing the human intake of noxious fumes, will the Commission take steps to require that all public service vehicles and all vehicles weighing one tonne or over have their exhausts emitting at a level of at least three metres above street level and if not why not?

7. Question by Mr McDONALD (H-411/78)

Subject : Australia and the EEC market

What were the particular demands from Australia for access of Agricultural products to EEC markets in the framework of GATT and what agreements have been negotiated with Australia?

8. Question by Mrs DUNWOODY (H-413/78)

Subject : Pensions of European Community officials

What percentage of reduction, following the changes consequential on the application of the European Unit of Account to the pensions of European Community officials, will be suffered by those officials in Ireland, Italy and the United Kingdom who have retired on pension from the European Community?

9. Question by Mr BRUGHA (H-415/78)

Subject : GATT-non-tariff barriers operated by third countries

What is the effect on Community exports of non-tariff barriers operated by third countries which fall within each of the following categories at present being discussed in GATT: customs evaluation, government purchasing, technical standards, safeguard clause and countervailing duties?

10. Question by Mr SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-313/78)

Subject : Community trade in Agricultural Products

What is the Commission's view of the imbalance of trade in agricultural products between the USA and the Community, and does the Commission consider it takes sufficient account of international economic and political aspects in its management and planning for the future of the Common Agricultural policy?

11. Question by Mr SPICER (H-378/78)

Subject : Eradication of rabies

Will the Commission state what progress it has made in drawing up the report on the eradication of rabies promised by Mr. Vouel on its behalf in the European Parliament on 12th May 1978?

12. Question by Mr CORRIE (H-390/78)

Subject : Coresponsibility levy

Is the Commission satisfied that dairy farmers in all Member States are paying the coresponsibility levy?

13. Question by Mr NOLAN (H-393/78)

Subject : Safety of nuclear power stations

In the context of public concern over the increase in the use of nuclear power stations, what studies has the Commission carried out on the safety of such stations and what has been the result of such studies?

14. Question by Lord BESSBOROUGH (H-396/78)

Subject : Recycling of urban and industrial waste

What consideration is the Commission giving to the inclusion of ferrous waste in the research and development programme in the field of recycling urban, industrial and agricultural waste (COM(78) 407 final) approved by Parliament 12 December 1978?

15. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-397/78)

Subject : Coresponsibility Levy

What progress has the Commission made in preparing a report on the coresponsibility levy, promised by Mr Gundelach in Parliament on 12th April 1978, and when will this report be communicated to Parliament?

16. Question by Mr HUGHES (H-408/78)

Subject : Attribution of monetary compensatory amounts to food-importing Member States

The Commission has drawn attention to the attribution of MCAs to food-importing Member States in calculating net transfers under the Financial Mechanism. Will the Commission explain the economic arguments advanced for and against this attribution in the E.P.C. Report on measures to strengthen the economies of the less prosperous countries in the context of the E.M.S.?

17. Question by Mr FITCH (H-414/78)

Subject : International Sugar Agreement

What is the Commission's view of the International Sugar Agreement?

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18. Question by Mr DE CLERCQ (H-419/78)

Subject: INFCE conference

The first conference on the international nuclear fuel cycle evaluation has just completed its work in Vienna. With regard to the final conclusions, which will be presented in 1980, there seem to be two different concepts, one political and the other technical.

Could the Commission, which attended the conference, indicate the position it adopted in its capacity as a Community institution and forward a written communication to the European Parliament on this matter?

19. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-421/78)

Subject : Effects of Council Decision on action by the Social Fund for women

Can the Commission give a Report on the results of the first year of operation of the Council Decision of 20.12.1977 on action by the Social Fund towards combatting unemployment among women?

20. Question by Mr DANKERT (H-424/78)

Subject: European Communities' Information Office at Santiago, Chile

Although in April 1978 the European Communities' Information Office was officially opened in Caracas and it was decided to retain no more than a branch office of purely local importance at the former location in Santiago, it has come to my knowledge that the 1979 programmes for Latin-American visitors are still being prepared from Santiago, something which, in my opinion, does not belong at all to the duties of the branch office.

Can the Commission therefore state how many persons are employed in Caracas and Santiago, how large is the budget for the office in Caracas and the branch in Santiago, what are the exact duties of this branch, what duties it has performed since April of this year and what is its work programme for 1979?

21. Question by Mr YEATS (H-425/78)

Subject : Euroradio

Following the Commission's failure to provide adequate finances for setting up Europe's first supranational radio network which would have been able to provide usefull programming on issues such as Direct Elections, the project has had to be abandoned.

Does the Commission feel that at a future date more adequate resources could be provided for this network?

22. Question by Mr POWER (H-426/78)

Subject : EMS and lending rates

Now that the EMS is getting under way, does the Commission foresee a reduction in the lending rates of the commercial banks?

23. Question by Mr HERBERT (H-428/78)

Subject : Pilot scheme to combat poverty

What success has the Community's programme to combat poverty had in Member States?

24. Question by Mr BROSANAN (H-431/78)

Subject : Disaster at Bantry Bay

What assistance can the Community give following the disaster at Bantry Bay Oil Terminal?

25. Question by Sir Geoffrey De FREITAS (H-317/78)

Subject : Transit of goods from one Member State to another

What has been done during 1978 to facilitate the transit of goods from one Member State to another ?

26. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-379/78)

Subject : Community Aid to Falkland Islands

What further discussions with Great Britain and Foreign Governments are planned about Community aid to the Falkland Isles.

27. Question by Mr CIFARELLI (H-389/78)

Subject: Issue of stamps on direct elections to the European Parliament

The Italian postal authorities recently announced their intention to issue in early 1979 stamps on direct elections to the European Parliament. Does not the Council feel that such a step should be taken by the other Member States, too?

28. Question by Mr BROWN (H-403/78)

Subject : Responsibility for energy projects

When considering energy projects to be submitted for action, what criteria is used for determining the advantage of Community responsibility, as against the responsibility of individual Member States or International Community action?

29. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-404/78)

Subject : Non-utilization of Community funds

Since November, what action has the Council taken with regard to non-utilization of appropriations for payments from the Social and Regional Funds, as illustrated in the report on the Financial Situation of the European Communities on 30 June 1978 recently submitted by the Commission to Council and Parliament, and what action does it plan to take?

30. Question by Mr RYAN (H-406/78)

Subject : European Monetary System

In relation to proposals for a European Monetary system can the Council state the extent of agreement (if any) for the real transfer of funds from the better off to the less well off regions of the Community to enable a European Monetary System to survive?

31. Question by Sir Brandon RHYS WILLIAMS (H-410/78)

Subject : Promotion of Capital Projects

What steps will the Council take to augment the effective demand within the Community and in A.C.P. countries for products in surplus capacity such as steel by the use of credits and assisted loans for major capital projects selected for the contribution they can make to the fruitful use of industrial spare capacity?

32. Question by Mr McDONALD (H-412/78)

Subject : Monetary Compensatory Amounts

In view of the declared attitude of the French Government to the System of Monetary Compensatory amounts, what period does the President in Office of the Council think will be necessary to arrive at their abolition?

33. Question by Mr RIPPON (H-416/78)

Subject : European Foundation

When will the formal arrangements to establish the European Foundation be completed in accordance with the decision taken at the meeting of the European Council in Copenhagen last April?

34. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-417/78)

Subject : Emergency Aid to East and South-East England

Following the Commission's unsatisfactory answer to my questions on this subject in the first October part-session and the November part-session, and the Council's unsatisfactory answer in the December part-session, will the Council state what information it has received about the allocation of the 1 million EUA given by the Commission as emergency aid to East and South-East England following the storms of 11-12 January 1978, and will it state what action it proposes to take to ensure proper accounting by Member States for such grants of Community funds?

35. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-420/78)

Subject : International Childrens Year

As part of its contribution to the International Childrens Year, will the Council make a comparative study of the legislation relating to children in the member states, in order to ascertain differences in treatment and opportunities for the Community's children, with a view to eliminating them?

36. Question by Mr SOURY (H-422/78)

Subject: Commission report on the common agricultural policy

What is the Council's opinion of the report on the common agricultural policy which the Commission submitted to it on 4/5 December 1978 and in particular of the proposals it contains, concerning, for example, a general price freeze during the 1979-1980 marketing year?

37. Question by Mr BORDU (H-423/78)

Subject: Abolition of monetary compensatory amounts

What does the Council intend to do to prevent the creation of new monetary compensatory amounts and to abolish the existing monetary compensatory amounts, which are responsible for intolerable discrimination between the Member States and heavily penalize French farmers in particular?

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

38. Question by Mr HAMILTON (H-392/78)

Subject : Human Rights in South Africa

In view of the fact that human rights have been and are being increasingly violated in the Republic of South Africa, that political suppression and imprisonment without trial continue unabated, and in view of the evidence that firms in the EEC, particularly the British firm of I.C.L., are supplying South African security authorities with computer and other equipment likely to lead to increased repression, would the Foreign Ministers take urgent steps to stop forthwith these sales of repressive technology to South Africa?

39. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-400/78)

Subject : Prevention of terrorism

What progress has been made by the Foreign Ministers in combating terrorism, and in particular has there been progress towards preventing the import by means of the diplomatic bag of weapons into the EC, and in preventing similar abuses of diplomatic privileges of certain representatives in the capitals of the nine Member States?

40. Question by Mr RYAN (H-407/78)

Subject : Ratification procedures on certain United Nations agreements

Can the Foreign Ministers state what Member States have ratified :

- a) the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,
- b) the United Nations Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights,
- c) the United Nations Convention on Racial Discrimination

and what steps are taken to expedite ratification procedures so as to present a common Community approach to such important principles?

41. Question by Mr McDONALD (H-409/78)

Subject : Refugees from Vietnam and Cambodia

Would the Foreign Ministers tell the House whether action has been taken in the United Nations or any other Forum to resolve the long-term problems or alleviate the current plight of refugees in Vietnam and Cambodia?