

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1979 - 1980

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12 March 1979

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## Oral Questions

**Pursuant to Rule 47a of the Rules of Procedure**

**for QUESTION TIME**

**on 13, 14 and 15 March 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 Wednesday. 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 Mr OSBORN (H-460/78)

Subject: Commercial vehicles

In drawing up its latest proposals on the weight of commercial vehicles, what consultations did the Commission have with organizations representing the manufacturers of commercial vehicles in the Community and with those concerned with the protection of the environment?

2. Question by Mr NOLAN (H-464/78)

Subject : Exchange programme for young workers

Will the Commission explain why, for 1979, it has decided to drop the exchange programmes for young workers, in particular young farmers, which have been operating successfully for many years?

3. Question by Lord KENNET (H-465/78)

Subject: Setting up of an international centre for information on dangerous products

What action does the Commission intend to take on the proposal from the EBCU - European Bureau of Consumers' Unions - that a network covering the Member States should be set up to provide rapid information on dangerous products?

4. Question by Mrs EWING (H-482/78)

Subject : Study on the Moray Firth, Scotland

Will the Commission arrange for an environmental Study to be made on the Moray Firth in view of the importance of the area in terms of the fishing industry of the Community as a whole and of Scotland in particular which would be at risk from pollution from oil related and other industrial enterprises and in view also of the importance of the area to the tourist industry?

5. Question by Mr van AERSEN (H-484/78)

Subject: EC - Albania dialogue

Late in 1978 the Albanian party leader, Mr Enver Hoxha, and the Prime Minister, Mr Mehmet Shehu, stated in public that their country was interested in extending trade and cultural relations with the countries of western Europe.

Can the Commission say whether the European Community has now established initial contacts with Albania, and if not, whether we may expect such contacts to be made at an early date?

6. Question by Mr SCHYNS (H-488/78)

Subject: Employment of severely handicapped persons in the EEC

A number of Member States are newly registering severely handicapped persons in employment.

Can the Commission indicate to what extent the employment of severely handicapped persons is guaranteed in the nine Community Member States?

7. Question by Mr FADOUX (H-492/78)

Subject : Relations with Romania

Can the Commission explain the advantages and significance of the sectoral agreement which the Community is negotiating with Romania, and how it fits into the EEC's policy vis-à-vis the Eastern and Comecon countries?

8. Question by Mr EDWARDS (H-494/78)

Subject : Community's relations with India

What steps does the Commission intend to take to strengthen the Community's relations with India ?

9. 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?

10. Question by Mr STETTER (H-470/78)

Subject: Approval procedure for certain types of doors in France

The French law of 17 March 1978 introduced an approval procedure for certain types of doors according to which, before they can be marketed, these doors must receive the approval of a committee whose chairman is a French door manufacturer, and which is told in advance whether a particular door is French or foreign.

Does the Commission feel that this procedure is in conformity with Articles 30 and 36 of the EEC Treaty, and if not, what steps does it intend to take to stop it?

11. Question by Mr YEATS (H-446/78)

Subject: Time limit for answering written questions to the Commission

In the course of his reply to my Oral Question without debate (Doc. 529/78) on 15 January 1979<sup>1</sup>, Mr Richard Burke, on behalf of the Commission, referred to Article 45 of Parliament's Rules of Procedure and said: 'We have not at any stage as a Commission formally engaged to be able on all occasions to meet the requirements of that particular rule'.

In view of the fact that, ever since the setting up of this Parliament 20 years ago, the period of one month for the answering of written questions has been an accepted part of our Rules of Procedure, without any objection from the Commission, will the Commission now accept that there is indeed an obligation upon them to provide such replies in all normal cases within one month?

<sup>1</sup> Debates of the European Parliament (provisional edition)

12. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-468/78)

Subject: EEC information officers for the direct elections to the European Parliament

Has the Commission trained in Denmark 40 EEC information officers to run information campaigns about the EEC in connection with the direct elections to the European Parliament, and if so, will it state what criteria were laid down for recruiting the information officers, and whether they are paid by the Commission?

13. Question by Mr CORRIE (H-445/78)

Subject: Spirituous beverage contributing most to EC trade balance

Will the Commission please state which spirituous beverage wholly distilled and produced in the Community contributes most to the Community's trade balance with countries outside the Community?

14. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-485/78)

Subject : The teaching of languages in schools

What is the Commission doing to encourage the teaching in schools of the official languages of the Community?

15. Question by Mr NOË (H-487/78)

Subject: Interest in the difficulties facing craftsmen

Does the Commission not think that the difficulties experienced by small undertakings, and in particular craftsmen, should in future be given more dynamic consideration?

In this context, and in view of the present unemployment situation, what measures - or rules - is the Commission thinking of proposing to encourage such undertakings to take on more staff?

16. Question by Lord BESSBOROUGH (H-489/78)

Subject : Proving of nuclear fuel in fast breeder reactors

What consultations are taking place among Member States for the proving of nuclear fuels in fast breeder reactors in the light of the reported proposal by the US Department of Energy to offer to the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority the use of the Treat facility at Idaho Falls for accident simulation?

17. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-490/78) \*

Subject : Proposed coresponsibility levy exceptions

Will the Commission give details of how its expects to verify the accuracy of claims made by farmers who would seek exemption from the coresponsibility levy, under the Proposals currently before us, given that 37 % of German dairy farmers would qualify for exemption, 25 % of French, 27 % of Belgian, etc., and the very large number of farmers who would be involved ?

18. Question by Mr FITCH (H-495/78)

Subject : Coal stocks in the Community

What is the present level of coal stocks in the Community ?

19. Question by Mr BAAS (H-498/78)

Subject : Prevention of the spread of oak wilt disease

What steps will the Commission take to prevent the spread of oak wilt disease to the Community countries from timber imported from North America ?

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\* Will not be called if item 7 is kept on the agenda

20. Question by Sir Derek WALKER-SMITH (H-500/78)

Subject : Community's adherence to the European Convention on Human Rights

To ask the Commission if they will make a statement as to the current position in regard to the question of the Community's adherence to the European Convention on Human Rights.

21. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-502/78)

Subject: Contribution from the European Social Fund to Italian courses in Luxembourg

How does the Commission explain the fact that the CAFLI (the 'Scholastic Assistance Committee for the Children of Italian Workers in Luxembourg') has not yet received its aid from the European Social Fund for 1977 and 1978 despite the fact that the application with all necessary documentation was submitted within the prescribed time-limits?

22. Question by Mrs DAHLERUP (H-503/78/rev.)

Subject: Shortage of Danish interpreters

In view of the great shortage of Danish interpreters in Brussels, can the Commission explain why it stipulates that Parliament's interpreters, who perform their work in a completely satisfactory manner at meetings of the same sort as the Commission's meetings of experts, cannot be engaged in Brussels, now that there is relatively little work in Luxembourg, without having to go through a special free-lance test in Brussels?

23. Question by Mr WAWRZIK (H-504/78)

Subject: Job vacancies in the Community

Can the Commission state whether it regularly compiles statistics in this field for the individual Member States and, if so, whether these figures are made public?



24. Question by Mr SPICER (H-506/78)

Subject: Fire regulations for EEC hotels

In view of the recent report in the February edition of the United Kingdom Consumer Association's publication 'Holiday Which?', will the Commission give urgent consideration to proposing draft fire regulations for EEC hotels?

25. Question by Mr McDONALD (H-517/78)

Subject : Taxing payments

Would the Commission agree that the practice of taxing payments under the Beef Conversion Scheme as income is a contradiction of Community policy? What does the Commission plan to do to stop this practice in member countries where it exists?

26. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-520/78)

Subject : Aeronautical Research Programme

In view of the delay in Council in giving the go-ahead to the Commission's proposal for research and development in the aeronautical sector, will the Commission update the programme to include the need for the Community's aerospace industries to have a trans-sonic tunnel at their disposal ?

27. Question by Mr ALBERS (H-522/78)

Subject : Action programme to assist migrant workers

In the context of the action programme to assist migrant workers and their families, what importance does the Commission attach to ratification by the Member States of the European Community of ILO Convention 143, with special reference to Article 8, which disallows the withdrawal of residence and/or work permits following the loss of employment ?

28. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-525/78)\*

Subject : Community measures in favour of small farmers

Will the Commission give more details concerning those parts of the proposals published recently on the fixing of agricultural prices (Doc. 613/78), relating to the setting-up of programmes for Community financing of investment designed to help less-favoured regions with a large proportion of small farms; and how in particular does the Commission see these proposals benefitting small farmers in less-favoured regions in Ireland?

29. Question by Mrs DUNWOODY (H-526/78)

Subject : Pensions of Community Officials

To ask the Commission whether they are aware that, as a result of the introduction of new regulations relating to pensions, some former officials of the Community have been notified that the pension they will receive in future will be reduced by as much as 55 %, and will they take immediate steps to rectify this situation?

30. Question by Sir Brandon RHYS WILLIAMS (H-527/78)

Subject : Comparison of Current Purchasing Power of Currencies

Will the Commission publish, on the basis of the most recent data available, a comparison of the effective purchasing power of the currencies of each of the Member States in relation to the normal current expenditure pattern of average households; and will the Commission arrange to publish a regular index of relative currency values on this basis of comparison?

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\* Will not be called if item 7 is kept on the agenda

31. Question by Mr HERBERT (H-528/78)

Subject : Duty-free allowances in Member States

Is the Commission seriously considering, in this European Elections year, introducing measures to abolish duty-free allowances for travellers between the Member States?

32. Question by Mr BRUGHA (H-529/78)

Subject Mexico and oil supplies to the EEC Member States

In view of the disruption in oil supplies from Iran, causing harmful effects on European economies, what measures does the Commission consider necessary to guarantee oil supplies from other third countries, such as Mexico?

33. Question by Mr FLETCHER-COOKE (H-534/78)

Subject : Cooperation between the Council of Europe and the European Communities

What actions will the Commission take to ensure a close cooperation with the Council of Europe and avoid overlapping of work between the Council of Europe and the European Communities?

34. Question by Mr SPINELLI (H-535/78)

Subject: Contributions from the Member States to the 1979 budget

How does the Commission intend to ensure that the Community budget functions correctly when three Member States are still refusing to transfer their contribution for the 1979 budget even though more than one month has elapsed since the Commission called on them to respect their obligation to do so under the Treaties?



35. Question by Lord KENNET (H-466/78)

Subject: Setting up of an international centre for information on dangerous products

What action does the Council intend to take on the proposal from the EBCU that a network covering the Member States should be set up to provide rapid information on dangerous products?

36. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-469/78)

Subject: National safeguard provisions

What action does the Council envisage taking in view of the many instances where national safeguard provisions conflict with Articles 85-94 of the Treaty of Rome? Will it instruct the Commission to intensify its efforts to remove such safeguard provisions?

37. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-486/78)

Subject : The teaching of languages in schools

What are the Governments doing to encourage the teaching in schools of the official languages of the Community?

38. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-491/78)

Subject : MCA's

Will the Council state what the present difficulties are in reaching agreement on a scheme for the elimination of MCA's, and when it expects to reach some agreement ?

39. Question by Mr STETTER (H-497/78)

Subject : Common EEC policy on liner traffic

Does the Council agree that ratification of the UN Treaty on liner traffic by the individual Member States would be in contravention of the EEC Treaty, and will it therefore adopt a common policy on liner traffic as soon as possible in cooperation with the other OECD countries, as proposed by the Commission and the European Parliament?

40. Question by Mr FLÄMIG (H-501/78)

Subject : Future development of Euratom

How does the Council view the future development of Euratom?

41. Question by Mr SCHMIDT (H-507/78)

Subject: Construction projects in Strasbourg and Luxembourg

Has the Council been informed since the last part-session either formally or informally by the Governments of France and Luxembourg about the construction projects in Strasbourg and Luxembourg?

42. Question by Mr WÜRTZ (H-508/78)

Subject: Seat of Community institutions

Is the Council aware of the general concern at the continuing waste of public funds and at the race between France and Luxembourg to invest sums running into many millions, which arises from the fact that a decision has still not been taken on the seat of the institutions and, in particular, of Parliament?

43. Question by Mr FELLERMAIER (H-509/78)

Subject: The right of Members of the European Parliament to ask questions

By what right did the Council secretariat forward to the Council the questions on the seat of the institutions that were addressed to the Foreign Ministers at Question Time during the February part-session, and will the Council give an assurance that in future it will not seek again to encroach on the fundamental right of Members of the European Parliament to ask questions?

44. Question by Mr SEEFELD (H-516/78)

Subject: Number of Council meetings

The issue of 'Badische Neueste Nachrichten', Karlsruhe, of 13 February 1979 contains the following statement on the activities of the Council of Ministers:

'Council meetings are still being held, but the French presidency has arranged very few of them in a deliberate bid to stifle, and thus avoid, major controversy.'

I would therefore ask the Council:

How many Council meetings are in fact planned by the French presidency, and how does this compare with the figures for the three previous presidencies?

45. Question by Mr McDONALD (H-518/78)

Subject : Processing Industry

Can the Council assure this house, that, in its discussions of the co-responsibility levy on milk production, full account has been taken of the possible detrimental effects that this will have on the processing industry and is the Council aware that it is the most forward looking firms which have made the highest investment in processing capacity and that a reduction in through put must lead to an increase in processing costs, to the detriment of producer and consumer alike, as well as to the employees of firms concerned?

46. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-521/78)

Subject : Aeronautical Research Programmes

What steps is the Council taking to achieve agreement on the Commission's Proposals, approved by Parliament, for research and development in the aeronautical sector ?

47. Question by Lord BESSBOROUGH (H-523/78)

Subject : Community's relations with the People's Republic of China

In the light of the Council's decision dated 6 December 1973 74/34/EEC why have the governments and financial institutions of some Member States negotiated separate trade agreements and protocols with the People's Republic of China?

48. Question by Mr BROSANAN (H-531/78)

Subject : Loss of revenue from duty-free shops

Is the Council aware that Commission proposals to abolish duty-free allowances between Member States will result in increases in landing charges and higher airline fares?



49. Question by Sir Derek WALKER-SMITH (H-481/78)

Subject : Final Act of the Helsinki Conference and the  
reunification of families

To ask the Ministers whether they have any progress to report in respect of the Resolution adopted by the Parliament on 18th January 1978 (1) following the SCLEBA Report on compliance by the signatory States with their obligations under the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference, with particular reference to the reunification of families; and whether the German Democratic Republic has made any response in the matter.

50. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-496/78)

Subject : Europe Day : 5 May

What plans the Governments of the Community have for encouraging each year the celebration of 5 May as Europe Day in accordance with the decision of all Nine Governments of the Community taken at the Council of Europe on 31 October 1964 ?

51. Question by Mr SPICER (H-505/78)

Subject : SWAPO and Namibia

Will the Foreign Ministers bring pressure to bear at the United Nations to change the United Nations' current policy of recognising SWAPO as the only legitimate party in Namibia, in view of the recent attack by SWAPO guerilla forces in the border area?

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<sup>1</sup> OJ No. C 36 of 13.2.1978, p. 26

52. Question by Mr FELLERMAIER (H-510/78)

Subject: Seat of the European Parliament

Are negotiations currently being conducted between the French and Luxembourg Governments on the seat of the European Parliament, as was stated in a newspaper report of 17 January 1979 that was not explicitly denied by the French President of the Council at the February part-session of the European Parliament?

53. Question by Mr DANKERT (H-511/78)

Subject: Seat of Community institutions

How do the Foreign Ministers justify the inability of the Governments of the Member States to determine the seat of the institutions in accordance with the provisions of Article 216 of EEC Treaty?

54. Question by Mr SEEFELD (H-512/78)

Subject: Seat of Community institutions

How do the Foreign Ministers justify to taxpayers in the Community the continuing postponement of a decision on the seat and the ensuing waste of public funds?

55. Question by Mr PATIJN (H-513/78)

Subject: Location of parliaments and government departments in the Member States

Do the Foreign Ministers agree that it has hitherto been normal practice in all nine Member States for the parliament and government departments to be located in the same city?

56. Question by Mr SCHMIDT (H-514/78)

Subject: Agreements on accommodation for the European Parliament

Will the Foreign Ministers be informed either formally or informally by the governments concerned if any agreements are reached on accommodation for the directly elected Parliament in various venues for part-sessions in the Community in consequence of new premises that are currently under construction?

57. Question by Mr LEZZI (H-515/78)

Subject: The question of the seat and Brussels

With regard to a decision on the question of the seat in accordance with Article 216 of the EEC Treaty, what view do the Foreign Ministers take of the fact that there are over 130 ambassadors accredited at the seat of the Council and Commission in Brussels and that 480 international organizations and 350 journalists are permanently based in that city?

