

European Communities

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Oral Questions

Pursuant to Rule 47a of the Rules of Procedure

**for QUESTION TIME
on 8, 9 and 10 May 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 Mr FITCH (H-495/78)

Subject : Coal stocks in the Community

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

2. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-9/79)

Subject : Importance of Community links with India

In view of India's strong democratic institutions, its geographical position, its high population and the widespread use in India of one of our official languages, what plans has the Commission for establishing an office in New Delhi even if it necessitates the closure of its office in Bangkok?

3. Question by Mrs DAHLERUP (H-47/79)^x

Subject : Discrimination against women in senior grades in the Commission

Following the reply to Written Question No. 750/78¹, it appears that of the 167 political posts (Directors and Director-Generals, A-1 and A-2) within the European Commission, two were held by women. It further transpired that for the 'A' grade as a whole, within the European Commission, women held considerably less than 10% of total posts.

What positive steps is the Commission taking to rectify this gross imbalance, which distorts the representativeness of European Institutions and hinders their effectiveness?

^x Former oral question without debate (0-3/79) converted into a question for Question Time

¹ OJ No. C 57, 2.3.1979, p. 12

4. Question by Mr SEEFELD (H-48/79)^x

Subject : Economic and employment situation in the Community
textile industry

In view of the talks the Commission has been having with the Trade Unions of the nine member states, is the Commission satisfied that the effect of the agreements on outward processing will be to safeguard sufficiently the economic and employment situation in the textile industries of the EEC ?

5. Question by Lord KENNET (H-49/79)^{xx}

Subject : Proposals and decisions for the creation of Community
Research institutions

Proposals and decisions for the creation of Community Research institutions have been made as follows :

1974 - Europe Plus Thirty

1975 - European Institute of Economic Research and Analysis
- European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

1976 - European University Institute

1977 - Forecasting and Assessment in Science and Technology

1978 - European Foundation

- European Economic and Social Policy Research Institute
- European Centre for Documentation on the Environment

Will the Commission state which of these proposals are related to each other, and, if they all come to fruition, how they are to be harmonized ?

^x Former oral question with debate (0-4/79), converted into a question for Question Time

^{xx} Former oral question with debate (0-5/79), converted into a question for Question Time

6. Question by Lord BETHELL (H-54/79)

Subject : Air Fares within the European Community

Is the Commission aware that the cheapest way to fly from Copenhagen to London is via New York, that it is possible to fly from London to New York for the same price as to Shannon (Ireland)? Is it not satisfied that the bilateral agreements on air fares arranged between the Governments of Member States conflict with the Treaty of Rome?

7. Question by Lord St. OSWALD (H-533/78)

Subject : Import of wool textiles from State Trading countries

To ask the Commission whether they will introduce some further controls upon the import of wool textiles from State Trading countries at present resulting in unfair competition, injurious to the Community's wool textile trade, including that of the United Kingdom.

8. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-1/79)

Subject : Disaster aid to south and east England

Will the Commission report on the findings of the three man team dispatched to London to investigate the alleged misuse of Community aid granted to East and South East England following the floods of January 1978 ?

9. Question by Mrs EWING (H-22/79)

Subject: Mining of uranium

What is the policy of the Commission on the mining of uranium in the territories of Member States and is it aware of the strong local opposition to this activity, particularly in the Orkney Islands of Scotland?

10. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-27/79)

Subject : Modernization of special steel, tool steel and
cutlery industries

What has been the outcome of further discussions with Member Governments, and Industrial organizations representing the industries concerned about the need to restructure and modernize the special steel, tool steel, and cutlery industries to meet cheap competition from overseas, and provide adequate and effective protection from dumping from third countries ?

11. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-36/79)

Subject : Development of bogs for agricultural purposes

What possibilities exist within the framework of Community policy for measures to allow for aid for the development of bog-land for agricultural purposes, does the Commission agree that afforestation is a particularly effective way of developing bog-land, and will it ensure that this aspect is studied carefully, and included in any Community proposals on forestry policy ?

12. Question by Mr HERBERT (H-45/79)

Subject : Irish meat canning industry

What measures does the Commission intend to take to alleviate the critical situation of the Irish meat canning industry brought about by MCA anomalies?

13. Question by Mr NOE' (H-46/79)

Subject: The free movement of electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits

Is the Commission aware that Council Directive No. 73/23/EEC on the free movement of electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits has not yet been fully implemented, and in particular that the procedure provided for in Article 9 thereof has not been observed?

14. Question by Mr SCHYNS (H-51/79)

Subject: Distortions of competition in the transportation of timber

Why do the authorization periods and fees for the transportation of timber differ so much from one Member State to another that the authorization procedure represents a real distortion of competition within the meaning of the Treaties of Rome? What can those concerned do to eliminate these obstacles without delay?

15. Question by Mr DONDELINGER (H-52/79)

Subject: Problems raised by redundancies

Is the Commission following the serious problems raised by the major redundancies affecting staff at the MONSANTO factory in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg? What contribution can the Community organs make to resolving these problems and what measures are planned at European level in order to avoid similar situations in the future?

16. Question by Mr McDONALD (H-55/79)

Subject : Regional Fund and tourism

Would the Commission say to what extent Regional Fund appropriations have been made available to help tourism projects and does the Commission consider it desirable to extend the use of these appropriations for projects of this nature ?

17. Question by Lord BESSBOROUGH (H-56/79)

Subject : Relations with the new Government of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia

In what way has the Commission's attitude to the Government of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia altered, taking into account the national multi-racial elections held in April, and the consequent establishment of black majority rule, with a black President, black Prime Minister and mainly black government?

18. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-50/79)^x

Subject: Issue of a European passport to citizens
of the Member States of the Community

With the election of the Members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage to be held on 10 June 1979, could not the Ministers make an effort to bring to a successful conclusion the long drawn-out negotiations on the issue of a European passport to the citizens of the Member States of the Community?

Is it true that one of the questions still to be solved is whether, depending on the geographical location of the place of residence of the nationals concerned, the word 'Community' should precede or follow the name of the Member State on the passport cover.

If so, it could be argued that, while the Community safeguards the future of our countries, it was the Member States which created the Community.

As a gesture of goodwill, could not the majority accept the position of the minority, thus allowing the problem to be settled in the interests of our people?

19. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-2/79)

Subject : 'Salt and Pepper' Turkey Imports

Does the Council intend to agree any measures which would sacrifice the Community's turkey producers, in the interests of whisky and cognac exporters ?

^x Former oral question without debate (0-9/79), converted into a question for Question Time

20. Question by Mrs EWING (H-11/79)

Subject : Voting rights in direct elections

In view of the fact that only Ireland and the United Kingdom have failed to grant to their citizens living in other Member States the right to vote in these countries' direct elections in 1979, will the Council give an assurance that, in considering any future proposal by the European Parliament under Article 138 (3) EEC for a uniform electoral procedure for direct elections, it will take the necessary steps to ensure that citizens of any Member State resident in another Community state will be able to vote in their home country ?

21. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-25/79)

Subject : Falkland Islands

What initiatives have been taken to strengthen the bonds between the Falkland Islands and the Community, in view of their relationship with Great Britain, in the fields of aid and trade, and with particular reference to fishing opportunities in Falkland's waters?

22. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-37/79)

Subject : Impact of Greek Entry on Community sheepmeat policy

What impact does the Council expect the entry of Greece into the Community to have on current policies on sheepmeat, and will it call on the Commission to study the situation immediately ?

23. Question by Lord BESSBOROUGH (H-53/79)

Subject : The Community's Relations with the People's Republic of China

Why has the first meeting of the EEC-China Committee, planned for 3, 4 and 5 May 1979, been postponed?

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

24. Question by Mrs EWING (H-15/79)

Subject : Human Rights in the USSR

What steps are the Foreign Ministers taking to keep informed on the current position of breaches of human rights in the Soviet Union, following the joint positions adopted by membercountries of the Community at the Helsinki and Belgrade Conferences ?

