

European Communities.

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Oral Questions

Pursuant to Rule 47a of the Rules of Procedure

**for QUESTION TIME
on 23, 24 and 25 October 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.

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1. Question by Mr COTTRELL (H-84/79)

Subject: Transportation link between the mainland of Europe and Great Britain

Will the Commission make a statement on the desirability of linking the mainland of Europe and Great Britain with a fixed permanent transportation link, such as a railway tunnel, and whether this would be a suitable project for Community financing?

2. Question by Lady ELLES (H-88/79)

Subject: Parking concessions for the disabled exist throughout the Member States

Can the Commission state whether parking concessions for the disabled exist throughout the Member States and if not, what action will the Commission take to achieve this desirable objective?

3. Question by Mrs WIECZOREK-ZEUL (H-92/79)

Subject: Code of Conduct for companies with subsidiaries, branches or representation in South Africa

Has the Commission now received the reports from the Member States concerning compliance with the 'Code of Conduct for companies with subsidiaries, branches or representation in South Africa' adopted by the Council of Ministers on 20 September 1979? If so, do they contain any specific information, such as a list of individual companies, that would help to identify those firms that have failed to submit a report and what action does the Commission propose to take?

4. Question by Mr PAISLEY (H-127/79)

Subject: Safeguard of the textile industry

What steps has the Commission taken to safeguard the textile industry in the Community against polyester imports from the USA?

5. Question by Mrs CLWYD (H-85/79)

Subject : Cost of Meetings

What does the Commission estimate would be the amount of money saved per year if all meetings of all Community institutions were held in Brussels and all staff of all Community institutions were based in that same city?

6. Question by Lord O'HAGAN (H-95/79)

Subject: Cider tax

Will the Commission now withdraw its proposed tax on farmhouse cider?

7. Question by Mr O'CONNELL (H-98/79)

Subject: Social Services in Member States

What studies has the Commission undertaken into the social services of the Member States? And if it is the intention of the Commission to harmonize social services in Member States to the extent which this is practically possible, what pressure can the Commission bring to bear on Member States whose social services fall below basic levels in certain areas and what Community support can be given with specific application to these services?

8. Question by Mr O'LEARY (H-111/79)^x

Subject: Review of operation of European Monetary System

What progress has been made to date in the review of the operation of the EMS, which was to be carried out after an initial period of six months, according to the rules laid down for the transitional phase of its operation?

^x Will not be called if Item 62 is kept on the agenda

9. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-116a/79) ^x

Subject: Creation of a European Export Bank

Can the Commission indicate whether the plan to create a European Export Bank is to be considered as having been abandoned? If so, for what reasons?

If not, what is the present state of affairs and what developments are likely in the short term?

10. Question by Mr ADAM (H-122/79)

Subject: Supply of Community oil to South Africa

Does the Commission consider that the supply of Community oil to South Africa, either directly or indirectly by means of exchange transactions, does nothing to relieve the Community's dependence on oil imported from third countries?

11. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-116/79)

Subject: Energy policy

Could the Commission indicate whether it is considering, in accordance with its powers and its right of initiative, submitting an early proposal to the Council, in the appropriate legal form, for a directive allocating targets for crude oil imports and consumption among the Member States within the framework of the global targets adopted both at Community level by the Strasbourg European Council and at international level through the commitments entered into by certain member countries of the Community at the Tokyo economic summit?

^x Former oral question without debate (0-42/79) converted into a question for Question Time

12. Question by Mrs ROUDY (H-135/79)

Subject: Distribution of the opinions of the Consumers' Advisory Committee

Can the Commission say whether it is prepared to authorize distribution of the opinions of the Consumers' Advisory Committee as requested by that committee?

13. Question by Mr DAVERN (H-137/79)

Subject: Aid for Mountain and Hill Farmers

Is the Commission satisfied that the EAGGF aid provided for mountain and hill farming in the Member States has enabled farming to be continued and a minimum population to be maintained?

14. Question by Mr SARRE (H-139/79)

Subject: Rise in unemployment in the shipbuilding and man-made fibres sectors

In view of the extremely serious deterioration in the situation in the shipbuilding and man-made fibres sectors, and given the rise in unemployment in both these industries, has the Commission no proposals to make other than the two proposals for decisions of 31 July 1979 concerning aid for restructuring, and does it not consider that any employment policy must entail a substantial reduction in weekly working hours, longer paid holidays, and the introduction of an extra team for shift work in these two sectors?

15. Question by Mr BUCHOU (H-140/79)

Subject: Correlation between positive compensatory amounts and certain agricultural surpluses

Has the Commission detected a correlation between the positive compensatory amounts that certain countries refuse to dismantle and the existence in those same countries of agricultural surpluses which are becoming increasingly difficult to dispose of, notably milk powder and butter?

16. Question by Mr CRONIN (H-141/79)

Subject: U.K. Aid for Offshore Equipment

Will the Commission explain its protracted delay in opening infringement proceedings against the British Government for its persistent operation of an aid scheme for offshore equipment which is clearly in breach of the European Community's rules of competition?

17. Question by Mr FLANAGAN (H-142/79)

Subject: Reducing Fuel Consumption of Automobiles

Does the Commission intend to introduce proposals which would oblige European automobile manufacturers to reduce fuel consumption of new cars by a specified amount within a number of years?

18. Question by Mr LALOR (H-143/79)^x

Subject: European Monetary System

Does the Commission believe that the European Monetary System has had a marked stabilising effect on the currencies participating in the system and to what extent can this stability be extended to other non-participating currencies?

19. Question by Miss Síle de VALERA (H-144/79)

Subject: Heating Assistance for Social Welfare Recipients during the Winter

Does the Commission believe that the Community can provide any form of heating aid for those in receipt of social assistance, particularly in view of the high cost of fuels and shortage of supplies?

^x Will not be called if Item 62 is kept on the agenda

20. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-145/79)

Subject: Factors of inflation

Since the Commission has had occasion to reassess the effects of increased oil prices on economic prospects, can it indicate the effects of these increases on inflation in each of the Community Member States?

21. Question by Mrs EWING (H-148/79)

Subject : Closures of Industrial Plants by Multinational Companies

Is the Commission aware that a number of industrial plants in the Community are being closed by multinational corporations which have other plants in other countries where fiscal, environmental or other legislation may be more favourable to them, and that these closures cause unemployment and considerable hardship to those dismissed, and that one such closure, that of Corpach Mill in West Inverness-shire by Wiggins Teape may be imminent, and if so, what effective action is the Commission proposing to take in the immediate future on this matter, bearing in mind that OECD has already a code of conduct for multinational corporations covering these matters agreed by its members, and that so far the European Communities' record in this field has been far from impressive ?

22. Question by Mr SCHWARTZENBERG (H-150/79)

Subject: Import tax on civil aircraft in the United States

Has the Commission succeeded in getting the United States to implement the agreement negotiated within GATT between the US and the Community and designed to remove the 5% import tax on European civil aircraft ordered by American airlines?

23. Question by Mr PONCELET (H-153/79)

Subject: EEC-China textile agreement

The EEC-China agreement allows China to increase its textile exports to the Community, which, in certain cases, means exceeding the overall internal ceilings.

In which cases does this apply? Does this mean that the Community will have to reduce the third country quotas negotiated in the multi-fibre agreement?

24. Question by Mr BERKHOUWER (H-156/79)

Subject: Import duties outstanding on the import of
fighter planes and tanks from the United States

According to an article in the 'Express' of 22 September 1979, Belgium, the Netherlands and Denmark owe the Community customs duties amounting to more than \$1.5 billion on the import of fighter planes and tanks from the United States.

Are these duties to be recovered by the Commission?

25. Question by Mr DEBRE (H-157/79)

Subject: Conditions of access to the market for manufacturers
in the French overseas departments and the ACP countries

Is the Commission aware that under the Lomé Convention the conditions for industrialization of the associated countries are more favourable than for the overseas departments, since the former have automatic access to the markets of the latter, while the reverse is not true? If so, what measures does the Commission intend to take to rectify this inequality, the results of which may be disastrous for the overseas departments?

26. Question by Sir John STEWART-CLARK (H-160/79)

Subject: Beam Fishing

Is the Commission aware that many in-shore fishermen are extremely worried about the threat to their livelihood resulting from the damage caused to fish stocks, their fishing equipment, and the sea bed itself, by beam trawlers?

27. Question by Mrs CHOURAQUI (H-161/79)

Subject: Reduction in working hours

Has the Commission carried out studies to determine the effect a reduction in weekly working hours might have on unemployment?

What conclusions does it draw from these studies?

28. Question by Mr Christopher JACKSON (H-161a/79)^x

Subject: Common market for apples

Has the Commission any evidence of certain Member States giving national subsidies to their apple growers or marketers, and does it believe that these aids cause distortion of the Common Market in contravention of the Treaties?

29. Question by Mr SEAL (H-162/79)

Subject: Dumping of electrical motors

Could the Commission state when the results of their enquiry into possible dumping of electrical motors into EEC from Eastern Europe will be known, and is it possible to give any advance information on this subject, in view of the number of jobs threatened by it in the Community as a whole, and in Yorkshire West in particular?

30. Question by Mr LEONARDI (H-163/79)^{xx}

Subject: Budgetary situation

Does the Commission intend to discuss in this House the Reference paper on the budgetary questions situation (COM(79) 462 final), which it drew up at the request of the European Council?

31. Question by Mr PROVAN (H-164/79)

Subject: Sheepmeat

Will the Commission state what progress has been made in removing barriers to intra-Community trade in sheepmeat which were declared illegal by the European Court on September 25th 1979, and give its views on France's compliance with this ruling?

^x Formal oral question without debate (0-64/79) converted into a question for Question Time

^{xx} Will not be called if Items 54 and 55 are kept on the agenda

32. Question by Mr P. MØLLER (H-165/79)

Subject: Workers' co-ownership rights and 'economic democracy'

Does the Commission agree, especially in view of Article 222 of the EEC Treaty, that the questions of workers' rights to co-ownership of undertakings and 'economic democracy' lie outside the scope of the EEC Treaty?

33. Question by Mr GLINNE (H-166a/79)^x

Subject: Ratification by the United States of the GATT Multilateral Trade Negotiations (MTN)

The Commission gave the European Parliament an undertaking not to implement the MTN agreements until it was satisfied that their incorporation into American law (Trade Agreement Act) was in conformity with the provisions adopted by the GATT member states in Geneva in July 1979.

Can the Commission give the European Parliament an assurance that this condition has been fulfilled?

34. Question by Miss BROOKES (H-167/79)

Subject: Financial aid for tourism

Could the Commission give any information regarding the availability of financial aid for the tourist industry?

35. Question by Miss QUIN (H-168/79)

Subject: Proposals to standardize bottles containing poisonous substances

Will the Commission please confirm if it intends to make proposals to standardize bottles containing poisonous substances and, if this is the case, what provisions does it intend to make to ensure that such bottles are recognisable by blind or partially sighted persons?

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

36. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-169/79)

Subject: Energy saving

Bearing in mind the Commission's desire to save energy and bearing in mind that the winter is approaching would the Commission tell the Parliament what steps it has taken to encourage the use of thermal insulation in industrial and commercial buildings in the Community?

37. Question by Mr CURRY (H-172/79)

Subject: Agricultural Budget

On what criteria does the Commission base its distinction between FEOGA Guarantee and Guidance section expenditure, especially in the case of ambiguous items such as the premiums for the non-marketing of milk?

38. Question by Mr PATTERSON (H-176/79)

Subject: Draft Directive on control of illegal immigration and employment

Since October last year, when the European Parliament last debated the Commission's draft directive on the control of illegal immigration and illegal employment, it has been reported that further changes in the draft directive are being considered as a result of discussion in the Council. Could the Commission therefore say whether it intends to bring the matter before Parliament again, and which voluntary organisations representing immigrant communities, especially in the United Kingdom, it has consulted and is consulting?

39. Question by Mrs BADUEL GLORIOSO (H-177/79)

Subject: Protectionist measures in the knitted goods sector

Following the decision taken by the French Government on 13 August 1979 to demand a technical certificate for imports of knitted goods, will not the Commission approach the French Government with a view to ensuring that Community regulations are re-established, thus preventing obvious infringement of the rules on competition which are the basis of Community life, and guaranteeing not only respect for the rules on free movement but maintenance of employment levels in handicraft undertakings and small industries which are hardest hit in Italy, particularly in Emilia Romagna?

40. Question by Mr SEEFELD (H-178/79)

Subject: Harmonization of social provisions in the transport sector

Does the Commission share the view that the task of ensuring implementation of the social provisions for road transport, which have already been harmonized, and efforts to expedite adoption by the Council of the 'second stage' of this programme and of the corresponding provisions in the inland waterway sector must be given high priority by the Commission in order to promote better working conditions and traffic safety and eliminate distortions of competition within the framework of a coherent transport policy?

41. Question by Mr KEY (H-179/79)

Subject: Harmonization of social provisions in the transport sector

May it be assumed that the Commission continues to attach great importance to the harmonization of social provisions in the transport sector and in particular to the drawing up of relevant provisions for the rail, air and sea transport sectors, despite the fact that Commissioner Burke did not specifically include this among the seven priority issues he enumerated in a recent meeting of the European Parliament's Committee on Transport?

42. Question by Mrs KROUWEL-VLAM (H-185/79)

Subject: Legislation on abortion

Could the Commission give details as soon as possible on the current situation with regard to legislation on abortion in the Member States of the Community?

43. Question by Mr BLANEY (H-188/79)

Subject : Agricultural Policy - Milk producers

Would the Commission not agree that having regard to the Community surplus of milk products and the cost of stockpiling and disposing of same, and having regard to the fact that one third of the milk producers in the Community are responsible for less than 12 per cent of total milk production, there is an urgent need to introduce a system of weighted price differentials in favour of small and medium farm size producers in relation to milk output; and that such encouragement of these producers to remain in milk as a labour intensive enterprise will slow down in the numbers leaving agriculture and help to alleviate the unemployment problem in the Community; and further that as an alternative to milk production the Community should adopt a positive policy of incentives for beef production ?

44. Question by Mr DE LA MALENE (H-189/79)

Subject: US oil imports

Can the Commission confirm that oil imports into the United States increased considerably in both volume and value during the early months of 1979 compared with the same period in 1978 and state whether this policy of strategic stock building puts pressure on the world market?

45. Question by Mr MAFFRE-BAUGE (H-191/79)

Subject: French imports of Italian wine

In the light of the increase in French imports of Italian wine during the 1978/1979 marketing year, does the Commission intend to take energetic measures to regulate and limit these imports in volume, ensure a guaranteed minimum price, intensify supervision of the production and movement of wine, harmonize parity rates between the green currencies, ensure the effective elimination of fraud and monitor the quality of wine, and stop planting in EEC countries rather than encourage the grubbing up of vines?

46. Question by Mr CERAVOLO (H-192/79)

Subject: Outcome of the Berlin Conference announced by the Club of Rome

In the light of the Commission's assessment of the alarming outcome of the Berlin Conference as regards the gradual deterioration of the environment, the dramatic consequences of the world population explosion and the prospect of future exhaustion of traditional energy sources, what adjustments does it intend to make to the various action programmes and Community policies concerning this problem?

47. Question by Mrs CASTLE (H-194/79)

Subject: Common organisation of markets in dairy products

What is the Commission's estimate of the cost of disposing of surplus skimmed milk powder over the coming year, and what proposals has it for eliminating those surpluses?

48. Question by Mr BANGEMANN (H-196/79)

Subject: Ratification of the Treaty of Accession between
Greece and the European Community

Can the Commission confirm that ratification of the Treaty on Greek accession to the European Community, signed on 28 May 1979 in Athens, is encountering considerable delay in the national parliaments? If so, what steps does the Commission intend to take to keep to the date of accession of Greece to the European Community (1 January 1981)?

49. Question by Mr IRMER (H-197/79)

Subject: Child massacres in Ethiopia

According to a document published by Amnesty International, more than 5,000 Ethiopian children have been tortured, treated as political prisoners or massacred because of the beliefs of their parents; in the light of its attitude in similar circumstances to the former Central African Empire, does the Commission intend, in this the International Year of the Child, to take appropriate action towards Ethiopia, especially as regards the implementation of cooperation schemes under the Convention of Lomé and its successor?

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

50. Question by Mr O'CONNELL (H-99/79)

Subject: Youth Employment

Can the Council state what specific measures to combat unemployment particularly among young people, have been adopted since the European Council in Copenhagen expressed the deep concern of the Council over the present high rate of unemployment?

51. Question by Miss CLWYD (H-119/79)

Subject: Cost of meetings

Will the Council call on the Commission to draw up a report on the financial consequences of concentrating all meetings of all Community Institutions, and all staff of all institutions in one city?

52. Question by Mr SCHWARTZENBERG (H-136/79)

Subject: Seat of the European Parliament

Is the Council aware of the incredible waste of time and money resulting from the dispersion of the European Parliament's places of work outside Strasbourg, and does it not feel it is incumbent upon it to ask the governments to remedy this state of affairs as a matter of urgency?

53. Question by Mr PONCELET (H-146/79)

Subject: Ratification by the US of the GATT multilateral trade negotiations

Can the Council inform the European Parliament whether or not the rules stemming from the GATT Treaty and the provisions adopted by the GATT member countries in Geneva in July 1979 have been accurately integrated into American law (Trade Agreement Act)?

54. Question by Mr FLANAGAN (H-149/79)

Subject : Infrastructural Aid for Irish Ports

Is the Council satisfied with the level of aid being provided from the EEC Budget for infrastructural aid for Irish ports and what improvements could be made ?

55. Question by Mr SPICER (H-151/79)

Subject : Investment conditions for Community firms in the ACP States

Given the need for mutual confidence in relations between the Community and its partners in the Lomé Convention, is the Council satisfied that the results of negotiations for Lomé II will enable Community firms and the host states to successfully diversify the Community's sources of supply for minerals and in what timescale will this development occur ?

56. Question by Mr DAVERN (H-152/79)

Subject : Effect of European Court of Justice decision on Irish lamb exporters

In view of the decision of the European Court of Justice that France must end its policy of restricting lamb imports and mutton from Britain, what measures does the Council intend to take to help Irish lamb producers overcome the inevitable future loss of revenue ?

57. Question by Mrs EWING (H-154/79)

Subject: Hill farming in Scotland

Will the President-in-office of the Council make a statement concerning the crisis situation in the hill farming industry in Scotland ?

58. Question by Mr PROUT (H-158/79)

Subject: Decision making in the Council

When will the Council implement the decision of the Heads of State and of Governments in Paris in December 1974 that a return should be made to decision making in the Council by unanimity and by majority voting as prescribed in the Treaties?

59. Question by Mrs DESMOND (H-159/79)

Subject: Equal opportunities in Education and Training for girls

Will the Commission's document 'Equal Opportunities in Education and Training for Girls'¹ be examined at the forthcoming Council of Education Ministers meeting, and can the Council say what kind of legal instrument it intends to propose to ensure the implementation of the proposals contained in this document?

60. Question by Mr P. MØLLER (H-166/79)

Subject: Workers' co-ownership rights and 'economic democracy'

During Parliament's September part-session I tabled a question (H-100/79) on this subject.

Is the Council, after its President's personal promise to ensure that the matter was discussed in the Council, now able to answer the question?

61. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-170/79)

Subject: Situation in Cambodia

Have any measures been taken so far to provide aid to Cambodia in an attempt to alleviate the horrific situation there, where some 1 million people could be dead from starvation by December, unless international action is taken?

¹ COM 78 (499)

62. Question by Mr PATTERSON (H-175/79)

Subject: Draft directive on control of illegal immigration and employment

Since October last year, when the European Parliament last debated the Commission's draft directive on the control of illegal immigration and illegal employment, it has been reported that further changes in the draft directive are being considered as a result of discussions in the Council. Is it therefore the intention of the Council now to consult Parliament again on this matter?

63. Question by Mr GEURTSSEN (H-181/79)

Subject: Proposal for a directive on product liability

Can the Council state what progress has been made in regard to the proposal for a directive on product liability and when this directive is likely to be adopted by the Council?

64. Question by Miss HOOPER (H-183/79)

Subject: Community exports to Portugal

Will the Council confirm as soon as possible that Portugal may retain her tariffs on certain industrial products, in order to reduce her overall trade deficit with the Community?

65. Question by Mrs SCRIVENER (H-184/79)

Subject: Meeting of the first Council of ministers responsible for consumer affairs.

Some time ago the Irish Presidency announced its intention of holding a meeting of the first Council of ministers responsible for consumer affairs.

Has it abandoned this plan? If so, why?

66. Question by Mr DE LA MALENE (H-190/79)

Subject: US oil imports

How does the Council view the fact that the United States, whose oil imports are steadily increasing, is building up strategic oil stocks and thus putting abnormal pressure on world market prices?

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

67. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-122a/79)^x

Subject: South Africa

How do the Foreign Ministers assess the results achieved by the Code of Conduct for undertakings investing in South Africa, and what new measures are proposed in consequence as a means of condemning, specifically and more effectively, that country's apartheid policy?

68. Question by Mr SCHWARTZENBERG (H-147/79)

Subject: Respect for human rights in Chile and arms sales

Do not the Ministers think that the Nine should adopt a common diplomatic attitude towards the dictatorial regime in Chile, and do they not consider it regrettable that at least one of the Community States has adopted a particularly indulgent attitude towards this regime, thus appearing to barter respect for human rights for arms supply and military aircraft contracts?

69. Question by Mrs EWING (H-155/79)

Subject: Release of Jewish political prisoners in Soviet Union

In view of the forthcoming SALT negotiations, will the Foreign Ministers note with satisfaction the degree of liberalisation shown in the release of many Jewish political prisoners recently by the Soviet Union, and use their good office to express the hope that further steps will be made in this direction?

^x Former oral question (0-46/79) with debate converted into a question for Question Time

70. Question by Lord BETHELL (H-193/79)

Subject: Charta 77

What action have the Foreign Ministers taken in the light of the European Parliament resolution of 21 July concerning the arrest of 10 members of the Czechoslovak movement known as CHARTA 77?

Have they made representations to the Czechoslovak government to express the deep concern of all Community institutions on this matter?