

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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ORAL QUESTIONS

Pursuant to Rule 47a of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 17, 18 and 19 January 1978

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-308/77)

Subject: Industrial and commercial policy on the footwear sector

Since the footwear industry appears to be in a parlous state and is threatened by the unenviable fate suffered by the textile industry in the absence of resolute action at European level, does the Commission intend proposing in the near future an industrial and commercial policy aimed at checking the economic decline and growing unemployment in this sector?

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2. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-312/77)

Subject: Survey on scientific research

Is it true that the Commission has recently conducted a public opinion survey on the question of scientific research; how much did this survey cost; what purpose has been served as a result of conducting this survey and what other surveys of this type has the Commission recently conducted?

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3. Question by Mr FIORET (H-332/77)

Subject: Working languages of the European Parliament

In a recent article in 'EUROPA ARCHIV' Mr Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission, lent his support to the argument in favour of having working documents translated in three languages only: English, French and German. Would not the Commission agree that this proposal is prejudicial to the work of the European Parliament and likely to have an adverse effect on public opinion, especially if adopted on the eve of direct elections to the European Parliament.

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4. Question by Mr EVANS (H-337/77)

Subject : Review of State Aids to Investment

Can the Commission state what institutions and organisations it has consulted during its review of the ceilings for state aid to investment which were set in 1975?

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5. Question by Mr NOE^a (H-359/77)

Subject: Hydroelectric plant in Greenland

Does the Commission not agree that it would be advisable, not least for the purpose of obtaining a reliable assessment of the costs of making greater use of Greenland's hydroelectric resources at a later stage, to promote as part of the Community's regional policy the construction of an initial hydroelectric plant of about 100 megawatts power, and of a plant to use the electricity generated, for instance for the production of hydrogen by electrolysis?

6. Question by Mr PINTAT (H-364/77)

Subject: The Community's oil-refining capacity

How does the Commission propose to reduce the surplus oil refining capacity in the nine countries? Does it not consider that, in order to prevent any distortion of competition, it would be advisable to grant aids for oil exploration and to publish price lists?

7. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-368/77)

Subject : Energy Crisis Measures

In the event of an energy crisis how does the Commission propose that the selling price for oil should be determined?

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8. Question by Mr SEEFELD (H-331/77)

Subject: Air transport prices

The President of the United States and the General-Director of the International Air Transport Association have recently been quoted as expressing contradictory views with regard to competition in the field of air passenger transport. What views has the Commission formed on the issue of the extension of competition in this sector as called for by the President of the United States?

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9. Question by Mr EDWARDS (H-283/77)

Subject: Sri Lanka Tea Industry

To ask the Commission whether, in future meetings of the EEC-Sri Lanka Joint Committee, they will bear in mind the serious problems faced by the Sri Lankan tea industry and whether they envisage measures being taken to improve this situation.

10. Question by Mr SPICER (H-350/77)

Subject : Dumping

When the Commission in investigating an allegation of dumping, what degree of market penetration (actual or threatened) by the goods allegedly dumped is held to justify action?

11. Question by Mr MARTINELLI (H-358/77)

Subject: European Export Bank

At the part-session of May 1977 the Assembly expressed approval in principle for the establishment of a European Export Bank and called on the Commission to submit a new proposal as soon as possible. The Commission had undertaken to submit the proposal, based on the comments made during that debate, by 31.12.1977. Can the Commission give information on the state of progress on this matter?

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12. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-357/77)

Subject : Falkland Islands

What studies have been made by the Commission and by Member States of the fishing and oil potential of the South Atlantic, particularly in the neighbourhood of the Falkland Islands and how does the Commission plan to develop an economic relationship with the government and people of the Falkland Islands ?

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13. Question by Mr L'ESTRANGE (H-355/77)

Subject : Organisation of the market for sheepmeat

Pending the introduction of a comprehensive common organisation of the market for sheepmeat and in view of the often repeated closure of the French market to Irish sheepmeat by the French Government when prices fall below a certain level, will the Commission consider ways and means of preventing such action by the French Government or, alternatively, propose the introduction of a subsidy to Irish sheepmeat producers to compensate them for losses arising from such wilful obstruction of intra-Community trade?

14. Question by Mr FEIT (H-365/77)

Subject: Organization of the market in sheepmeat

Can the Commission indicate the effects of the proposals concerning the organization of the market in sheepmeat, which will come into force on 3 April 1978, on incomes in the Community's least-favoured regions? How does it intend to limit the impact of imports of sheepmeat from New Zealand on prices on the European market?

15. Question by Mrs EWING (H-370/77)

Subject : Forestry

Will the Commission take note of the large amount of land in the member countries of the Community not at present fully used for agricultural purposes, and consider measures to use this land for forestry, bearing in mind that much of this land is suitable for this purpose?

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16. Question by Mr DONDELINGER (H-373/77)

Subject : Concrete reinforcing bars

Has the Commission noted reports that the Swiss Confederation is at present exporting to the Community three times as many concrete reinforcing bars as it produces; can it check on the origin of the concrete reinforcing bars passing through Switzerland, and what measures does it contemplate taking if part of the Swiss exports should in fact prove to be disguised exports from a Member State?

17. Question by Mr ALBERS (H-377/77)

Subject: Relations with East European countries

Are the East European countries taking part in the negotiations to control textile and man-made fibre imports, and is sufficient attention being given to the phenomenon of jobbing-finishing (work contracted out to the East European countries) ?

18. Question by Mr McDONALD (H-378/77)

Subject : Arterial drainage in the West of Ireland

It was recently reported that the Commission intended to allocate 15 1/2 million pounds for arterial drainage in the West of Ireland. Would the Commission elaborate on this report, give details of the studies upon which this figure is based and state whether the Shannon river catchment area can be included?

19. Question by Mr RYAN (H-379/77)

Subject : Trans-atlantic air fares

The present structure of trans-atlantic air fares puts European air lines at a competitive disadvantage in relation to US air lines. As a result, a number of European air-lines now find that their viability is threatened. Will the Commission take action to ensure that the fare structure is improved, so as to safeguard an important sector in European industry?

20. Question by Mr SCHMIDT (H-380/77)

Subject: Trade Agreement between the EEC and the
Argentine Republic

On 28 November 1977 the Council, on a recommendation from the Commission, concluded an Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters extending for one year the Trade Agreement between the EEC and the Argentine Republic. In view of the situation concerning human rights in Argentina, how does the Commission justify its recommendation, and the use of a procedure which avoids the necessity for approval by the European Parliament?

21. Question by Mr JENSEN (H-381/77)

Subject: Aid for coal imports

Since the existence of the Community's considerable coal stocks is mainly due to the fact that the EEC steam coal price exceeds by approximately 80% the world market price of US\$ 32 per tonne, does the Commission intend to bring the Community price down to world market level by granting direct aid to those coastal countries which are the principal importers of coal from third countries, rather than by granting aid for stockpiling?

22. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-382/77)

Subject: Conditions of competition in the aviation sector

Does not the Commission feel that the time has come to look into conditions of competition in the aviation sector with reference to Articles 85 and 86(a) of the EEC Treaty, having regard, for one thing, to the apparent incompatibility of the IATA agreement with the provisions of those Articles?

23. Question by Mr FRÜH (H-384/77)

Subject: EEC-USA agricultural trade balance

What was the outcome of the recent discussions between the Commissioner responsible for agricultural policy, Mr Gundelach, and the American Secretary of State for Agriculture, Mr Bergland, as regards achieving a more equitable agricultural trade balance between the EEC and the USA?

24. Question by Lord BETHELL (H-386/77)

Subject : Scotch Whisky

To ask the Commission whether, in their opinion, they must be held responsible for the recent heavy increases in the price of certain brands of Scotch Whisky in the United Kingdom, and if not, why not?

25. Question by Mr POWER (H-388/77)

Subject : U.K. Temporary Employment Subsidy

Does the Commission consider that the continuation of the U.K. "Temporary" Employment Subsidy is justified under present circumstances?

26. Question by Mr TERRENOIRE (H-389/77)

Subject: European Unit of Account

Now that the European Council has decided that the European Unit of Account shall be adopted as of 1 January 1978 and that the necessary compensations for 1978/79 shall be made, at six-monthly intervals, outside the budget, does the Commission feel that the system is unclear and difficult to explain to the European taxpayer, and can it state how it will affect the funds available to it?

27. Question by Mr BROSANAN (H-391/77)

Subject : ECSC loans for housing

Due to the substantial increase in the cost of housing resulting from inflation does the Commission intend to increase the level of house loans to workers in the coal and steel industries?

28. Question by Mr HERBERT (H-392/77)

Subject : Beef prices in Ireland

Now that Ireland is a full Member State of the EEC does the Commission foresee an increase in the market price of beef in Ireland bringing it closer to the Community average?

29. Question by Mr CIFARELLI (H-393/77)

Subject: Difficulties at the Ispra Joint Research Establishment

The difficulties currently affecting the Essor reactor directly threaten the jobs of 200 persons connected with Ispra and jeopardize the entire work of the Establishment since there will be no instrument for verifying the validity of the experiments on nuclear safety undertaken by the Community. What steps does the Commission intend to propose so that the commitments undertaken when it was agreed to develop jointly an important part of the research can be met and, in particular, the lack of common resolve in the nuclear sector remedied?

30. Question by Mr PRICE (H-394/77)

Subject : Human rights and ASEAN countries

In view of Mr HAFERKAMP's recent visit to the five ASEAN countries, will the Commission state to what extent the subject of human rights was raised by the Commission Vice-President in his discussions with the authorities in each of the five countries concerned?

31. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-395/77)

Subject : Preserving medieval archaeological remains at Wood Quay in
Dublin

What possibilities exist under the Community's cultural policy for action to ensure the thorough archaeological study and preservation of the significant remains of medieval Dublin at Wood Quay before any re-development takes place ?

32. Question by Mr EDWARDS (H-321/77)

Subject: Aid to countries outside the framework of the Treaties

To ask the Council whether they propose to hold consultations as to the possibility of giving aid to countries outside the framework of the Treaties governing the Communities, in particular where such aid would not adversely affect the Communities' own economic interests.

33. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-325/77)

Subject : Safeguarding of continuity and coherence of European policy

Will the Council of Ministers, in the light of President-in-office of the Council of Ministers Claes's statement to the Energy and Research Committee on 3d November 1977, consider changing technical presidential portfolios in the Council each year, and not every six months, in the interests of continuity and a coherent European policy?

34. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-356/77)

Subject : Falkland Islands

In view of their class four status what consideration has the Council given to the development of economic and political ties with the Government of the Falkland Islands, and to what extent are the fisheries' interests and the off-shore oil potential of the islands taken into account by the Council?

35. Question by Mr KASPEREIT (H-362/77)

Subject: Continuation of the North-South dialogue

Does the Council consider that the United States' proposal to assign to the Economic and Social Council the task of coordinating the development policies of the various United Nations bodies is likely to produce positive practical results by giving fresh impetus to and developing the North-South dialogue (for example as regards the Joint Fund), and will it support this proposal?

36. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-363/77)

Subject: North-South dialogue

Does the Council not agree that it would be useful for the Community as such to be present in the independent committee to draw up proposals for the reorganization of relations between industrial and developing countries which was set up in Bonn, and could not the Commission of the European Communities have at least some part in this body?

37. Question by Lord BESSBOROUGH (H-366/77)

Subject : Energy

Why at its meeting on 13 December 1977 did the Council of Ministers reject the Commission's proposals to promote coal in electricity generation and to finance cyclical stocks of coal?

38. Question by Mrs EWING (H-371/77)

Subject : The "Green Pound"

Will the Council give an account of the latest developments as regards a possible revaluation of the "green pound"; and on the effect of enlargement of the Community on the common agricultural policy generally?

39. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-374/77)

Subject : Control of multinational companies

What is the Council doing to encourage the governments of the Community to apply their national laws on the control of multinational companies ?

40. Question by Mr PATIJN (H-376/77)

Subject: Ratification of the Decision on direct elections

Which Member States have already completed the procedures necessary in accordance with their internal constitutional requirements to ratify the Decision of 20 September 1976 on direct elections but have not yet formally notified the Council that they have done so, despite the fact that the Decision of 20 September 1976 stipulates that the completion of these procedures must be notified 'without delay' ?

41. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-383/77)

Subject: Customs union

As came out at the recent colloquy organized by the Commission, little progress is being made on the matter of customs union and the elimination of cumbersome formalities at internal frontiers. In view of the evident difficulties in reaching agreement even on minor issues, such as the abolition of customs duties on small parcels having no commercial value, will the Council urge the national authorities to help the Commission to carry out its intentions in this field?

42. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-385/77)

Subject: Political Cooperation in Trade

Will the Council report on the steps taken or being taken to harmonize Member States' conditions for credit with the state-trading countries so that the Community's overall political objectives in regard to the Helsinki Agreement and Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions are achievable without detriment to the competitive position of any single Member State?

43. Question by Mr TERRENOIRE (H-390/77)

Subject: Social security

In order to ensure that social protection will continue to develop throughout Europe in a balanced and coordinated manner, does the Council intend to set up permanent European consultation on the future of social security?

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

44. Question by Mrs EWING (H-372/77)

Subject : Anti-slavery Society

Have the Foreign Ministers considered the latest Annual Report of Anti-slavery Society; and what action do they propose to take on the issues raised therein?

