

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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ORAL QUESTIONS

Pursuant to Rule 47a of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 14, 15 and 16 February 1978

PE 52.183

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 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?

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2. 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?

3. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-360/77)

Subject: Relations between the EEC and state-trading countries

Is it true that Hungary, Poland and Romania have drawn attention, either in the appropriate GATT working parties or through other channels, to the failure of the Community and its Member States to abolish measures described as discriminatory and quantitative restrictions imposed by them on products coming from these three countries - obstacles which conflict with Article 13 of GATT to which the three countries in question are signatories?

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4. Question by Mr SPICER (H-367/77)

Subject: Community Investment in the Lomé Convention States

What steps is the Commission taking to encourage economic growth among the Community's partners in the Lomé Convention through investment by Community firms, and what steps are the Lomé Convention States taking to attract such investment?

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5. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-401/77)

Subject : Buy American Act

What steps has the Commission taken with the US Administration to remove the Buy American Act insofar as it inhibits entry into the US market by Community firms?

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6. Question by Mr CIFARELLI (H-409/77)

Subject : Financing the Community budget

What has prevented the introduction of the VAT-based system for financing the Community budget - i.e. the transfer to the Community budget of a percentage of the revenue from value added tax - which would, in particular, have reduced Italy's contribution to the Community budget for 1979 from more than 13% to less than 11% ?

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7. Question by Mr RYAN (H-413/77)

Subject : Duty-free allowances for travellers within the
Community

What Community measures determine the quantity and value of goods which may be taken duty-free across national frontiers as personal baggage by EEC nationals travelling within the Community; whether these measures specify uniform allowances; if so, what action does the Commission take to ensure that they are observed; if not, what discretion is at present granted to Member States, and if the Commission will take steps to encourage uniform allowances ?

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8. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-387/77)

Subject: Uranium stocks

Will the Commission make a statement on their proposal to the Council for the holding of Uranium stocks on a Community and on a national basis?

9. Question by Mr PINTAT (H-399/77)

Subject: Renewal of the USA/EURATOM nuclear agreement

Can the Commission give details of the terms on which the United States/Euratom nuclear agreement was renegotiated, in the light of the stricter guarantees regarding non-proliferation demanded by the US Congress?

10. Question by Lord BESSBOROUGH (H-406/77)

Subject : Enriched uranium from the USA

Would the Commission make a statement on the effects of the proposed US Nuclear Non-Proliferation Bill on the Community's supplies of enriched uranium?

11. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-402/77)

Subject : Canal transport : use of energy

What further studies are planned into the consumption of energy required for moving heavy loads by canal compared with by rail or road?

12. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-408/77)

Subject : JET

Does the current status of work on the Joint European Torus satisfy the Commission that it is being put in-hand with firmness of purpose ?

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13. Question by Mr BLUMENFELD (H-398/77)

Subject: Steel policy

Having regard to the unilateral action by the United Kingdom Government, which is tantamount to an autonomous ban on steel imports from the Soviet Union, what steps does the Commission intend to take in view of its recent adoption of a Community steel import policy?

14. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-412/77)

Subject : Situation in the iron and steel industry

Six weeks after the decisions concerning the Community steel market, can the Commission summarize the initial results both as regards the negotiations conducted with certain countries and as regards compliance by the producers with recent Community directives ?

15. Question by Mr BROWN (H-410/77)

Subject : Community aid to Button Manufacturers

Having regard to the reply given to my supplementary question, in reply to question (H-308/77) of Mr COUSTE⁽¹⁾, will the Commission now inform Parliament what action has been taken to assist Button Manufacturers in the Member States, particularly those in the United Kingdom, who are subjected to unfair competition by imports from countries outside the Community ?

(1) Question time on 17.1.1978

16. Question by Sir WALKER-SMITH (H-415/77)

Subject Fifth Company Directive

What is the present status of the drafting of the Fifth Company Directive; and in particular whether the Commission proposes to proceed now to the production of a definitive draft or a further Green Paper; and what timetable they envisage ?

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17. Question by Mr NOLAN (H-416/77)

Subject : Common organisation of the market in potatoes

Will the Commission state the present situation in the organisation of the market in potatoes with particular reference to the situation in the United Kingdom ?

18. Question by Mr HAMILTON (H-417/77)

Subject : Research and development in the EEC

Has the Commission studied the Report from the British House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities, entitled Research and Development in the EEC, published on 18 January 1978 does it accept the criticism contained in the Report, and if so, what action does it intend to take ?

19. Question by Lady FISHER OF REDNAL (H-419/77)

Subject : Employment of women at Dublin Foundation

How far may it be said that women in the Community have been unequally treated in the arrangements for appointment to the Dublin Foundation for Improvement of Living and Working Conditions ?

20. Question by Mr CORRIE (H-420/77)

Subject : Grain-based spirituous beverages

Does the Commission consider that there exists within the Community discrimination against grain-based spirituous beverages which conflicts with the principles of free competition established by the Treaties ?

21. Question by Mr SCHMIDT (H-424/77)

Subject: French Government regulation laying down a maximum price for beer

Does the Commission consider that the French Government regulation laying down a maximum price for beer complies with the letter and spirit of the Rome Treaties, and what does it intend to do to counteract the discrimination against Bavarian beer brought about by this French Government regulation ?

22. Question by Mrs EWING (H-425/77)

Subject : Nuclear Waste

Will the Commission consider urgently the possibility of producing proposals to deal with the disposal of nuclear waste, bearing in mind the considerable disquiet that the transport of nuclear waste from reactors and the dumping of this dangerous material in other places is causing, particularly in Scotland ?

23. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-426/77)

Subject: Green currency system

Does the Commission agree that the elimination of the green currency system is necessary before economic and monetary union can be brought into effect?

24. Question by Mr JENSEN (H-428/77) (*)

Subject: Enlargement and development of the Faroese, Icelandic and Norwegian fishing fleets

Can the Commission explain how the rapid enlargement and development of the Faroese, Icelandic and Norwegian fishing fleets is compatible with the catch quotas allocated in Community waters, particularly those off Greenland, at a time when the fishing fleets of many Community countries are being obliged to cut back on their operations?

(*) This question will not be taken if Parliament decides to retain the debate on fisheries already on the agenda

25. Question by Mr van AERSSSEN (H-430/77)

Subject: Introduction of a Community pass for the disabled

What steps does the Commission intend to take to introduce a Community pass for the disabled in order to ease the position of disabled people when making journeys within the Community?

26. Question by Mr EDWARDS (H-431/77)

Subject: Distortion of Competition by Multinational Corporation

Does the Commission, in applying its competition policy, take into consideration that the distortion of competition by multinational corporations is much greater than that caused by, for example, the differential pricing of whisky or the delivery of milk to households, and will it concentrate more of its attention on controlling the distortion of competition in the Community by multinational corporations?

27. Question by Mr ZYWIETZ (H-434/77)

Subject: Rise in living standards

What practical application will the Commission make of the results of the as yet unpublished study by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) according to which agriculture and industry form the backbone of our living standards whilst the contribution made by the public sector has diminished rapidly over the past 20 years?

28. Question by Sir Brandon RHYS WILLIAMS (H-436/77)

Subject : Export of live animals

Does the Commission consider that all Member States adequately ensure that animals transported live for slaughter are not ill-treated, and when does it propose to establish Community regulations and inspection checks on this trade?

29. Question by Mr LEZZI (H-437/77)

Subject: Equal treatment for Community citizens

Is the Commission aware that, despite the clear rulings of the European Court of Justice, Community citizens from other Member States, and their families, are still not granted equal treatment as regards certain social security facilities and other social benefits? Can the Commission detail such instances and indicate for each of them any action taken to enforce the application of the Treaty, together with the results obtained?

30. Question by Mrs WALZ (H-439/77)

Subject: European Youth Orchestra

Has the Community subsidy for the European Youth Orchestra enabled young musicians from all the Member States to be represented in this valuable project and does the Commission have precise information on the number of those taking part?

31. Question by Mr AIGNER (H-440/77)

Subject: Community aid to Uganda

With reference to the problem posed by grave violations of human rights in Uganda, the Nine have agreed to ensure that all aid to which the Community contributes is properly used for the benefit of the people of that country. The Commission has recently taken a number of decisions on financing from the resources of the Fourth EDF including the grant of a 2.5 m EUA subsidy for the 'development of a five-year training programme' in Uganda.

Can the Commission give precise assurances that, in conformity with the position adopted by the Nine, this aid will be properly used in Uganda?

32. Question by Mr SCHYNS (H-445/77)

Subject: Legal Status and tolls of the Rhine-Main-Danube Canal

Is it intended, in line with the Mannheim Act, to internationalize the Rhine-Main-Danube canal once it is completed or has the Commission knowledge of any plan by the Member State concerned to review the relevant provisions, or to seek an amendment of the Act, in order to introduce tolls covering at least the costs involved?

33. Question by Mr McDONALD (H-446/77)

Subject : Driving test and driving licence

In view of the important role played by the motor vehicle in facilitating mobility and contacts between European citizens, will the Commission take steps to introduce a common European driving test and a European driving licence or, failing that, national driving licences which would be equally valid in all member States?

34. Question by Mr SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-450/77)

Subject : Slaughter of animals in Italy and France

What is the latest position regarding the introduction of regulations governing the slaughter of animals in Italy and France ?

35. Question by Mr JOHNSTON (H-451/77)

Subject : Observance of basic human rights in Ethiopia

Whether in view of the expressed opinion of Commissioner CHEYSSON on the role the observance of basic human rights could play in the Community's relations with signatories of the Lomé Convention, the Commission has explained to the Ethiopian authorities that the atrocities they are committing could lead to the ending of Community aid for Ethiopia?

36. Question by Mr EVANS (H-453/77)

Subject : EEC Regulation 543/69 (Harmonisation of certain social legislation relating to road transport)

Is the Commission satisfied with the way that the Governments of the UK and Ireland are implementing Art. 6 of EEC Regulation 543/69 (1)?

(1) O.J. No L 77 of 29.3.1969, p. 49

37. Question by Mr LEONARDI (H-459/77)

Subject: The state of relations between the EEC and COMECON

Can the Commission provide details about the state of relations between the EEC and COMECON and possible future developments, after the latest meeting between the President-in-office of the Council and the Commissioner responsible for these matters and the President-in-office of the Executive Council of COMECON in Brussels on 21 September 1977?

38. Question by Mr KLEPSCH (H-461/77)

Subject: Trade relations with Eastern bloc countries

What measures does the Commission plan to adopt to put an end to the unofficial status of trade relations with individual Eastern European state-trading countries which has existed for more than three years following the expiry of the bilateral trade agreements between Member States of the Community and countries of the Eastern bloc?

39. Question by Mr VANDEWIELE (H-462/77)

Subject: The principle of reciprocity in trade negotiations

What demands has the Community put forward in the GATT negotiations to ensure greater respect for the principle of equality, especially in trade relations with the COMECON countries?

40. Question by Mr JAHN (H-463/77)

Subject: Negotiations with COMECON

In the forthcoming negotiations with COMECON on the creation of treaty relations will the Community take into account the different fields of responsibility of both Institutions?

41. Question by Mr VERHAEGEN (H-472/77)

Subject: Economic measures to help Turkey

Has the Commission already considered the proposals put forward by the Turkish Government with a view to obtaining economic aid from the Community, in particular to boost employment in Turkey?

42. Question by Mr L'ESTRANGE (H-474/77)

Subject: Grants from the EAGGF for Group Water Supply Schemes

Will the Commission give an undertaking that grants from the EAGGF will continue to be available for Group Water Supply Schemes in the foreseeable future?

43. Question by Mr DURIEUX (H-476/77)

Subject: EEC man-made fibre industry

Can the Commission give details of the agreement concluded between Community producers of man-made fibres on a programme for rationalizing that sector, and what will be its legal basis?

44. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-271/77)

Subject : Secret legislative sessions

Will the Council, when acting as a legislature, invite the public to attend their legislative meetings since it is not the practice of any other legislature in the Community to debate legislation in secret.

45. Question by Mr EDWARDS (H-369/77)

Subject : Loans for investment projects

Can the Council give further details of the project announced at the most recent meeting of the European Council to establish a system of loans for investment projects in the Community, to be managed by the Commission and the European Investment Bank, with particular reference to the possibility of using these loans to reduce unemployment in the member countries?

46. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-375/77)

Subject: European Export Bank

What is the present state of progress on the Council's discussion of the Commission proposal regarding the setting-up of a European Export Bank, and when can a final decision be expected?

47. Question by Mr BLUMENFELD (H-397/77)

Subject: Steel policy

Does the Council consider that the British Government's action in autonomously halting steel imports from the Soviet Union strengthens the EEC's bargaining position in its forthcoming negotiations with Comecon and in the current trade policy negotiations with the Soviet Union, for example as regards the fisheries question?

48. Question by Mr SEEFELD (H-400/77)

Subject : Action programme for a common transport policy

The Commission has made proposals for priority action in the transport field (COM(77)596). At its meeting of 20-21 December 1977, the Council stated that it would "endeavour to take account of these priorities in its future proceedings". Why has no formal resolution adopted by the Council, as a solid commitment to put the programme into effect?

49. Question by Mr NOE' (H-404/77)

Subject: Demonstration projects in the field of energy-saving

Does not the Council think that a start should be made at the earliest opportunity on some of the demonstration projects in the field of energy-saving proposed by the Commission, especially those relating to the combined production of power and heat?

50. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-405/77)

Subject : Enriched Uranium from the USA

What representation has the President-in-Office of the Council made to the Government of the United States of America concerning the conditions which that Government intends to apply to enriched uranium supplied to the Community?

51. Question by Lord BESSBOROUGH (H-407/77)

Subject : European Investment Bank

What consideration is the Council giving to the possibility of authorising the European Investment Bank to provide financial facilities, on the existing Yugoslav model, for projects in the People's Republic of China which result in additional sources of raw materials and energy supplies to the Community?

52. Question by Mr BROWN (H-411/77)

Subject : Continuity and coherence of European policy

Will the Council indicate why the observation of President-in-Office of the Council of Ministers Claes given to the Energy and Research Committee on 3 November 1977 as representing the views of the Council of Ministers were rejected by President-in-Office of the Council of Ministers Andersen in reply to question (H-325/77) of Mr Dalyell on 18 January 1978 ?

Question by Mrs EWING (H-414/77)

Subject : U.K. Marketing Boards

What progress has the Council made in its consideration of the Commission's proposals concerning the U.K. and Northern Ireland Milk Marketing Boards ¹⁾; when does the Council intend to reach a decision on them, and what consequences will the Council's decisions have on other Marketing Boards at present operating in the U.K. ?

54. Question by Mr HAMILTON (H-418/77)

Subject : Permanent site of the European Parliament

In view of the fact that a new Parliament building has already been built in Strasbourg, and that another such building is to be constructed in Luxembourg, will the Council make it abundantly clear that no such initiative by any government will in any way whatever inhibit a decision to site the permanent building of the European Parliament in any other city in the Community ?

55. Question by Mr CORRIE (H-422/77)

Subject : Protocol 19 of the Treaty of Accession

When does the Council envisage the application in full of the measures described in Protocol 1) of the Treaty of Accession ?

¹ OJ No. C 13, 17.1.1978

56. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-427/77)

Subject: Marketing organizations for agricultural products

Does the Council consider that overall marketing organizations for the principal agricultural products would be a reasonable way to avoid heavy Community expenditure and unacceptable surpluses?

57. Question by Mr JAHN (H-429/77)

Subject: Relations between the Community and ASEAN

Does the Council intend to hold talks with the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN in order to put relations between the Community and ASEAN on a broader footing and does it not consider it necessary to initiate permanent contacts between ministers of other departments (the economy, finance) in order to achieve economic cooperation in the medium-term?

58. Question by Mr LEMOINE (H-435/77)

Subject: Co-responsibility levy on milk

The French agricultural sector recently announced that butter stocks in France have fallen so drastically that public stocks amount to only 369 tonnes and available supplies to 17,000 tonnes. The same applies to milk powder: allowing for external and domestic commitments, stocks available in France now total only 20,000 tonnes.

In these circumstances does the Council not intend to abolish the co-responsibility levy on milk, which affects milk producers in a harsh and unfair manner?

59. Question by Mr MEINTZ (H-438/77)

Subject: Cancellation of the TEE Zürich-Brussels rail service

Has the Council been informed of the plan to cease operating the only two TEE trains providing a rapid link between the three places of work of the European Institutions and, does it consider it proper, having regard to the direct election of the European Parliament, that the one acceptable feature of an otherwise sadly outdated network should be abandoned?

60. Question by Mr VERNASCHI (H-441/77)

Subject: Community contributions to the IADF

The International Agricultural Development Fund, the specialized United Nations agency responsible for increasing agricultural production in developing countries and endowed with resources of \$1,000 million for that purpose, has recently been made operational.

In view of the fact that not all the Member States contribute to the IADF, does the Council feel that coordination between the Member States and the EEC is adequate?

61. Question by Mr DEWULF (H-442/77)

Subject: Community contributions to the IADF

Why does the European Community as such not contribute to financing the IADF, although the Nine have frequently agreed to step-up their common development cooperation policy?

62. Question by Mr DESCHAMPS (H-443/77)

Subject: 1979 - International Childrens' Year

The United Nations General Assembly has designated 1979, International Childrens' Year. Although the U.N. will not sponsor a world conference on children, the General Assembly has called on all member countries to give renewed consideration to the present and future situation of children, inside and outside national frontiers.

How does the European Community and its Member States intend to take part in International Childrens' Year?

63. Question by Mr WAWRZIK (H-444/77)

Subject: 1979 - International Childrens' Year

It has been estimated that almost 350 million children throughout the world lack minimum health, hygiene and educational services.

Under these circumstances are the Member States of the Community prepared to contribute to the Fund to be set up by UNICEF to help developing countries draw up their national action programmes?

64. Question by Mr PRICE (H-447/77)

Subject : Relations EEC - Cyprus

To ask the Council when they expect a final agreement to regularise relations between the EEC and Cyprus to be completed.

65. Question by Mr EVANS (H-448/77)

Subject : Revision of ERDF Regulations

When will draft revised ERDF regulation next be discussed by the Council of Ministers ?

66. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-449/77)

Subject : Steel

What was the outcome of the 25th Anniversary Meeting of the Coal and Steel Consultative Committee on Luxembourg on 26th January ?

67. Question by Mr SCHYNS (H-456/77)

Subject: Unemployment

In his statement on 18 January 1978 to the European Parliament in Luxembourg, Mr Andersen, President-in-office of the Council, announced that during the Danish Presidency particular attention would be paid to the EEC's growing unemployment.

Is the Council now able to provide details of the practical measures planned in this field?

68. Question by Mr LEONARDI (H-460/77)

Subject: Consequences of Italy's failure to introduce the VAT method of calculating its budgetary contribution

Can the Council state what were the consequences for the size of the Member States' contributions to the EEC budget of Italy's failure to introduce the VAT method of calculating its contribution?

69. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-475/77)

Subject: Agricultural prices for the 1978/79 marketing year

When fixing agricultural prices for the 1978/79 marketing year does the Council intend to fulfil the commitments given in previous years by taking account of the increase in production costs and hence applying the 'objective method', which results in a minimum price for farmers? In addition, does it intend to adjust the method of calculating compensatory amounts to exclude the processing industry from this system of subsidies and taxes on trade?

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

70. Question by Mrs WALZ (H-455)¹

Subject: Nuclear-reactor powered observation satellites, and
existing international conventions

According to reports published in the German and foreign press on 26th January 1978, world-wide safety measures were set on foot, under great secrecy, after the Soviet spy-satellite Cosmos 954 burnt out on 22nd January 1978, over Canada, somewhere between the Great Slave Lake and Uranium City. It was first thought that the satellite was merely equipped with a nuclear battery, whereas urgent representations by security advisers of the American President, Jimmy Carter, revealed that this Cosmos satellite was in fact powered by a nuclear reactor. In the light of these facts will the Foreign Ministers state :

1. How many observation satellites, powered by nuclear reactors, are currently circling the earth, which nation has put them into orbit and which of these nuclear-powered satellites carry the largest amount of enriched uranium?
2. In view of the most recent technological developments, is the UN Treaty of 1966 on the peaceful use of space which prohibits the launching of nuclear weapons into space still adequate if accidents to nuclear reactors sent into space can have somewhat less serious but nonetheless highly dangerous consequences?
3. Are nuclear risks which occur in this way adequately covered by the 1972 'Convention on International Liability for Damage caused by Space Objects' and if so to what extent?

¹ Before oral question with debate (0-105/77) - transformed by enlarged Bureau

71. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-403/77)

Subject : Consular Services: pooling of resources

What plans are there for the establishment of pooled consular services in countries outside the European Community ?

72. Question by Mr EDWARDS (H-432/77)

Subject: Amnesty International

Have the Foreign Ministers considered the latest report of Amnesty International and what action do they propose to take on the issues raised therein?

73. Question by Mrs EWING (H-433/77)

Subject: Nuclear-free Zone

Will the Ministers take action to coordinate their policies on nuclear weapons with a view to establishing a zone free of these weapons in the Community?

74. Question by Mr JOHNSTON (H-452/77)

Subject : Massacres of children in Ethiopia

What steps have the Foreign Ministers taken to bring to the attention of the Ethiopian authorities the concern felt in the Community at the reports of the massacres of children in Ethiopia?

75. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-454/77)

Subject : Air traffic safety

Will the Foreign Ministers undertake discussions with the Swiss and French Governments and Civil Aviation Authorities, the Civil Aviation Authority of Great Britain, Eurocontrol, International Civil Aviation Organisation, European Civil Aviation Conference & UNIPED with a view to re-opening the enquiry on the Vanguard which crashed near Basel on 10th April 1973 bearing in mind the opinions published in the Sunday Telegraph of 29th January about the effect of high frequency transmissions on overhead high voltage cables on the reliability of radio control beacons?

76. Question by Mr DEWULF (H-473/77)

Subject: Pan-European economic conference

What is the Foreign Ministers' attitude towards the increase in initiatives taken by the Eastern European countries within the framework of Basket Two of the Belgrade Conference and also outside it, as in the case of the pan-European economic conference proposed by Yugoslavia and Romania during the meeting between Mr TITO and Mr CEAUSESCU at TURN SEVERIN at the beginning of December 1977?

