

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTIONS

Pursuant to Rule 47a of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 14, 15 and 16 March 1978

PE 52.502

1. Question by Mr CORRIE (H-361/77)

Subject: Commercial policy concerning quotas

Does the Commission ever initiate action - without previously being requested to do so by a Member Government - to enlarge quotas accorded to State trading countries, and does the Commission consider that, in order to achieve a more genuine common commercial policy, it itself should have a greater role of initiative in enlarging quotas of this kind - in this context which are the main obstacles in achieving a common commercial policy concerning quotas, with special regard to the State trading countries, and what measures have the Commission taken to overcome these obstacles?

2. 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?

3. 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?

4. 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?

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5. 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?

6. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-479/77)

Subject: Confidentiality of proposed proceedings concerning violations of the Treaties by Member States

When the Commission is considering the institution of proceedings against an individual Member State in respect of alleged violations of the Treaties, does it apply any criteria or principles governing confidentiality, prior to the formal opening of proceedings against the Member State concerned? If so, what are they?

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7. 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?

8. 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?

9. Question by Mr RIPAMONTI (H-457/77)

Subject: Special projects

What measures does the Commission intend to take in order to guarantee the safety of Europe against the effects of possible accidents similar to the disintegration of satellite COSMOS 954 and the fall to earth of radioactive debris?

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10. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-316/77)

Subject : Key Community languages

Is the Commission satisfied that the key Community languages are being adequately taught throughout the Community?

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11. 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?

12. 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?

13. Question by Mr NOTENBOOM (H-468/77)

Subject: Co-responsibility levy on milk products

Can the Commission explain why this levy (amounting to an estimated 214,200,000 EUA in 1978) is not entered as own resources on the revenue side of the budget but is instead regarded as negative expenditure?

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14. Question by Mr van AERSSSEN (H-464/77)

Subject: Community loans for the building of nuclear power stations

Can the Commission state whether Community loans are being granted by the Commission or the EIB for the building of nuclear power stations in the Member States, and if so, since when and under what conditions?

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15. Question by Mr Uwe JENSEN (H-477/77)

Subject: Arbitrary tax increases

Does the Commission find it disturbing that the tax authorities of one Member State should arbitrarily increase the assessable income of individual companies or of a whole industrial sector as has recently happened in Denmark where the tax authorities have overruled the official tax returns of several multinational oil companies operating in Denmark, and is there a danger that similar general increases might be imposed on the subsidiaries of companies registered in the Community in respect of business conducted both within and outside the Community?

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16. Question by Mr HERBERT (H-478/77)

Subject: Margarine and cancer

Is the Commission aware of recent studies linking the consumption of margarine with cancer, and if so what measures will it take to protect the health of community citizens?

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17. Question by Mr SPICER (H-480/77)

Subject: UK - imports to tinned mandarin oranges

Why is it necessary for the United Kingdom to impose a tariff of over 22 per cent on imports of tinned mandarin oranges when 98 per cent of the supply originates from Spain?

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18. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-482/77)

Subject: Energy Crisis Measures

In the event of an energy crisis how does the Commission propose that the available oil should be shared and distributed among the Member States?

19. Question by Lord BESSBOROUGH (H-483/77)

Subject: Lomé Convention and Euratom

In the light of the call during the International Atomic Energy Agency Conference in Lusaka by the President of Zambia for African uranium enrichment facilities, in November 1977, what consideration is the Commission giving to the inclusion of Euratom provisions in a renegotiated Lomé Convention?

20. Question by Mr YEATS (H-484/77)

Subject : Equal Pay

Will the Commission now state what replies have been received from the Member States to its questionnaire on the situation of the application of the principle of Equal Pay between men and women ?

21. Question by Mr SCHYNS (H-485/77)

Subject: Labelling of cosmetic products

Is the Commission aware that the information given to American consumers is much more detailed than the information that, under Council Directive 76/768/EEC, has to be provided on cosmetic products? Why does the European consumer have to be less well-informed about the composition of the same product sold by the same firm?

22. Question by Mr BERSANI (H-486/77)

Subject: European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training in Berlin

Does not the Commission feel that the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training¹ in Berlin should also cover the agricultural sector, which is not at present included in the Centre's programme?

23. Question by Mr DONDELINGER (H-487/77)

Subject: Revision of the Treaties of Rome

Does not the Commission share the opinion of Mr Brice Lalonde, a spokesman for Europe's ecologists, that it would be desirable to reword Article 2 of the EEC Treaty, which emphasizes economic expansion alone to the detriment of environmental protection and the quality of life?

¹ OJ No. L 39/75

24. Question by Lord REAY (H-490/77)

Subject : Commission attendance at COREPER meetings

At what proportion of the meetings of COREPER in the last three years has the Commission been represented; by one or more Commissioners, and by officials, respectively ? Is the Commission satisfied that it has adequate opportunities to put its views to COREPER on legislative proposals and on other matters ?

25. Question by Mr Manfred SCHMIDT (H-491/77)

Subject: Obstacles to EEC/USA trade

Is the Commission aware of any particular obstacles to trade of a non-tariff nature, which make it difficult for the USA to import ships and ships' equipment from the EEC, and what steps does the Commission intend to take, particularly within the framework of the Tokyo Round, to dispose of these obstacles?

26. Question by Mr LEONARDI (H-492/77)

Subject: Ispra Joint Research Centre

Does not the Commission intend to review the position of the Centre, with a view to restating its aims, revitalizing its activity and assessing the future prospects for the ESSOR reactor?

27. Question by Mr HAMILTON (H-493/77)

Subject : Trade with Japan

Is the Commission satisfied that the Japanese are doing all that is needed to redress the imbalance in trade between Japan and the EEC; and how much longer is the Community going to negotiate before deciding to take firm counter-vailing action ?

28. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-496/77)

Subject: Approximation of laws relating to cosmetics

Would the Commission not agree that the directive on the approximation of laws relating to cosmetic products, which has recently been implemented by the Member States, needs to be thoroughly reviewed, especially in the light of the health protection requirements of consumers, who have not hitherto been consulted on the matter? If so, what approach does it intend to take?

29. Question by Mrs DUNWOODY (H-497/77)

Subject : Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation

Can the Commission please inform Parliament exactly how much money has been paid to the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation in 1977 and in 1978.

30. Question by Lord BETHELL (H-498/77)

Subject : Application of the free competition clauses of the Treaty of Rome to airlines operating within the Community

What discussions are in prospect between the Commission and IATA on the application of the free competition clauses of the Treaty of Rome to airlines operating within the Community.

31. Question by Mrs EWING (H-499/77)

Subject : Acquisition of land in the Community by non-Community organizations or individuals

What attitude does the Commission take about the rights of Governments, Institutions, or nationals of non-member countries to acquire land inside the Community?

32. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-501/77)

Subject : Purchase of land by non-nationals

What is the situation at present in relation to the rights of nationals of one Member State to purchase land in another Member State?

33. Question by Mr BROSANAN (H-500/77)

Subject : Sectoral policies versus Regional Policy

How does the Commission reconcile certain of its sectoral policies with the Community's Regional Policy particularly where a sectoral policy has detrimental effects on a less-developed region of the Community?

34. Question by Mr RYAN (H-504/77)

Subject: Traffic and transport problems

In view of the fact that traffic congestion, overcrowded public transport and long transit times significantly reduce the quality of life for urban commuters and their families, will the Commission state whether any monies are available from Community resources for the improvement of urban road systems or for other means to relieve these problems and whether the Commission is preparing any proposals or initiatives aimed at solving or reducing the extent of these problems ?

35. Question by Mr BANGEMANN (H-505/77)

Subject: Employment subsidies

What has been the outcome of the Commission's efforts to induce the United Kingdom to comply with Community provisions when granting temporary employment subsidies (TES) ?

36. Question by Mr PISONI (H-506/77)

Subject: Employment policy

Does the Commission possess precise and up-to-date data on employment policy in the different Member States, having regard to the present situation and the efforts being made in this field by the respective governments?

37. Question by Mr VERHAEGEN (H-507/77)

Subject: Dutch edition of 'European Community'

Is it true that the Dutch edition of the monthly 'European Community' is shortly to be discontinued and, if so, what is the Commission's justification for this?

38. Question tabled by Niels Anker KOFOED (H-508/77)

Subject: Negotiations with the USA on export credits

Can the Commission report on the outcome of the negotiations with the USA on export credits and on the prospects for the possible continuation of talks on this matter?

39. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-509/77)

Subject: Distortion of competition in road transport

Is the Commission aware of the distortions of competition and barriers to trade caused by the huge increase in premiums for the insurance of goods transported by road to Italy against theft and robbery (such crimes being so prevalent) and what action does the Commission intend to take?

40. Question by Mr L'ESTRANGE (H-511/77)

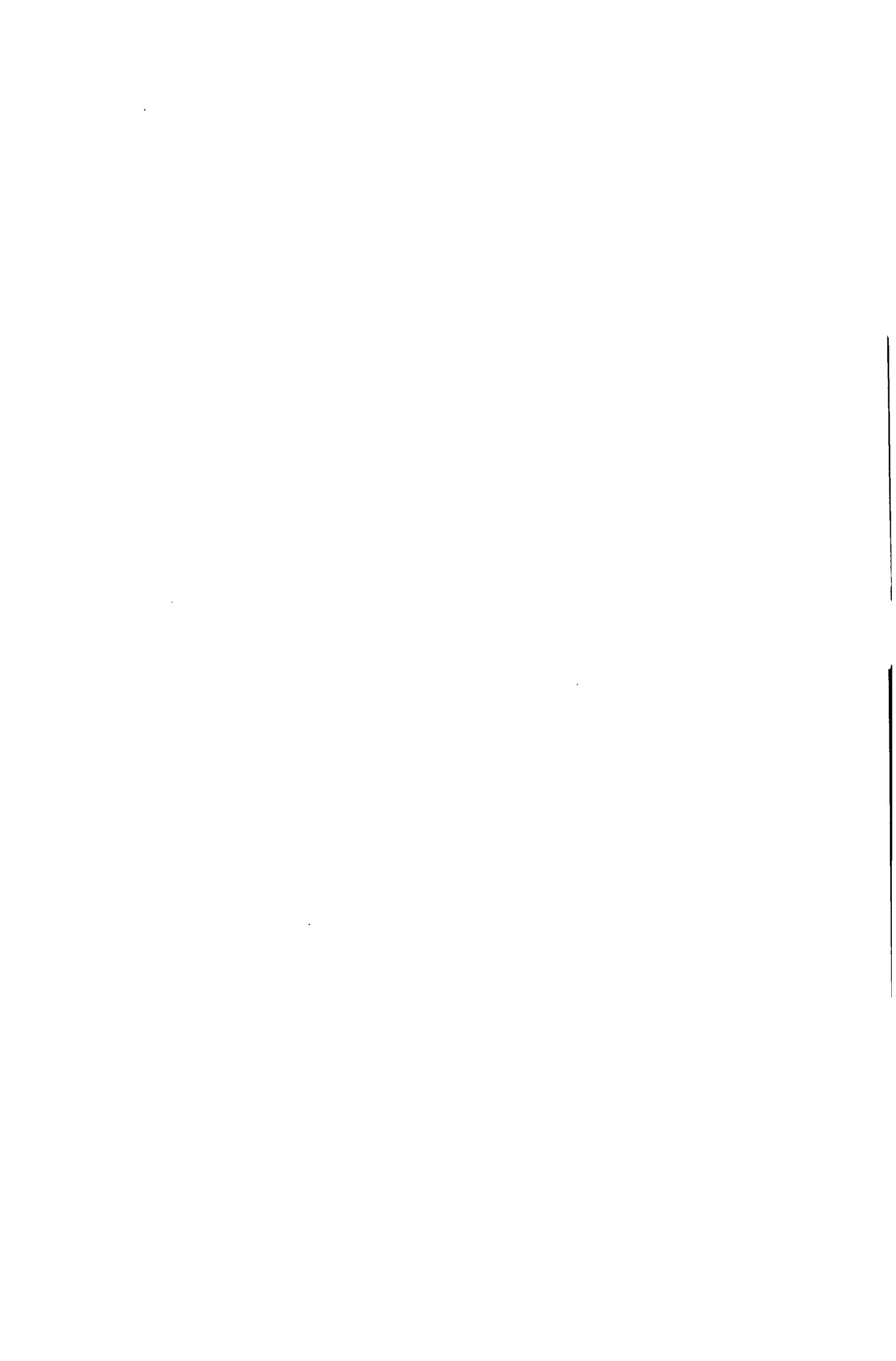
Subject : Particular difficulties facing farmers in the west of Ireland

In view of the particular difficulties facing farmers in the west of Ireland and the relative lack of infrastructural development in the area, will the Commission bring forward proposals for structural measures to alleviate these problems, including aids for improvements in the road, electricity and drinking water supply networks, afforestation measures and an improved agricultural advisory service, similar to those proposals which have been made for Mediterranean areas of the Community ?

41. Question by Miss FLESCH (H-514/77)

Subject: UNCTAD negotiations in Geneva on developing countries' debt

Would the Commission state the Community's position on the current UNCTAD negotiations in Geneva on the remission of developing countries' debt, as the Community Member States apparently hold divergent views on this matter?



42. Question by Mr RIPAMONTI (H-458/77)

Subject: Space policy

If the Council was aware that the USSR had launched satellites with atomic material on board, did it consider taking any special measures when American space scientists established that the USSR had lost control of satellite COSMOS 954 and it seemed possible that it would disintegrate and that the debris would fall to earth, and is it now considering taking any measures in future to ensure better control of space, possibly through the channels of the European Space Agency?

43. Question by Mr SCHYNS (H-465/77)

Subject: Use of coal for electricity generation

At its 491st meeting on 13 December 1977 the Council, under the presidency of the Belgian Minister for Economic Affairs, Mr W. Claes, decided, within the framework of a rational energy policy, to introduce 'Community financial measures to promote the use of coal for electricity generation'.

Can the Council give Parliament more precise information about these measures?

44. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-467/77)

Subject: Use of STABEX Funds

Do the Ministers expect reciprocity from recipients of STABEX funds by their purchasing goods and services from Community firms?

45. Question by Mr PISONI (H-469/77)

Subject: Standards for skimmed milk powder

What stage have the Council's deliberations reached on the harmonization of national health regulations regarding skimmed milk powder and its reconstitution as liquid milk and on the adding of dyes to milk powder to denature it so that it is used exclusively for animal feed and not human consumption?

46. Question by Mr DONDELINGER (H-488/77)

Subject: Revision of the Treaties of Rome

Does not the Council share the opinion of Mr Brice Lalonde, a spokesman for Europe's ecologists, that it would be desirable to reword Article 2 of the TEC Treaty, which emphasizes economic expansion alone to the detriment of environmental protection and the quality of life?

47. Question by Mr HAMILTON (H-494/77)

Subject: Recommendations on financial aid for the Glasgow area

Over a year ago representatives of the Regional Committee of the European Parliament visited Scotland; subsequently they made a report, including recommendations for action. The most important recommendations were that financial aid be given to help overcome the social and economic difficulties in the Glasgow area, where these problems are among the most acute in Europe.

Will the Council say what action, if any, is proposed to implement the recommendations of the committee?

48. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-495/77)

Subject : Green Pound Devaluation

How does the Council justify its apparent double standards in allowing certain Member States to devalue their "green rate" at will, yet by contrast causing delay over United Kingdom devaluation requests specifically approved by the House of Commons ?

49. Question by Mr RYAN (H-503/77)

Subject: Common fisheries policy

In view of the fact that the report by Mr Klinker on some aspects of the common fisheries policy, which has been forwarded to the Council, contains radical proposals which would appear to conflict with the sovereign rights of Member States and with international law, would the Council examine this report as a matter of urgency ?

50. Question by Mr McDONALD (H-510/77)

Subject : Allocation of television channels

Will the Council make a statement on the policy of the national governments of member States in allocating television channels, in view of the problems which will be caused to many viewers in Leinster, who have until now been able to receive BBC and HTV, by the introduction of RTE 2 ?

51. Question by Mr BOUQUEREL (H-516/77)

Subject: Statements by the President-in-Office of the Council

Is the President of the Council aware that, when making a statement in a third country on the internal situation of a Member State, he is speaking not as the leader of a party, but as President-in-Office of the Council of the European Communities?

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

52. 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?

53. Question by Lord REAY (H-489/77)

Subject : Code of conduct for European firms in South Africa

By what means do the Foreign Ministers propose to enforce the code of conduct adopted in September 1977 with the object of ensuring that European firms operating in South Africa safeguard the rights and position of their black employees ?

54. Question by Mr RYAN (H-502/77)

Subject: Belgrade Conference

Will the Ministers give their views on the outcome or the present state of progress of the Belgrade Conference, especially with reference to respect for human rights ?

