

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1978 - 1979

8 May 1978

DOCUMENT 98/78

ORAL QUESTIONS

Pursuant to Rule 47a of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 9, 10 and 11 May 1978

PE 53.342

1. Question by Mr HOFFMANN (H-71/78)*)

Subject: Community loan of 1,000 million EUA

At the European Council meeting in December 1977, Vice-President Ortoli proposed that the Commission should contract loans totalling 1,000 million EUA. The proposal envisages using this money simply for lump sum investment projects which reflect the Community's structural policy priorities - above all as regards energy, industry and infrastructures - without making any further stipulations. However, particular support is to be given to projects whose scope or nature prevents them from being financed entirely by the Member States concerned, or by funds available to the organs or other institutions of the Community. The European Parliament is not involved in the procedure for contracting the loan nor in its allocation.

1. For which projects does the Commission intend to use the loans?
2. What steps will be taken to ensure, as early as possible in the initial stages, that the Commission's borrowing and lending policy and the projects it authorizes with these particular loans are in accordance with the decisions of the European Parliament and its relevant committees?
3. For which projects in the energy, industry and infrastructure policy sectors are the loans to be used?
4. How does the Commission intend to prevent the allocation of funds to projects which are unable to obtain credit either through the European Investment Bank or on the capital market?
5. How does it intend to prevent these funds being used to finance projects of doubtful economic efficiency which, according to the principles of a responsible budgetary and economic policy, should be financed not on the capital market but from tax proceeds?
6. How does it intend to prevent the proposed loans, on the one hand from placing too great a burden on the capital market and on the other, from limiting the scope for further borrowing to the detriment of the Community's policy in southern Europe?

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*) Converted from oral question without debate into question for Question Time

2. Question by Mr DANKERT (H-73/78) *)

Subject: Export of uranium from South Africa to
the European Community

The Republic of South Africa seems to be developing more and more into one of the most important producers of natural, non-enriched uranium. It is expected, for example, that the output of uranium oxide, which was still only 3,265 tonnes in 1976, will this year be 5,300 tonnes, reaching 8,500 tonnes in 1981¹.

By virtue of the situation on the world market where competing countries such as Australia and Canada are stipulating very stringent delivery conditions and limiting uranium production, South Africa is becoming the chief supplier of uranium.

1. Can the Commission state to what extent this means that the Community is dependent or will be dependent in the future for its supplies of nuclear energy sources on deliveries of uranium by South Africa?
2. In view of the undesirable nature of any kind of dependence on South Africa, is it prepared therefore to ensure that, in the longer term, there are alternatives to uranium deliveries by South Africa to the Community?

*) Converted from oral question without debate into question for Question Time

¹ The Economist, 25.2.1978, pp. 79, 80 and 83

3. 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?

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4. 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?

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5. Question by Mrs EWING (H-32/78)

Subject : Nuclear waste disposal

Will the Commission give an assurance that when a network of sites as outlined by them for nuclear waste disposal are selected, the selection will take into account the wishes of the local inhabitants?

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6. Question by Mr COUSTE' (H-50/78)

Subject : Summer time in the Community

Does the Commission not regard the continuing disparities in summer time as regrettable; does it not feel that the Community's image is tarnished as a result, and that all possible efforts should be made to remedy this situation in the future?

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7. Question by Mr NOE' (H-52/78)

Subject: The Commission's Information Office in Milan

Can the Commission offer any explanation why, having already decided in 1971 to open an additional office in Milan, it has taken no action on that decision, in contrast with the steps taken in other cases?

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8. Question by Mr SCHYNS (H-55/78)

Subject: Social protection and social security

According to a Commission communication to the Council of 14 February 1978 (COM(78) 52), efforts to lay down common minimum social protection rules to cover the principal risks will be pursued. Can the Commission state when this aim will be achieved, and specify the areas referred to?

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9. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-4/78)

Subject : Blind landing systems for aircraft

In view of the choice to be made by the United Nations International Civil Aviation Organisation between the European Doppler Microwave Landing System and the US Time Reference Scanning Beam Landing System for worldwide application, what steps has the Commission taken to establish the technical and operational merits of the two systems with Member States, with Member States' airlines and with the US Administration ?

10. Question by Mr MacDONALD (H-51/78)

Subject : Plastic containers for milk

Having regard to the fact that certain types of plastic containers (acrylonitrile copolymers) have been found to be unsafe for beverages in the U.S.A., would the Commission make a statement on the desirability or otherwise of having milk and other beverages sold in these containers ?

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11. Question by Mr SHAW (H-53/78)

Subject : Compensation for Misapplication of the Regulation
on Powder Milk Incorporation

What study has the Commission made of the misapplication of the regulation on powder milk incorporation?

12. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-56/78)

Subject : Milk Production

On the same basis as Commissioner Gundelach's recent statement that there is no market for 15% of Community milk production, what is his forecast in this respect for either over- or under-production for 1978-79 and 1979-80, and on what forecasted cow numbers does he base his assessments?

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13. Question by Lord BESSBOROUGH (H-59/78)

Subject : Tree Planting

In recent times, due to disease, Italy and the United Kingdom have lost a large number of trees. What consideration is the Commission giving to a European Year of the Tree in order to encourage the replanting of trees in open spaces, private and public gardens and elsewhere?

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14. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-62/78)

Subject : Training for Trade with Japan

What methods does the Commission consider appropriate to encourage the learning of Japanese by Community citizens in order that the Japanese market may be penetrated by Community firms which understand the mores and laws of that country?

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15. Question by Mr van AERSSEN (H-63/78)

Subject: State aid

Is the Commission prepared to take stronger action against the growing trend to grant state aid to national industries in the Community countries and above all is it also prepared to treat State-run undertakings, whose losses can be made up from public funds, on the same footing as private undertakings, thus putting an end to the 'subsidy race'?

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16. Question by Mr HERBERT (H-64/78)

Subject : Export refunds for pork

Having regard to the present poor state of the market for pork within the Community, will the Commission propose the immediate reintroduction of export refunds for pork?

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17. Question by Mr L'ESTRANGE (H-66/78)

Subject : Equal pay

Will the Commission state whether any member States have yet replied to its questionnaire on the implementation of equal pay provisions?

18. Question by Mr BROEKSZ (H-67/78)

Subject: Terrorism and control of arms sales

Statements made on terrorism have not clearly brought out the fact that neither political nor ordinary criminal terrorism is possible without arms. Yet in a number of Community countries arms are freely offered for sale and can therefore easily be smuggled into other Community countries where this is not the case.

Does the Commission agree that one of the first steps to be taken in the fight against terrorism must be the prohibition of arms sales in all Community countries, together with tighter arms controls at its external frontiers?

19. Question by Mr BROWN (H-70/78)

Subject : Safe polyurethane foam

What further steps have been taken to ascertain the present status of projects designed to develop a new safe polyurethane foam in Member States; which Member States are conducting such projects, and when is it envisaged that legislation can be introduced to ban the use of present dangerous, highly inflammable toxic polyurethane foam from use in furniture and furnishings?

20. Question by Mr SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-75/78)

Subject : Animal Slaughter Practices

For what reason has the Commission not yet replied to the letters sent to Mr GUNDELACH on 27 July and 24 November 1977 on the subject of animal slaughter practices in France and Italy, and what is the Commission's answer to the questions raised by those letters?

21. Question by Mr CIFARELLI (H-76/78)

Subject : Free movement of European footballers

Could the Commission state whether its communication of 24 February on the elimination of discrimination according to nationality in the matter of using Community footballers in national competitions - as is laid down in Articles 48 and 59 of the EEC Treaty and the judgment in the case Donà v. Mantero - requires that, as from the beginning of the 1978/79 season, the various associations, and the Italian association in particular should no longer apply such discrimination?

22. Question by Mr EDWARDS (H-86/78)

Subject : International Data Transmission Tariffs

In the light of the totally disproportionate increase in data transmission tariffs when transmission involves crossing national borders within the Community, will the Commission undertake to examine this question in conjunction with national postal, telephone and telegraph authorities with a view to ensuring that European computer users are not disadvantaged by unacceptable distortions of competition and that there are no artificial barriers to the free international flow of non-personal information ?

23. Question by Mr VITALE (H-89/78)

Subject: Fraud involving butter consignments

What stage has been reached in the inquiry into the fraud committed, under cover of falsified customs documents, in passing off consignments of butter from non-member countries as goods in transit and routing them to Italy via the port of Rotterdam?

24. Question by Mr FITCH (H-90/78)

Subject : Trade talks with Australia

Why has the Commission postponed bilateral trade talks with Australia ?

25. Question by Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI (H-30/78)*)

Subject : Discrimination against women at work

Can the Council already say what stage has been reached in the various Member States in the application of Directive No. 76/207/EEC¹ on the implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women as regards access to employment, vocational training and promotion, and working conditions?

26. Question by Mr HOFFMANN (H-72/78) **)

Subject : Community loan of 1,000 million EUA

The Commission loans proposed by Vice-President Ortoli and amounting to 1,000 million EUA, might be allocated to projects which do not accord with the uses recommended and approved by the European Parliament and which restrict the scope of the Community's borrowing policy.

Can the Council therefore answer the following question :

Is it prepared to initiate the consultation procedure with the European Parliament on the Commission's proposal concerning Community loans totalling 1,000 million EUA?

27. Question by Mr HERBERT (H-26/78)

Subject : Protocol 30 to the Treaty of Accession

What measures have been adopted by the Council since January 1 1973 which took cognisance of Protocol 30 to the Treaty of Accession?

*) Converted from oral question with debate into question for Question Time

***) Converted from oral question without debate into question for Question Time

¹ OJ No. L 39, 14.2.1976, p. 40

28. Question by Mrs EWING (H-33/78)*)

Subject : Common fishing policy

Will the Council give an up-to-date statement on the present position with regard to negotiations for a common fishing policy?

29. Question by Mr COUSTE' (H-36/78)

Subject : Indebtedness of the developing countries

At the next UNCTAD Conference will the Community simply present as its official position the statement on indebtedness submitted by Europe and the United States to the Conference on International Economic Cooperation, or is it able to envisage a retroactive adjustment, i.e. the adjustment of the old rate of interest to the new debt?

30. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-43/78)

Subject : Limitation of imports

Many basic industries in the Community are being subjected to competition from cheap imports, and, where necessary, the Community has negotiated with third countries on the limitation of imports; what other industries have been considered for such negotiations, and is the Flatware and Cutlery industry amongst them ?

*) Will not be called : Joint debate on fishery policy on Wednesday 10 May 1978

31. Question by Mr SHAW (H-54/78)

Subject : Illegal Council regulations

How does the Council propose to provide satisfaction to injured parties as a result of a decision of the Court of Justice to declare a Council regulation illegal?

32. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-57/78)

Subject : Identity Cards

How does the Council view the differing situations in Member States with respect to identity card requirements, and has it considered any proposals for the introduction of an EEC identity card with Community-wide validity?

33. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-58/78)

Subject : Member States' Subsidies

To what extent has the Council been able to agree reductions in subsidies paid to industries in the public and private sectors?

34. Question by Mr HAMILTON (H-60/78)

Subject : Bribery by multi-national companies operating within the EEC

What consideration is the Council giving to the adoption of measures to prevent the widespread bribery and corrupt practices engaged in by multi-national companies and their subsidiaries operating within the EEC.

35. Question by Mr STETTER (H-69/78)

Subject: Human rights and the ACP-EEC Convention

Does the Council share the Commission's view on the need to incorporate an undertaking to observe fundamental human rights in the new convention between the EEC and the ACP countries?

36. Question by Lord REAY (H-77/78)

Subject : Majority voting in the Council

How many decisions were taken by the Council in 1977, and to date in 1978, respectively, by a majority; and to what extent is it now the policy of the Council to take decisions by a majority?

37. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-83/78)

Subject : Legislation in Ireland relating to juvenile offenders

Is the Council aware of the plans by the Irish Government to open the equivalent of a Children's Prison in Ireland, and will it use its influence with the Irish Government to persuade it to re-examine the question and propose more enlightened measures?

38. Question by Mr EDWARDS (H-87/78)

Subject : Cooperation Agreements

Will the Council give an assurance that in authorising the Commission to negotiate outline cooperation agreements it will in future take full account of the regard shown for Human Rights in the potential partner country ?

39. Question by Mr DANKERT (H-74/78) *)

Subject : Export of uranium from South Africa to the European Community

The Republic of South Africa seems to be developing more and more into one of the most important producers of natural, non-enriched uranium. It is expected, for example, that the output of uranium oxide, which was still only 3,265 tonnes in 1976, will this year be 5,300 tonnes, reaching 8,500 tonnes in 1981¹.

By virtue of the situation on the world market where competing countries such as Australia and Canada are applying very stringent delivery conditions and limiting uranium production, South Africa is becoming the chief supplier of uranium.

The Republic of South Africa also appears to be developing into one of the major suppliers on the world coal market.

1. Are not the Foreign Ministers of the opinion that every means should be used, including economic pressure, to put an end to the policy of apartheid?
2. Do they not take the view that any kind of dependence on South Africa on the part of the Community countries in the field of energy supplies, particularly as regards deliveries of uranium and coal, must be regarded as highly undesirable?
3. Are they prepared to halt this trend towards growing dependence on South Africa for energy supplies on the part of the Community countries?
4. Are they prepared to seek alternative solutions in the longer term for replacing uranium and coal deliveries by South Africa so as to prevent what is becoming an unavoidable trend towards growing dependence on South Africa?

*) Converted from oral question without debate into question for Question Time

¹ The Economist, 25 February 1978, pp. 79, 80 and 83

40. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-42/78)

Subject : Impact of the Code of Practice in South Africa

What discussions have the Foreign Ministers of Member States had with the South African Government, and neighbouring ACP countries, about the impact of the Code of Practice on productivity as well as wage levels, and the consequential impact on employment in South Africa?

41. Question by Mr BORDU (H-61/78)

Subject : Dangers of the 'European judicial area'

Do not the Foreign Ministers agree that the Croissant case flouts the fundamental principles of the right of asylum and the independence of the judiciary as well as several international conventions, and that it reveals the danger of democracy inherent in the idea of a 'European judicial area' first mooted by the President of the French Republic and echoed by the European Council at Copenhagen?

42. Question by Mr BROEKSZ (H-68/78)

Subject : Terrorism and control of arms sales

Statements made on terrorism have not clearly brought out the fact that neither political nor ordinary criminal terrorism is possible without arms. Yet in a number of Community countries arms are freely offered for sale and can therefore easily be smuggled into other Community countries where this is not the case.

Do the Foreign Ministers agree that one of the first steps to be taken in the fight against terrorism must be the prohibition of arms sales in all Community countries, together with tighter arms controls at its external frontiers?

43. Question by Lord REAY (H-78/78)

Subject : Soviet intervention in Horn of Africa

What consultations have the Foreign Ministers had with the USA and the Organisation for African Unity as regards Soviet intervention in the Horn of Africa, particularly in Ethiopia and Somalia; and what were the results?

44. Question by Mr JAKOBSEN (H-82/78)

Subject: Rejection of the Salisbury agreement

Particularly in the light of what has happened in Angola, can the Foreign Ministers state whether their rejection of the Salisbury agreement as being insufficient to ensure the democratic development of Rhodesia is based solely on the fact that certain independence movements have refused to be a party to the agreement?

45. Question by Mr BETTIZA (H-84/78)

Subject: Protection of human rights in the USSR

What are the views of the Foreign Ministers on the omission of any reference to civil and human rights in the final document of the Belgrade Conference, one of the objectives of which was to enforce respect for freedom of movement and expression in Europe, rights which have been flouted by the USSR in depriving the Soviet cellist Rostropovich and his wife of Soviet citizenship on entirely spurious grounds?

46. Question by Mrs EWING (H-85/78)

Subject : Terrorism

Will the Ministers state what new proposals they have to deal with acts of terrorism in the member countries of the European Community ?

47. Question by Mr EDWARDS (H-88/78)

Subject : Namibia

Will the Ministers confirm that the proposals for the independence of Namibia on December 31 1978 represent the unanimous viewpoint of the Member States of the Community and that they will continue to exercise their influence upon all parties concerned to ensure that this transition takes place in a peaceful manner ?