

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 13, 14 and 15 June 1978

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 Mrs WALZ (H-107/78) (x)

Subject: Use of satellites to generate electricity

Assuming that the Commission is aware of the United States' project to launch satellites equipped with solar cells into space to convert solar radiation into electrical energy, what measures does it intend to take to associate the Community as such with this project or else to coordinate similar plans worked out by the Member States and to set up a project either at Community level alone or jointly with the USA?

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

Subject : Single agricultural policy

Does the Commission believe that the different economic settings within which agriculture operates in each Member State would undermine the effort to establish a single agricultural policy, even without current problems caused by monetary disturbances ?

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3. 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?

4. Question by Lord BESSBOROUGH (H-99/78)

Subject : China

When does the President expect to invite the President of the People's Republic of China to visit the European Communities ?

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5. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-94/78)

Subject : Harmonising of travel documents

What suggestions it has recently made for the harmonising of travel documents and procedures to facilitate the movement within the Community of people who are citizens of countries of the Community and of goods originating within the Community ?

6. Question by Mr HOFFMANN (H-98/78)

Subject: Rationalization in the iron and steel industry and employment

Measures are being taken in various Member States to restructure (by means of investment subsidies, etc.) the steel industry, which is undergoing a grave structural crisis. The Community is also involved in these measures. By what means (financial participation, stipulations concerning employment, etc.) can the Commission effectively prevent the rationalization of the steel industry leading to a substantial reduction in employment?

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7. Question by Mr EDWARDS (H-96/78)

Subject: Tobacco addiction

Has the Commission started compiling documentation on the problem of tobacco addiction, pursuant to the decision taken by the Ministers of Health at their meeting in Brussels on 13 December 1977?

8. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-100/78)

Subject : Information contained in the Report on the Social Situation 1977 in the chapter on Housing concerning Ireland

Can the Commission comment on the accuracy of the figures given for the total work force, the objectivity of the information relating to housing policy - in view of the fact that the cost of house purchase has risen by some 20 % in the last year, the situation under which the Irish Government, in its efforts to encourage the building industry, favours the provision of private housing at the expense of local authority housing as contained in the Report on the Social Situation 1977 ?

9. Question by Mr JOHNSTON (H-106/78)

Subject : Benefits made available to blind people

Would the Commission list the benefits made available to blind people in each of the Nine countries of the Community ?

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10. Question by Mr PATIJN (H-97/78)

Subject: Investment premiums act and the procedure governing aids granted by States

Why did the Commission recently refuse to conduct talks with a delegation from the Second Chamber of the States-General of the Netherlands on the very important investment premiums act submitted by the Netherlands Government to the Commission on 26 May 1977 under the procedure for aids granted by States (Article 92 EEC Treaty)?

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

Subject: Trade talks with Australia

Why has the Commission postponed bilateral trade talks with Australia?

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12. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-470/77)

Subject: Energy needs of the developing countries

What proposals is the Commission considering for cooperation with the Lomé Convention states in meeting their energy needs?

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13. Question by Lord REAY (H-79/78)

Subject : Use of Greek language

Has the Greek government, in the course of negotiations with the Commission on the accession of Greece to the European Community, raised the question of the use and status of the Greek language in the Community after accession ? What is the attitude of the Commission on this matter ?

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14. Question by Mr BROWN (H-80/78)

Subject : Channel Tunnel

What proposals have been received from the Railway Committee of Nine concerning the Channel Tunnel and what action is proposed arising from their recommendation ?

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15. Question by Mr Emile MULLER (H-101/78)

Subject: Future of multilateral trade relations

What is the Commission's assessment of the recent statements by the head of the US delegation to the multilateral negotiations within GATT in Geneva, to the effect that the present round of negotiations would be the last in which the USA would participate, and can it state whether any studies are in progress within the Community to evolve new methods of managing international trade relations in order to banish the spectre of protectionism?

16. Question by Mr GLINNE (H-105/78)

Subject: EEC-COMECON relations and Human Rights

During the meetings in Moscow between the Vice-President of the Commission, Mr Haferkamp and the Secretary-General of COMECON, Mr Fadeyev, did the Community delegation raise the subject of the free movement of ideas and men between Eastern and Western Europe, if only with reference to the economic and trade aspect?

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17. Question by Mrs DAHLERUP (H-109/78)

Subject: More jobs for women

In its resolution of 17 November 1977¹ on the economic situation in the Community and the economic policy guidelines for 1978, the European Parliament called on the Commission to investigate the effectiveness of job creation measures for women.

Would the Commission say what steps have been taken to initiate such an investigation?

18. Question by Mr MITCHELL (H-112/78)

Subject : Permanent representations of the Commission

With reference to the Commission's answer of 1 March 1978 to written question No. 681/77 by Mr Radoux², does not the Commission consider that in the short and medium term it is also desirable to open an office in New Delhi ?

¹ OJ No. C 299, 12.12.77, p. 37

² OJ No. C 98, 24.4.78, page 1

19. Question by Mr YEATS (H-117/78)

Subject : Aids granted by States

In adopting measures relating to Articles 92-94 of the EEC Treaty how does the Commission ensure that the need for Regional Development is not adversely affected ?

20. Question by Mr HERBERT (H-118/78)

Subject : New Zealand cheese

What is the position of the Commission in relation to the efforts by New Zealand in the current GATT negotiations to obtain access to the Community market for its cheese ?

21. Question by Mrs DUNWOODY (H-119/78)

Subject : European Airspace

What representations have the Commission received on the future role of Eurocontrol and their communication to the Council on the creation of a European airspace, managed at Community level ?

22. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-121/78)

Subject : Dairy surplus

Following the answer to my question no. 12 (H-56/78) in the May part session, noting that milk surpluses are forecasted to increase by 2 to 3 percent per year, will the Commission give an estimate of what quantities of cereals and other proteins will be consumed in 1978 by that part of the community dairy herd producing milk which is surplus to market requirements, and state how much of these quantities are expected to be imported from third countries and the estimated cost of these imports ?

23. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-122/78)

Subject : Jojoba plant

What study is the Commission making of the properties of the jojoba plant, in relation to producing oil, which can be used as a substitute by the leather and kindred industries for sperm whale oil; and will it encourage the development of jojoba plantations in developing countries, in order to supply an industrial need, create conditions in which poor countries can earn foreign exchange, and help in the campaign to save the whale from extinction ?

24. Question by Mr GEURTSSEN (H-125/78)

Subject: Report on Community competition policy

Now that Commissioner Vouel has seen fit to present the Commission's report on competition policy to the press in Brussels during a part-session of Parliament in Strasbourg, could he perhaps say how he intends to ensure that the 'crisis cartels' are automatically dissolved as soon as the crisis is over?

25. Question by Mrs KELLETT-BOWMAN (H-128/78)

Subject : Postal Rates

Can the Commission explain how postal rates between France and the United Kingdom are 40 % higher than those to Germany, Italy and the Benelux countries, and state what steps they are taking to remedy this anomaly ?

26. Question by Mr RYAN (H-129/78)

Subject : Public sector contribution towards economic growth

Will the Commission name those member States which, in its view, have the capacity to make a significant (public sector contribution towards economic growth and those which have limited or no capacity to do this because they have already reached the limits of manoeuvrability in this respect and will the Commission also state whether it has proposals to increase the manoeuvrability of member States which wish to stimulate growth by use of public sector resources ?

27. Question by Mr van AERSSSEN (H-130/78)

Subject: Trade relations with Australia

What light can the Commission shed on reports that the Australian Minister for Special Trade Representations, Mr Victor Garland, recently complained about the EEC's allegedly protectionist trade policy and threatened the Community with retaliatory measures?

28. Question by Mr IBRUGGER (H-131/78)

Subject: Non-marketing subsidies for milk

Does the Commission propose to continue the non-marketing subsidies for milk, and if so, is a higher subsidy to be expected?

29. Question by Mr SEEFELD (H-133/78)

Subject: Road haulage tax in Austria

How does the Commission view the new situation which will result from the introduction of a road haulage tax in Austria from 1 July 1978, particularly with regard to the consequences for Community transport undertakings, and what practical measures will it take to ensure that these transport undertakings are not placed at a disadvantage?

30. Question by Mr BROSAN (H-134/78)

Subject : E.C.S.C. loans for housing

Will the Commission state the date on which the size of E.C.S.C. housing purchase loans was fixed at £ 2.500 for Ireland, and also the basis on which this figure was decided on and will the Commission also state whether it considers this size of loan to be adequate in 1978 in view of the fact that the cost of building materials and wages, as calculated by the Irish Department of Environment, has risen by 60 % between January 1975 and May 1978, and whether it proposes to increase the size of the loans and the overall allocation to be made for them in the near future ?

31. Question by Mr McDONALD (H-135/78)

Subject : Regional imbalances and Community policies

Will the Commission endeavour to ensure that regional imbalances in the Community are not aggravated by Community policies and will the Commission ensure that the special problems of the peripheral regions of the Community are fully taken into account in the development and execution of Community policies ?

32. Question by Mr L'ESTRANGE (H-137/78)

Subject : Alcohol of agricultural origin

Does the Commission consider that the use of alcohol of agricultural origin as an additive to petrol would constitute a good method of disposing of large quantities of this alcohol and can the Commission state whether there are major technical obstacles to this use of alcohol and what the effects would be on the Community alcohol, petrol and motor vehicle markets ?

33. Question by Mr SCHYNS (H-142/78)

Subject: Business Cooperation

Can the Commission state whether the Community's Business Cooperation Centre, at present active in the nine Member States, has extended its operations to Greece, Portugal and Spain?

34. Question by Mr CAILLAVET (H-144/78)

Subject: Implementation of the Sixth Directive on VAT

Has the Commission contacted the French and Luxembourg authorities so as to ascertain when these two Member States intend to submit their draft legislation implementing the Sixth Directive on VAT?

35. Question by Mr FELLERMAIER (H-147/78)

Subject : Dumping prices in merchant shipping

What view does the Commission take of the announcement by the Soviet Minister for Shipping that measures to protect the Communities merchant shipping would be met with retaliatory measures?

36. Question by Mr SCHMIDT (H-151/78)

Subject : UN Conference on the Law of the Sea

What is the Commission's assessment of the progress made at the last session of the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, and of the collaboration at it of the Commission and the delegations of the Member States?

37. Question by Mr JAKOBSEN (H-155/78)

Subject: Greenland

Following the recent visit to Greenland by the President of the Commission of the European Communities, will the Commission report on the views which the Greenlanders made known to him concerning Greenland's future relationship with the European Community?

38. Question by Mr BRUGHA (H-156/78)

Subject : EEC-Greece Financial Protocol

Further to the Commission's reply to an Oral Question on 13 February 1978 regarding the Second EEC-Greece Financial Protocol, what progress has been made by the Commission in examining the possibility of bringing this Protocol, and other Protocols, into force by autonomous means thus enabling payments to be made pending ratification by all Member Countries and what are the difficulties in the way of making interim payments?

39. Question by Mr DELMOTTE (H-157/78)

Subject: Transport policy

What is the Commission's attitude towards the demands made by the trade unions during their large-scale demonstration in Brussels in May in favour of a different transport policy, and what stage has been reached in the discussion in the Council of Ministers on this subject?

40. Question by Mrs WALZ (H-108/78) (x)

Subject: Use of satellites to generate electricity

Is the Council prepared to cooperate in the conclusion of international agreements on the location of the satellites, the microwave frequencies and the operation of the space power stations which would contain provisions enabling the European Community to undertake actions of this kind or to participate in projects organized by friendly countries, even if no action of this kind is envisaged for the time being, so that the Community and its Member States can influence the terms of such agreements, thereby ensuring that the Community's rights as a political entity in international law are firmly established for the future?

41. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-44/78)

Subject : Availability of raw materials

What initiatives has the Council taken in assessing prospects for continuing availability to the Community's economy of raw materials from ACP states and other developing countries, and in establishing commodity agreements ?

(x) former Oral Question (0-121/77) without debate, now put as a question for Question Time.

42. Question by Mr BROWN (H-81/78)

Subject : The Community and World Energy Situation

With reference to the Commission's recent Communication to the Council on The Community and World Energy Situation it is shown that oil imports into the Community fell by 6.6 % from 1976/77, whereas imports of oil into the United States and Japan rose by 11.8 % and 5.7 % respectively in the same period.

What steps does the Council propose to take to ensure that the Community's major partners in OECD take firm and urgent action to reduce its consumption of this finite energy source ?

43. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-92/78)

Subject : Public meetings of the Council

What plans are there for experimenting with the opening to the public of meetings of the Council which are concerned with legislation ?

44. Question by Mr STETTER (H-95/78)

Subject: Greater openness in the running of the Community

Does the Council agree that greater openness in the running of the Community by making publicity a rule could help to increase the Community citizen's confidence and interest in European cooperation and, if so, will it give favourable consideration to Commission proposals to this end?

45. Question by Mr RYAN (H-102/78)

Subject : Direct elections

Will the Council take an initiative to ensure compatibility between the information programmes of the different Community institutions in relation to direct elections ?

46. Question by Mr BERTRAND (H-104/78)

Subject: Common Market telephone directory

Can the Council inform Parliament of the decisions taken at the meeting of Ministers responsible for postal services on 15 December 1977 on the subject of the collaboration required between the nine national telecommunications authorities and the publisher of the Common Market telephone directory?

47. Question by Lord BESSBOROUGH (H-110/78)

Subject: Aeronautical research

In view of the positive opinions given by the European Parliament, the Economic and Social Committee and the CREST, and the continuing and unanimous support of the European airframe industry, why has the Council not yet approved the action programme for aeronautical research forwarded by the Commission to the Council in July 1977, and why has the 8 MUC, available in the 1977 budget for aeronautical research, not been approved by the Council for carry forward into 1978 despite the request from the European Parliament and the Commission that this should be done?

48. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-115/78)

Subject : MCA Distortions

Will the Council provide an estimate of what quantities of agricultural goods are crossing the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland illegally as a consequence of the MCA differential ?

49. Question by Mrs DUNWOODY (H-120/78)

Subject : European Airspace

What action has the Council taken on the communication from the Commission concerning an action programme for the European aeronautical sector which recommended the creation of a European airspace, managed at Community level ?

50. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-123/78)

Subject : Jojoba plant

What study is the Council making of the properties of the jojoba plant, in relation to producing oil, which can be used as a substitute by the leather and kindred industries for sperm whale oil; and will it encourage the development of jojoba plantations in developing countries, in order to supply an industrial need, create conditions in which poor countries can earn foreign exchange, and help in the campaign to save the whale from extinction ?

51. Question by Mr SCHYNS (H-127/78)

Subject: Directive on water for human consumption

Following the 1975 Luxembourg colloquy on drinking water, the Commission submitted to the Council a directive which has still not been adopted. Could the Council state the possible difficulties involved and indicate when the directive is likely to be adopted?

52. Question by Mr McDONALD (H-136/78)

Subject : Regional Development Fund

Does the Council agree that the European Regional Development Fund is too small in relation to the task it should accomplish ?

53. Question by Mr L'ESTRANGE (H-138/78)

Subject : Trade agreements, food aid programmes and
human rights in third countries

Does the Council consider that the performance of a third country in protecting the human rights of its citizens should be a determining factor when the establishment of trade agreements with that country, or its inclusion in food aid programmes, are being considered by the Community ?

54. Question by Mr KOFOED (H-143/78)

Subject: Conference on the Law of the Sea

During the recent Danish presidency of the Council of Ministers, Denmark has advocated joint ratification of the Convention on the Law of the Sea by the Member States of the Community. With the exception of the Federal Republic of Germany, the other Member States share this view.

What position do the Member States intend to adopt on this problem at the forthcoming meeting on the Convention on the Law of the Sea, to be held between 21 August and 15 September?

55. Question by Mr FELLERMAIER (H-148/78)

Subject : Dumping prices in merchant shipping

What view does the Council take of the announcement by the Soviet Minister for Shipping that measures to protect the Communities merchant shipping would be met with retaliatory measures?

56. Question by Mr BERKHOUWER (H-149/78)

Subject: Direct elections

France and the United Kingdom are the only two States which have not yet notified their ratification of the Act of 20 September 1976. Can the Council indicate whether this notification is likely to be forthcoming this month, the grounds for the attitude of these two countries, and whether pressure can be brought to bear at Community level to compel the Member States to complete this last stage in the procedure, insofar as they have already adopted all the other provisions?

57. Question by Lord REAY (H-150/78)

Subject : EEC-ACP convention and human rights

Has the Council been able to reach agreement on a positive stand to the proposal to introduce an obligation to apply basic human rights in the new Convention between the EEC and the ACP-countries?

58. Question by Mr SCHMIDT (H-152/78)

Subject : UN Conference on the Law of the Sea

What is the Council's assessment of the progress made at the last session of the UN Conference on the Law of the Sea, and of the collaboration at it of the delegations of the Member States?

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

59. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-93/78)

Subject : Community Consular office

What plans are there for experimenting in having at least one consular office in a country outside the Community which could act in consular affairs for all members of the Community ?

60. Question by Mr RYAN (H-103/78) (x)

Subject : Involvement of the USSR in Africa

In view of the widespread concern at the involvement of the USSR in Africa do the Foreign Ministers propose to take any initiative to discourage this development ?

61. Question by Mr SPICER (H-114/78) (x)

Subject : Policy of the Nine with regard to Zimbabwe

How does the statement of Mr Mugabe that his aim and purpose is to establish a single-party state, match with the policy of the Nine to establish democracy for the people of Zimbabwe ?

(x) will only be called if item 112 on the draft agenda is not withdrawn

62. Question by Mr DONDELINGER (H-124/78) (x)

Subject: Franco-Belgian intervention in Zaïre

Do the Foreign Ministers take the view that France and Belgium intervened in Zaïre on behalf of the Nine and were they kept informed of this intervention in due time?

63. Question by Mrs DUNWOODY (H-132/78)

Subject : Action on behalf of Jessica Katz

Would the Foreign Ministers make a particular effort in the light of the EEC/USSR dialogue to persuade the Soviet Authorities to allow baby Jessica Katz, aged 7 months, to travel to America for the highly specialised medical treatment she requires ?

64. Question by Mrs DAHLERUP (H-146/78)

Subject: World Bank loans to Argentina

At a hearing organised by the Socialist Group on 25.5.1978 on the violation of human rights in Argentina, one of the witnesses revealed that, since the new administration took power, the World Bank had increased its loans to the country 8-or 10-fold, though no appreciable increase in investment had ensued. Are the Foreign Ministers aware of this?

(x) will only be called if item 112 on the draft agenda is not withdrawn