

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1978 - 1979

3 July 1978

DOCUMENT 196/78

ORAL QUESTIONS

Pursuant to Rule 47a of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 4, 5 and 6 July 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 Wednesday 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 BRUCE OF DONINGTON (H-200/78) ^x

Subject: The European Communities' Institute for Economic
Analysis and Research

The Commission submitted its proposal for the creation of a European Communities' Institute for Economic Analysis and Research on 10 October 1975 ¹. The European Parliament gave a favourable opinion on the Commission's proposal at its part-session of March 1976 ². In the 1977 and 1978 general budgets the Budgetary Authority provided for a subsidy to finance this Institute. To date, the Council has made no decision on the Commission's proposal.

Is there a particular reason for the 2½ years' delay in setting up an Institute which, by common agreement, could play a useful role in helping the Communities to confront the economic crisis, or is this just another of the general delays in the Council's working methods?

2. 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?

¹ Doc. COM(75) 31 fin.

² OJ No. C 79 of 5.4.1976, p.29

^x Initially oral question without debate (0-9/78), converted into a question for question time by the enlarged Bureau.

3. Question by Mr GEURTSSEN (H-126/78)

Subject: Proposals made in the Council by the German Minister
for Economic Affairs

Can the Council indicate how it intends to implement the proposals relating to free trade made by Count LAMSDORFF at the Council meeting of 2 May 1978, which were considered in greater detail on 20 and 21 May during the informal Council discussions in Denmark?

4. Question by Mr CIFARELLI (H-145/78)

Subject: The European Company

Can the Council indicate what progress has been made with the consideration of the proposed regulation on the Statute for the European Company; can it state in particular what stage has been reached in the examination of the section dealing with worker participation, and does it intend, in accordance with the resolution adopted by the European Parliament in April 1978, to open the promised information procedure without delay?

5. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-158/78)

Subject : Energy objectives for 1985

At its meeting on 30 May 1978 the Council stated it aims to complete work on the energy objectives for 1985. The Commission submitted its report on 29 July 1977, COM(77) 395 final. In view of the urgency to relieve the Community of the burden of imported energy and the long lead times required to install additional non-oil fuelled electricity generating capacity, will the Council set a deadline for the necessary investment decisions to provide a more definite energy environment within which private and industrial consumers, and the power industry can operate?

6. Question by Mr NOLAN (H-166/78)

Subject : Wool

Would the Council be prepared to consider measures relating to wool in the context of their discussions on the common organisation of the market in sheepmeat?

7. Question by Mr EDWARDS (H-177/78)

Subject : Lomé Convention

In considering the forthcoming proposals for the revised version of the Lomé Convention, will the Council take steps to include a provision that aid under the Convention is directed towards the welfare of the peoples it is intended to benefit and not only towards the regimes in power in the countries concerned ?

8. Question by Mr CORRIE (H-185/78)

Subject : Investment guarantees

Will the Council state what discussions have been and will be held on the subject of guaranteeing Community investments in developing countries, especially in the context of the renegotiation of the Lomé Convention ?

9. Question by Mr FELLERMAIER (H-187/78)

Subject: Mr Habsburg's candidature for the European Parliament elections

How does the Council view the announcement by Mr Habsburg, who in addition to his Austrian nationality, has surprisingly been granted German citizenship by the Bavarian authorities, that he wishes to present himself as a candidate for the European Parliament elections so that he can also represent the Austrians, and does the Council not share the fear that, given Austria's strict neutrality, this may create extremely serious foreign policy complications for the EEC?

10. Question by Mrs EWING (H-189/78)

Subject : Fisheries Policy

Will the Council make a statement on the latest situation regarding negotiations towards achieving a common fisheries policy ?

11. Question by Mr SCHYNS (H-191/78)

Subject: Position of the Council with regard to the common transport policy

What practical steps does the President-in-Office of the Council intend to take during his period of office to give a new impetus, clearly outlined in the EEC Treaty, to the stagnant common transport policy?

12. Question by Mr RYAN (H-193/78)

Subject : Uniform rate of motor and petrol taxation

Has the Council discussed the possibility of having a uniform rate of motor taxation and petrol taxation in the Community and if so what is the present state of such discussions ?

13. Question by Mr SANDRI (H-197/78)

Subject: EEC-Latin America dialogue

Given that a meeting is to be held in the latter half of this year at ministerial level between the EEC and ASEAN, while relations between the EEC and SELA (Latin American Economic System) are at a standstill, would the Council not consider it advisable, and in the interests of the balanced development of the EEC's external relations, to examine the possibility of organizing a similar meeting at ministerial level to strengthen ties between the EEC and Latin America?

14. Question by Mr SCHREIBER (H-198/78)

Subject : Participation of women in delegations to the forthcoming
Tripartite Conference

Does the Council intend to suggest to the Member States, and to the
other bodies which will be represented at the forthcoming
Tripartite Conference, that a proportion of their representatives
should be women ?

15. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-202/78)

Subject : The Right to work

What is the Council's definition of the right to work, and
how would it apply this definition to all Community citizens?

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

16. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-170/78)

Subject: Rhodesia

What support are the Foreign Ministers giving to the British-American plan for the future of Rhodesia?

17. Question by Mr SPICER (H-174/78)

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 ?

18. Question by Mr EDWARDS (H-178/78)

Subject : Community involvement in Africa

Will the Foreign Ministers take care that they are not involved in propping-up corrupt regimes in Africa ?

19. Question by Mr CORRIE (H-186/78)

Subject : Pan-African Defence Force

What steps are the Foreign Ministers planning to take in response to the recent call by African Heads of State meeting in Paris to establish a Pan-African Defence Force ?

20. Question by Mrs EWING (H-190/78)

Subject : Release of Rudolf Hess

Will the Foreign Ministers use all the influence at their disposal to secure the release of Herr Rudolf Hess from Spandau Prison ?

21. 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?

22. 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?

23. 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?

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24. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-45/78)

Subject : Flatware and Cutlery

What steps are the Commission taking to protect the Flatware and Cutlery Industry from dumping and from imports of low price and low quality specification?

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25. Question by Mr SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-139/78)

Subject : Agricultural structural policy

Does the Commission believe that the effectiveness of agricultural structural policy has been hindered by the need for Member States to pay a substantial share of the costs of implementing the various Directives and does it feel that structural development would be enhanced if these costs were borne entirely by the Community?

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26. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-153/78)

Subject : Commission recruitment procedures

Following the decision of the Court of Justice in case number 75/77 (Mollet v. the Commission) does the Commission plan to continue the practise of submitting candidates for certain Commission posts to psychological examinations?

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27. Question by Mr BROSNAN (H-161/78)

Subject : Irish cross-border studies

Will the Commission state what progress has been made in preparing a programme of studies in the Irish border region for which an additional 160,000 EUA has been set aside in Article 266 of the 1978 Budget?

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28. Question by Mr BRUGHA (H-164/78)

Subject : Building Societies

Is the Commission in favour of encouraging the establishment of Building Societies throughout the Community so that a greater number of people can purchase their own homes?

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29. Question by Mr SEEFELD (H-140/78)

Subject: Duty-free petrol carried in reserve containers

Does the Commission intend, when introducing new legislation on duty-free allowances, to discontinue the duty-free allowance of petrol carried in reserve containers in passenger cars?

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30. Question by Mrs DAHLERUP (H-154/78)

Subject : Commission proposals for professional training and retraining for women

Does the Commission intend to make any proposals in the near future relating to the education, professional training and retraining of women, and, if so, what legal instrument will it propose?

31. Question by Mr YEATS (H-162/78)

Subject : Women and work-sharing

Can the Commission give an assurance that the implementing of their recent communication on work-sharing will not result in a further accentuation of discrimination against women?

32. Question by Mr POWER (H-163/78)

Subject : Absenteeism

Has the Commission made any studies on the problems of absenteeism, particularly in relation to lack of job satisfaction?

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33. Question by Mr HERBERT (H-165/78)

Subject : Special measures for the West of Ireland

What progress has been made in drafting the special measures for the West of Ireland as agreed to by the Council of Ministers in this year's Agricultural Prices Review?

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34. Question by Mr PISONI (H-167/78)

Subject: Use of mass media for migrant workers

The Commission's 1975 action programme provided for wider use of the mass media for the cultural, linguistic and vocational training of migrant workers. Can the Commission give more details of the study being carried out into the implementation of this proposal and state whether or not a positive result may be expected at an early date?

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35. Question by Mr DANKERT (H-168/78)

Subject : Controlling Expenditure

What action does the Commission propose to take following a consultants' report that Commission staff levels for monitoring expenditure are completely inadequate?

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36. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-169/78)

Subject : The Community and US oil consumption

Will the Commission take every opportunity of impressing on United State Congressmen and officials the problems raised by the very high rate of imports of oil into the United States ?

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37. Question by Lord BESSBOROUGH (H-172/78) ^x

Subject : China

What are the results of the Commission's latest consultations with Community firms for the implementation of the trade agreement between the People's Republic of China and the European Community ?

38. Question by Mr LEONARDI (H-173/78)

Subject: Economic situation of the Community

Does the Commission not believe that it would be useful, as on the occasion of the establishment of the Community and at the end of the transitional period, to again draw up a report, at this time of crisis and transition (economic and monetary union), on the position of the EEC in the world, along the lines of the 'Report on the competitive situation of the Community' published in 1971?

39. Question by Mr LAGORCE (H-175/78)

Subject: Lomé Convention

Which developing countries have had their applications for accession to the Lomé Convention rejected, and why?

40. Question by Mr EDWARDS (H-176/78)

Subject : Misleading pharmaceutical advertising

Will the Commission now take steps further to its proposal in 1967 on information and advertisements relating to medicinal products to discourage the excessive consumption of these products largely caused by misleading sales promotion ?

^x Will not be called if item 161 is kept on the agenda

41. Question by Mr SOURY (H-179/78)

Subject: Proposal for a regulation on the common organization of the market in sheepmeat

Does the Commission not feel that the proposal for a Community-wide regulation on sheepmeat will jeopardize sheep farming in certain regions of the Community, particularly France, by, for example, legalizing unfair competition on the part of New Zealand and one of the Member States, and does it intend accordingly to revise the proposal in question so as to ensure that, in keeping with the Community's general interest, France's sheep production is safeguarded and the social and economic conditions of French sheep-rearing are taken into account in the proposal?

42. Question by Lord KENNET (H-180/78)

Subject : Micro-fusion

What proportion of Community and Member-State research into civil nuclear fusion is devoted to micro-fusion, whether using laser beams or otherwise ?

43. Question by Mr FITCH (H-181/78)

Subject : Imports of coal from third countries

To what extent have imports of coal to the Community from third countries increased in recent years and what steps has the Commission taken to deal with this situation ?

44. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-182/78)

Subject : Need for free civil legal aid within the memberstates
of the Community

In view of the fact that both Directive 75/117/EEC ¹ on equal pay and Directive 76/207/EEC ² call for the introduction into the national legal systems of the member states of such measures as are necessary to enable persons who consider themselves wronged to pursue their claims by judicial process, will the Commission make specific proposals to those member states which do not have a system of free legal aid that they should introduce such a system ?

45. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-183/78)

Subject ; Problems for steel tubing manufacturers

Is the Commission aware of the serious anomaly which has arisen from the introduction of the steel industry minimum price rules whereby the mills producing both steel and steel tubing enjoy a privileged and protected preference over those firms which produce steel tubing from bought out steel, and will the Commission take appropriate action to deal with this ?

46. Question by Mr CORRIE (H-184/78)^x

Subject : Independent airlines within the Community

What is the Commission doing to ensure that services which are being, or could be, provided by independent airlines within the Community (often between parts of the Community not previously linked directly) are not jeopardised by subsidised competition and unfair practices from state airlines ?

¹OJ No. L 45, 19.2.1975, p. 19

²OJ No. L 39, 14.2.1976, p. 40

^x Will not be called if item 170 is kept on the agenda

47. Question by Mrs EWING (H-188/78)

Subject : Grants and Loans for new Fishing Vessels

What are the criteria used in deciding how Community grants and loans are given for new fishing vessels ?

48. Question by Mr RYAN (H-192/78)

Subject : Fishing industry and enlarged Community

Having regard to the present serious plight of the fishing industry in the Community, will the Commission make a statement on the impact on the industry in the event of Spain, Portugal and Greece becoming members and in particular indicate the steps which will be taken in the event of an enlarged Community to ensure that there will not be any increase in the number of fishing vessels having access to coastal waters ?

49. Question by Mr de CLERCQ (H-195/78)

Subject: Earthquake in Salonika

Has the Commission been able to ascertain the extent of the destruction wrought by the disaster in Salonika on 20 June 1978, and what Community measures does the Commission feel it can take, with the agreement of the Greek Government, immediately and in the medium term?

50. Question by Lord REAY (H-196/78)

Subject : Spanish application for membership of the Community

Why is the Commission taking so long to produce its opinion on the Spanish application for membership of the Community ?

51. Question by Mr FUCHS (H-199/78)

Subject: Emission of aerosols

How does the Commission view press reports that the emission of aerosols by nuclear power stations may act through the plant-animal-human being food chain and cause the permitted maximum individual concentration of 30 millirems per day to be greatly exceeded in the vicinity of the power stations?

52. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-201/78)

Subject : Ploughing-up Grants

Will the Commission consider the introduction of a system of ploughing-up grants for grassland to encourage cereal production in the place of milk production in the Community?

