

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1977 - 1978

9 May 1977

DOCUMENT 92/77

ORAL QUESTIONS

Pursuant to Rule 47A of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 10 and 11 May 1977

PE 48.727

1. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-278/76)

Subject : Assistance for the development of new methods of fishing

Has the Commission, as promised earlier, started its investigations by trying out new fishing methods designed to promote the fishing of hitherto unexploited fishery resources, for example, species of fish living at some depth?

2. Question by Mr LEONARDI (H-50/77)

Subject : Stage reached in the integration of Europe

Twenty years after the signing of the Treaties of Rome, does the Commission of the European Communities not consider it the right time to draw up a critical survey with supporting documentation, summarizing the results of and pinpointing the stage reached in the construction of the Community, to enable the European Parliament to make a proper assessment of the work accomplished?

3. Question by Mr BANGEMANN (H-52/77)

Subject: Geothermal energy

Can the Commission indicate what progress has been made in the exploitation of geothermic energy and what are the prospects for using it on an industrial scale?

4. Question by Mr KRALL (H-53/77)

Subject: Geothermal energy

Can the Commission state what importance is attached in its research policy to the exploitation of geothermal energy?

5. Question by Mr ZYWIETZ (H-54/77)

Subject: Flight safety

In the Commission's opinion, what measures would be expedient and necessary to bring about a marked improvement in flight safety, both in civil aviation and between the civil and military sectors in Europe?

6. Question by Mr HAMILTON (H-56/77)

Subject : Working conditions of seamen

What steps have been taken by the Commission in recent weeks to urge Member Nations of the EEC to ratify I.L.O. Conventions concerning wages and working conditions of seafaring

7. Question by Mrs KRUCHOW (H-59/77)

Subject : Contaminated foodstuffs outside the immediate vicinity of Seveso

Since it appears from the daily press (le Monde and the International Herald Tribune, both of 21 April) that high concentrations of the dangerous poison dioxin have now been found outside the closed-off area around Seveso in Italy, can the Commission state what steps are being taken to prevent contaminated foodstuffs, for example vegetables and fruit, from being sold, in Italy and elsewhere?

8. Question by Lord BESSBOROUGH (H-60/77)

Subject : Electric vehicles

Firms in Member States are known to be developing a variety of electric vehicles. Has the Commission considered purchasing electric vehicles for use as vans, mini-buses and taxis in the Brussels area with a view to assisting firms in their development of these vehicles and to demonstrating their acceptability?

9. Question by Mr PRICE (H-61/77)

Subject : Association Agreement with Cyprus

To ask the Commission if they will state the terms of the interim arrangements they intend to make in view of the failure of the Council of Ministers to grant them a mandate to develop a second stage of the Association Agreement with Cyprus , the first stage of which is due to expire on 30 June 1977?

10. Question by Mr CAILLAVET (H-64/77)

Subject: Frost damage to agriculture

Is the Commission planning specific and adequate action to assist European farmers who have once again suffered from frost, which has severely damaged, and in many cases ruined, various crops, particularly tree fruit?

11. Question by Mr PISTILLO (H-66/77)

Subject: European Youth Forum

What action has the Commission taken on the decision to set up a temporary Youth Secretariat to carry out the preparatory work for a European Youth Forum?

12. Question by Mr VERONESI (H-67/77)

Subject: Multiannual research and development programme for basic raw materials

What stage has been reached in preparing the draft multiannual research and development programme for basic raw materials, and when will the document, drawn up by the subcommittee appointed to carry out the study, be available to Members of Parliament?

13. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-69/77)

Subject : Dumping of pottery on the Community Market

Is the Commission aware of the adverse effects which the dumping of pottery from third countries on the Community market is having on the Community producers and the resultant unemployment, and what does it intend to do to combat this problem?

14. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-70/77)

Subject: A fresh start on cooperation and monetary union

As the monetary situation in all the European countries seems to be stabilising, and even in some cases slightly improving, does not the Commission consider that the time is ripe for a fresh start both on cooperation and monetary union?

15. Question by Mr TERRENOIRE (H-71/77)

Subject: Framing by the Commission of a long-term policy for the textile industry

How is the brief to negotiate the multifibre arrangement likely to be affected by the measures which the Commission intends to take to revive investment and preserve employment in the textile and clothing industries?

16. Question by Mr FRÜH (H-72/77)

Subject: Feedingstuffs legislation

When does the Commission intend to supplement the provision to the effect that aid for skimmed milk powder under Regulation No. 804/68) can only be granted where the mixed feedingstuffs concerned (milk substitutes) contain at least 60% skimmed milk powder by stipulating that for the purposes of feedingstuffs legislation the production of such milk substitutes may only be based on whole milk or skimmed milk powder?

17. Question by Mr DE CLERCQ (H-74/77)

Subject: Involvement of Greek officials in Community activities

Given the progress made in the negotiations on Greek accession to the Community, what procedures have been proposed by the Commission - even through an intensification of the Association Agreement - to involve the Greek authorities more effectively in discussions concerning Community activities?

18. Question by Mr BROWN (H-76/77)

Subject : Polyurethane foam and other Polimeric materials

What action the Commission is taking to encourage research into and development of a new generation of safe foam which will eliminate the high burning rate, intense heat and production of dense toxic smoke, characteristic of the present generation of foam, thereby safeguarding the consumers of furniture, soft toys and other goods in which such material is used?

19. Question by Sir Brandon RHYS WILLIAMS (H-79/77)

Subject : Tripartite Conference

When and where will the next Tripartite Conference take place and what will be the principal items to be discussed?

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20. Question by Mr SEEFELD (H-81/77)

Subject: Checks on currency carried by tourists

What steps can the Commission take to ensure that the checks still made by some Member States on currency carried by tourists are abolished as soon as possible, so that at the start of the holiday season travel within the Community is no longer hampered by bureaucratic obstacles?

21. Question by Mr EVANS (H-83/77)

Subject : Work on the air-conditioning system in the
Berlaymont Building

Can the Commission indicate what measures it intends to take to protect Commission staff from exposure to asbestos fibres which will be released as a result of work to be undertaken on the air conditioning system in the Berlaymont Building in mid-May?

22. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-87/77)

Subject : Loss of uranium oxide in transit

Le Republicain Lorrain , 3 May 1977, carried a report stating that 200 tonnes of uranium oxide disappeared in 1968 in transit between Anvers and Genoa. Will the Commission confirm⁷ that there have been no further losses of fissile material since that date, what further security precautions have been taken as a result of the loss and what is the explanation of the loss now reported ?

23. Question by Mr CIFARELLI (H-48/77)

Subject : Community aid for the reconstruction of Romania

Since funds are available under Article 951 of the budget for aid to disaster victims, does the Commission intend to contribute to the reconstruction of Romania by providing appropriate financial assistance over and above its offers of emergency aid for the earthquake disaster areas of the country, which is close to the Community by reason of both its geographical position and the character of its people?

24. Question by Mr BROEKSZ (H-49/77)

Subject: Conscientious objectors in Greece

Is the Council aware that in Greece conscientious objectors to military service, for example those who object on religious grounds, are not only sentenced to terms of imprisonment which are longer than the period of military service but when they have served their sentence they are once again called up and once again sentenced to a term of imprisonment, after which the whole process is repeated? If so, does the Council think that such a law, which penalizes people repeatedly for the same offence, is compatible with human rights and the maintenance of order in a democratic state and is it prepared to make it clear to the Greek Government that Greece will not be accepted as a member of the European Community as long as this law remains in force?

25. Question by Mr LEONARDI (H-51/77)

Subject: Direct elections to the European Parliament

What stage does the Council deem to have been reached by the individual countries of the Community in ratifying the Convention on direct elections to the European Parliament and in drafting the electoral laws? Does it consider that the date proposed - May/June 1978 - can be adhered to?

26. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-55/77)

Subject: The Council as a Legislature

Will the Council reorganise its procedure and practice so as to have sessions devoted to legislation to which the public are admitted?

27. Question by Mr HAMILTON (H-57/77)

Subject : Community and its African policies

What progress has been made in the last few months to coordinate policies towards African Nations and in particular in relation to the practice of apartheid in South Africa; and what progress has been made in securing agreement on the cessation of all sales of military equipment to South Africa ?

28. Question by Mr PRICE (H-58/77)

Subject : Association Treaty with Cyprus

To ask the Council if they will state to the Parliament the reasons why their permanent representatives have not yet been able to agree on the terms of a mandate which would permit the Commission to develop the Association Treaty with Cyprus?

29. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-68/77)

Subject: 500 million dollar loan to Italy

After its decision to lend 500 million dollars to Italy, can the Council say what its subsequent lending capacity will be, and whether it intends to authorize the Commission to float a number of loans on the international money market in the near future?

30. Question by Mr PISONI (H-73/77)

Subject: Farm prices for 1977

Has the President-in-Office of the Council reread the statements he made at the European Parliament's April 1977 part-session on the subject of farm prices? Does he not feel that they read more like a defence of purely national interests than a Community position?

31. Question by Mr DE CLERCQ (H-75/77)

Subject: Involvement of Greek officials in Community activities

Given the progress made in the negotiations on Greek accession to the Community, what procedures have been planned by the Council - even through an intensification of the Association Agreement - to involve the Greek authorities more effectively in discussions concerning Community activities?

32. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-78/77)

Subject : Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

Will the Presidency convene a Council meeting of Ministers for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises?

33. Question by Sir Brandon RHYS WILLIAMS (H-80/77)

Subject : Summit of Downing Street

What discussions were held at the Downing Street Conference of proposals to bring greater stability to the foreign exchange markets; and what agreement was reached to introduce greater freedom of movement of capital for investment?

34. Question by Mr SEEFELI. (H-82/77)

Subject: Value added tax on motor vehicle repairs carried out in a foreign country.

Will the Council take appropriate measures to harmonize value added tax systems before the start of the tourist season, so that a citizen of a Member State who has his vehicle repaired in another Member State does not have to pay value added tax both in the foreign country and in his own country?

35. Question by Mr HOUGARDY (H-84/77)

Subject: European breeder reactor technology

Can the Council indicate what implications the recent statement by President Carter, announcing measures to prohibit the use of plutonium, is likely to have for the future of the 'Phénix' programme, and more particularly the 'Superphénix', which is due to become operational in 1981/82?

36. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-63/77)

Subject : Supply of nuclear materials

Will the Council make a statement on the latest position regarding the supply of nuclear materials to Member States?

37. Question by Mrs KRUCHOW (H-65/77)

Subject: The North Sea oil disaster

In connection with the oil disaster at the BRAVO platform in the Norwegian EKOFISK oilfield in the North Sea, experts have stated that safety measures at oil rigs in the North Sea are inadequate. Does the Council share this view and will it if necessary call on the Commission to draw up a proposal for a directive on safety measures at oil rigs in Community waters?

