

European Communities

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ORAL QUESTIONS

Pursuant to Rule 47A of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 14 and 15 December 1976 (*)

(*) In accordance with Article 47 A, paragraph 5 of the Rules of Procedure, questions addressed to the Council and to the Conference of Ministers for Foreign Affairs will be dealt with at the beginning of Question Time on 15th December 1976.

EXTRACT OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

Rule 47A

1. Question Time shall be held normally on the second and third sitting day of each part-session of Parliament, and shall in each case not exceed one and a half hours.

2. Questions shall be submitted in writing to the President, who shall decide whether they are admissible; he shall determine the order in which they will be taken, and how they will be grouped.

The questioner shall be notified immediately of the President's decision.

3. During Question Time any Member may put oral questions to the Commission or Council, in accordance with the provisions of this Rule.

4. Questions may be put to the Conference of Foreign Ministers under the same conditions as laid down in this Rule for questions to the Council.

5. Questions put to the Council and the Conference of Foreign Ministers shall be taken first on the second day of Question Time.

6. At each part-session, any Member may put only one question respectively to the Commission, the Council, and the Conference of Foreign Ministers.

7. The procedure for the conduct of Question Time shall be governed by guidelines.



'GUIDELINES FOR THE CONDUCT OF QUESTION TIME
UNDER RULE 47A

1. Questions shall be admissible only where they
 - are concise and are drafted so as to permit a brief answer to be given;
 - fall within the competence and sphere of responsibility of the Commission, the Council, or the Conference of Foreign Ministers, and are of general interest;
 - do not require extensive prior study or research by the institution concerned;
 - are clearly worded and relate to specific matters;

 - do not contain assertions or opinions;
 - do not relate to strictly personal matters;
 - are not aimed at procuring documents or statistical information;
 - are interrogatory in form.

2. Questions shall not be accepted for Question Time at any part-session if the agenda already provides for the subject to be discussed with the participation of the institution concerned.

3. Should the President decide that the question is inadmissible, the questioner may challenge the decision, in which case it shall be for the enlarged Bureau to rule on the matter. This ruling shall be notified immediately to the questioner.

Supplementary Questions

4. Each Member may put only one supplementary question to each question at Question Time.

5. Supplementary questions shall be subject to the rules of admissibility laid down in these Guidelines.

6. (1) The President shall rule on the admissibility of supplementary questions and shall limit their number so that each Member who has put down a question may receive an answer to it and so as to afford an opportunity for a debate on request to be demanded on the answer given to any question or supplementary question.

(2) The President shall not be obliged to declare a supplementary question admissible, even where it satisfies the foregoing conditions of admissibility -

- (a) if it is likely to upset the normal conduct of Question Time, or
- (b) if the main question to which it relates has already been adequately covered by other supplementary questions, or
- (c) if it has no direct bearing on the main question.

7. The institution concerned shall ensure that answers are concise and are relevant to the subject of the question.

8.* If the content of the questions concerned permits it, the President may decide, after consulting the Members in charge of the questions, that the Institution concerned should answer them together.

Answers to questions

9. A question 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.

10. If neither the questioner nor his substitute is present, the question shall be answered in writing by the Institution concerned, and published in the Report of Proceedings.

11. The same procedure shall be applied to questions that remain unanswered for lack of time, unless the questioner withdraws his question before Question Time is over or asks that the question be deferred until the next Question Time.

12. Answers in writing shall be governed by Rule 45(2), (3) of the Rules of Procedure.

Time limits

13. (1) Questions shall be tabled at least one week before Question Time begins. Questions not tabled within this time limit may be taken during Question Time with the consent of the Institution concerned.
- (2) Questions declared to be admissible shall be distributed to Members of the European Parliament and forwarded to the Institutions concerned.'

* This paragraph derives from para. 24 of the Extract from the Bureau meeting, 23-25 June 1975 (PE 41.441/BUR)

1. Question by Mr BERKHOUWER (H-168/76)

Subject: Thefts of European art treasures

At present there exists in the EEC an extensive and well-organized gang of criminals which specializes in the theft of European art treasures from museums, churches, etc., and which is apparently described in a report to the Commission by Mr Jean Chatelain. Will the Commission make this report public and take steps to ensure effective joint action to combat these art thefts?

2. Question by Mr SANDRI (H-169/76)

Subject: Personal dossiers on Community officials

Does not the Commission feel that the recent opening, once again, of personal dossiers on Community officials on the basis of a questionnaire containing inadmissible questions concerning their political opinions and their private lives is in sharp contrast with the democratic principles embodied in the Treaties establishing the European Communities?

3. Question by Sir Brandon RHYS WILLIAMS (H-172/76)

Subject : European standard car for disabled persons

Will the Commission encourage the production of a European standard car for disabled persons ?

4. Question by Mrs DUNWOODY (H-182/76)

Subject: Failure to implement Community Directives in Member States

Will the Commission now provide Parliament with a list of those Directives whose implementation has been seriously delayed by Member States, so that Parliament can judge the efficacy of the Commission's control procedures in this field?

5. Question by Mr CIFARELLI (H-188/76)

Subject: Euro-Arab dialogue

Could the Commission specify in which area it would like to see agreement reached at the next meeting in Tunis of the International Commission for the Euro-Arab dialogue.

6. Question by Mr GERLACH (H-189/76)

Subject: Stabilization fund for eggs and poultry

Does the Commission intend to submit to the Council a proposal for a directive or regulation for setting up a stabilization fund for eggs and poultry along the lines of the scheme introduced in the Federal Republic of Germany?

7. Question by Mr ALBERS (H-192/76)

Subject : Joint position on airline services

What action does the Commission plan to take with regard to the possibility of the Member States adopting a joint position on airline services in order to avoid unfair competition on the part of third countries ?

8. Question by Mr LAGORCE (H-196/76)

Subject: Pollution of the sea by oil

We appear to be particularly defenceless against pollution of the sea by oil, especially when oil is washed ashore from damaged oil tankers as has happened on several occasions and again only recently off the French coast. Does not the Commission feel that a generously financed European fund could be set up for researching, testing and applying more effective techniques than those at present available for fighting this kind of pollution?

9. Question by Mr EVANS (H-197/76)

Subject : Aid from the Regional Development Fund to Friuli

Would the Commission say whether, in respect of aid from the Regional Development Fund to Friuli, all the applications have been received; how quickly they have been processed and approved; and whether any payments have so far been made ?

10. Question by Mr de la MALÈNE (H-200/76)

Subject: Renewal of the Computer Centre's data-processing equipment

Can the Commission state the reasons for its choice of ICL machines for the renewal of the Computer Centre's data-processing equipment?

11. Question by Mr NOE' (H-201/76)

Subject: Reform of the Social Fund

Since the Council is due to discuss the reform of the European Social Fund in 1977, does not the Commission feel that this would be an appropriate time to propose that the Fund should concentrate its financing on certain fundamental problems, so that it is not spread too thinly as at present, and in particular, does it not believe that the Fund should, as a matter of priority, deal not only with problems of unemployment but also with those of under-employment and particularly the problems of workers who although they have not been dismissed by their firms, have been laid off and therefore need help for retraining, income support and mobility incentives?

12. Question by Mr ELLIS (H-202/76)

Subject : Information policy for the United Kingdom

What are the aims of the Commission's information policy for the United Kingdom ?

13. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-204/76)

Subject : Green pound

Does the refusal of the British Government to realign the green pound constitute a breach of Article 40 of the EEC Treaty?

14. Question by Mrs KELLETT-BOWMAN (H-205/76)

Subject : Advanced dike at the North Sea coast

Does the Commission agree that there is an urgent and appropriate need for Community financial support to the joint German-Danish

project for building an advanced dike at the North Sea coast of Southern Jutland to protect the more than 50,000 Community residents who have their homes there and support the economic development of the region?

15. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-206/76)

Subject : Community system of guaranteed incomes for workers during re-training

When does the Commission expect to be in a position to present proposals on a Community system of guaranteed incomes for workers during re-training, and on what lines does it intend to continue its work in this connection?

16. Question by Mr COINTAT (H-193/76)

Subject: Difficulties in making budgetary estimates in agriculture

The latest Commission report on agricultural accounts demonstrates the difficulties of making budgetary estimates in what is, after all, a vital sector of the economy. What does the Commission intend to do to make its forecasting methods more reliable?

17. Question by Mr HAMILTON (H-194/76)

Subject : The UK Economy

What proposals has the Commission in mind for resolving the problems arising from the status of the £ sterling as a reserve currency and what statistics are available showing whether the UK is a net contributor or recipient of EEC funds ?

18. Question by Mr BETTIZA (H-207/76)

Subject: Creation of a free zone

Having regard to the economic and political pressures currently being exerted on Yugoslavia, does the Commission consider it possible for that country to be linked with the territory of the Community, through Italy, by expressing a favourable opinion on the free zone between the two countries provided for by the Osimo agreement now before the Italian Parliament for ratification?

19. Question by Mr DELMOTTE (H-209/76)

Subject: Summit meeting on economic problems to be held in Japan

If, as reported in the press, a meeting is held in Japan to discuss economic problems, will the Commission ensure that the Community as such is represented at this meeting and puts forward its own position?

20. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-211/76)

Subject : Community's oil refining capacity

When will the Commission publish an interim report from the Special Working Party of its Energy Committee studying the present problems due to overcapacity in the oil refining industry in the Community and its probable duration at 20-30 % above demand until 1980-1982, and how does the Commission intend to keep Parliament informed of progress at Community level?

21. Question by Mr YEATS (H-215/76)

Subject : Wage discrimination against women workers

Noting the recent declaration by the European Trade Union Confederation that wage discrimination against women workers is still flagrant in Ireland, will the Commission as a matter of urgency take steps to insure that the provisions of the equal pay Directive are adequately observed in that Member State ?

27. Question by Mr DYKES (H-213/76)

Subject : Role of Sterling

Following on from the negotiations between the IMF and the United Kingdom Government, what consideration is being given to a Community scheme for dealing with the Sterling balances ?

28. Question by Mr ADAMS (H-217/76)

Subject : European Trade Union Institute

What is the Council's position in relation to the setting-up of the European Trade Union Institute ?

QUESTIONS TO THE CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF
THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

29. Question by Mr BLUMENFELD (H-191/76)

Subject: Common stance of the EC countries at the UN

How does the Conference view the Danish Government's attitude in the UN debate on South Africa of 10 November 1976 when Denmark voted in favour of a resolution containing criticisms of Community Member States (arms sales to South Africa)? Does it not consider the Danish vote as a serious blow to political cooperation between the EC countries?

