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ORAL QUESTIONS

Pursuant to Rule 47a of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 14 and 15 June 1977

PE 48.988

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1. 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?

2. Question by Mr HAMILTON (H-88/77)

Subject: Equal pay in the EEC

Is the Commission satisfied with the progress made in the implementation of the principle of equal pay within the Community; and if not, what further initiatives are proposed?

3. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-90/77)

Subject: Consultations between the EEC and the USA

What has been the American response to the Commission's recent proposal for six-monthly consultations on the problem of steel similar to those already arranged notably with Japan and what answer does it intend to give to the United States' proposal for the creation of an 'ad hoc' committee within the framework of the OECD?

4. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-91/77)

Subject : Disappearance of 200 tons of uranium

In the light of the debate on Tuesday, 10 May 1977 on the disappearance of 200 tons of uranium, how does the Commission propose to implement Commissioner Brunner's offer of giving confidential information in future "situations" to representatives of the European Parliament?

5. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-106/77)

Subject : Security of Uranium and allied Materials

Following the reported loss of 200 tonnes of uranium oxide in transit from Antwerp to Genoa in 1968, and Commissioner Brunner's statement that the lessons learned had been applied, will the Commission confirm that no further losses of uranium oxide and other fissile material have occurred in the European Community since that date?

6. Question by Mr CORRIE (H-96/77)

Subject : European Community's Oil Rig capability

A lack of orders is leading to the closure of yards specialising in the construction of oil platforms. In view of the need for Member States to sustain oil exploration and extraction in the Communities' territorial waters, what consultations are in progress among Commission officials, oil exploration companies and the Governments' of Member States in order to maintain the design and construction capability for oil platforms in the European Community?

7. Question by Mr NOE' (H-98/77)

Subject: Unemployment among young people

Does the Commission not consider that the adoption by all Member States of simple regulations regarding the engagement of employees is needed in order to help to ease the problem of unemployment among young people since present procedures in fact make it more difficult for young people to get their first jobs?

8. Question by Mr ELLIS (H-99/77)

Subject : New sources of coal

What steps have the Commission taken to secure new sources of coal from outside the Community on a commercial basis?

9. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-101/77)

Subject : Delegation of Responsibility for Agriculture

Does the Commission consider that the time is now ripe for the delegation of responsibility for the day to day management of the principal agricultural sectors to production and marketing organisations composed of farmers, traders and consumers who have a close professional and practical knowledge of each sector?

10. Question by Mrs KELLETT-BOWMAN (H-102/77)

Subject : Discrimination based on sex

Is the Commission aware of the fact that the discrimination based on sex within existing laws of the Member States concerning citizenship by descent prevent many women from taking employment outside their country, and does it agree that such discrimination runs counter to the principles of freedom of movement for workers and non-discrimination on basis of sex in the EEC-Treaty?

11. Question by Mr ALBERS (H-104/77)

Subject : European Laying-up Fund for Inland Waterway Vessels

Now that the Court has found that certain aspects of the draft Agreement with Switzerland to set up the Fund are incompatible with the Treaty, what action does it intend to take to produce a new draft agreement, and to prevent the problem of surplus capacity in the inland waterway sector, becoming even more difficult to overcome?

12. Question by Mr DONDELINGER (H-107/77)

Subject: Removal of the Information Office of the Communities from Santiago, Chile.

After the general ban on all democratic parties announced by the Chilean neo-Nazi junta, and the stepping up of the repression denounced by Amnesty International, is the Commission at last prepared to move its information office from Santiago, Chile, to the capital of a democratic South American country and to send home the Junta's ambassador to the European Communities?

13. Question by Mrs DUNWOODY (H-108/77)

Subject : Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation

Did the Commission make any preliminary inquiries into the Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation before granting it a subsidy in 1975, and does it intend to refrain from granting any further subsidy?

14. Question by Mr BROWN (H-110/77)

Subject : Control of nuclear waste

What machinery exists within the Community for monitoring the amount of nuclear waste produced throughout Member States and for controlling its disposal and will the Commission, on behalf of Euratom, undertake to hold regular meetings with the Committee on Energy and Research to discuss the balance sheet of nuclear waste produced and disposed of and the reasons for any imbalance?

15. Question by Mr. EVANS (H-112/77)

Subject: Beet Sugar Harvest

What is the current estimate of this year's beet sugar harvest throughout the Community and how does it compare with the actual beet sugar harvest for the previous five years?

16. Question by Mr LIOGIER (H-114/77)

Subject: European policy on viticulture

In order to consolidate the European policy on viticulture by improving quality, does the Commission intend to propose a ban on the blending of wines produced in different regions?

17. Question by Mr PINTAT (H-117/77)

Subject: The future of breeder reactors

Does the Commission consider that the Member States should continue to develop the technology of breeder reactors and, if so, does it also consider it necessary for Europe to continue building nuclear waste reprocessing plants?

18. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-125/77)

Subject: Dumping

Is the Commission satisfied that it has adequate powers, and is given sufficient assistance, both to prove dumping and to take adequate action to protect Community industries which have been severely affected by dumping from third countries?

19. Question by Mr ZYWIETZ (H-126/77)

Subject: Community statistics

How does the Commission explain the fact that in some cases Community statistics greatly exceed the scope of national surveys?

20. Question by Mr BANGEMANN (H-127/77)

Subject: International tourist traffic

In view of the impending summer travel build-up, what early steps does the Commission intend to take to facilitate international tourist traffic within the European Communities?

21. Question by Mr. SHAW (H-128/77)

Subject: Qualified accountants

When does the Commission intend to publish its draft directive establishing transitional measures for freedom of establishment and freedom to provide services for all activities in the financial, economic and accounting sector (except statutory audits), to give qualified accountants the freedom to practice throughout the Community?

22. Question by Sir WALKER-SMITH (H-131/77)

Subject: Article 100 of the E.E.C. Treaty

To ask what criteria are applied by the Commission in assessing whether draft Directives for the approximation of laws satisfy the requirements of Article 100 of the E.E.C. Treaty; and whether the Commission will make a statement to clarify the position?

23. Question by Mr LAGORCE (H-132/77)

Subject: Conservation of water resources

According to certain press reports, the considerable increase in consumption and wastage of water, especially drinking water, has led the Commission to decide to draw up a 'European Water Plan' to conserve the Community's water resources. Could the Commission give details at this stage and say how far the project has progressed.

24. Question by Mrs EWING (H-135/77)

Subject: Pig Producers

In view of the disastrous situation facing the British pig-producing industry, particularly in Scotland, owing to a dramatic increase in the cost of feed of over 35 % last year, and the very serious competition suffered from several countries through the operation of Monetary Compensatory Amounts, what measures does the Commission intend to take to alleviate the situation?

25. Question by Mr SPICER (H-136/77)

Subject: Notional recipes for processed products

Are there any plans to update the regulation listing the notional recipes for processed products in view of the fact that the original Regulation No 1060/67 (1) has been amended by Regulation No 1231/70 which has never been printed in English?

(1) OJ No L141, p7

26. Question by Mr SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-137/77)

Subject: Mcas on processed products

Following the adoption of Regulation No 800/77, 1) amended by Regulation No 1051/77, 2) expanding the scope of Mcas on processed products, can the Commission please state whether it will make provision, where necessary, to exclude from the scope of Mcas any product being sold under contract in existence before April 20th 1977; or make some provision to help those manufacturers who have long-term contracts for the constituent product which make the processed product and where they could now buy these products under processed inwards relief?

1) O.J. L 97 - 21.4.1977

2) O.J. L 125 - 19.5.1977

27. Question by Mrs WALZ (H-138/77)

Subject: Freezing of appropriations for the Joint Research Centre (JRC)

Is it true that despite the Council's adoption on 29 March 1977, of the multi-annual research programme for 1977-1980, the JRC's budgetary appropriations for 1977 remain frozen, and if so, why?

28. Question by Mr PATIJN (H-140/77)

Subject : E.E.C. - India relations

Following a recent visit of Mr. Haferkamp to India, will the Commission state how it now views the future development of E.E.C. - India relations, particularly as regards the strengthening of the Commercial Cooperation Agreement mentioned by Mr. Haferkamp in his speech in New Delhi on 14 May 1977?

29. Question by Sir Brandon RHYS WILLIAMS (H-143/77)

Subject : Creation of a united community capital market

What steps will the Commission now propose for the creation of a united community capital market with a view to bringing about a closer alignment of the interest rates charged for comparable loans in the Community's main financial centres?

30. Question by Mr HAMILTON (H-89/77)

Subject : Permanent seat for European Parliament

Does the Council appreciate that the European Parliament cannot operate efficiently as long as it has a nomadic existence; that urgent consideration should therefore be given to this problem with a view to arriving at a decision before direct elections take place.

31. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-97/77)

Subject : Security and physical protection of nuclear installations and materials

To ask the Council on what grounds they have rejected the proposals put to them, outlined by Commissioner Brunner to Parliament on 10th May 1977, by the Commission to get common norms approved for the security and physical protection of nuclear installations and materials.

32. Question by Mr EDWARDS (H-130/77)

Subject: Safeguarding of nuclear fissile materials in transport

Why has the Council not acceded to the Commission's proposals for the improved safeguarding of nuclear fissile materials in transport?

33. Question by Mrs KELLETT-BOWMAN (H-103/77)

Subject : Discrimination based on sex

Is the Council aware of the fact that the discrimination based on sex within existing laws of the Member States concerning citizenship by descent prevent many women from taking employment outside their country, and does it agree that such discrimination runs counter to the principles of freedom of movement for workers and non-discrimination on basis of sex in the EEC-Treaty?

34. Question by Lord BESSBOROUGH (H-109/77)

Subject : Use of Coal

What steps are the Council taking to implement the Commission's proposal to promote the use of coal in electricity generation?

35. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-113/77)

Subject: Harmonization of VAT

Having adopted the Sixth Directive harmonizing the basis of assessment of VAT, does the Council propose to review the Financial Regulation as soon as possible so that the Directive may be implemented at an early date?

36. Question by Mr Tom NORMANTON (H-116/77)

Subject: The Community's Industrial and Technological
Defence Capability

What steps will the Council be taking to implement the aim of the recent NATO Ministerial meeting "to achieve the most effective use of available resources and to preserve and promote the strong industrial and technological (defence) capability" and to review in the appropriate fora the means of deepening cooperation?

37. Question by Mr ZAGARI (H-120/77)

Subject: Leeds Castle Conference

Was the meeting at Leeds Castle a meeting of the Council, or was it taking place under the aegis of political cooperation?

38. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-121/77)

Subject: Leeds Castle Conference

What subjects were discussed during the Conference, and what was the outcome of the discussions?

39. Question by Mr FELLERMAIER (H-122/77)

Subject: Leeds Castle Conference

Is it true that the Ministers reached agreement on the need to slow down the process of Community enlargement, and on the advisability of reforming the Community Institutions, before admitting new members?

40. Question by Mr MITCHELL (H-123/77)

Subject: Leeds Castle Conference

Might not the issue of a communiqué at the end of the Conference have helped to prevent unverifiable speculation by the media, as well as the foreseeable reactions of the applicant States?

41. Question by Mr PRESCOTT (H-124/77)

Subject: Leeds Castle Conference

Are the Foreign Ministers or the Council prepared to inform Parliament, or at least its Political Affairs Committee, of the outcome of the Leeds Castle Conference?

42. Question by Mr SHAW (H-129/77)

Subject: Agricultural Council meeting - 16/17 May 1977

Will the Council explain the scope of the remarks made to Mr Tugendhat, by Members at the Agricultural Council meeting on 16/17 May, and the reasons underlying them?

43. Question by Mrs EWING (H-134/77)

Subject: Conservation of fish stocks

In view of the catastrophic state of stocks revealed by the Commission's scientific report, will the Council adopt a total ban on herring fishing at its special meeting on fishing on 27th June, 1977?

44. Question by Mrs WALZ (H-139/77)

Subject: Freezing of appropriations for the Joint Research Centre (JRC)

Is it true that despite the Council's adoption on 29 March 1977, of the multi-annual research programme for 1977-1980, the JRC's budgetary appropriations for 1977 remain frozen, and if so, why?

45. Question by Sir Brandon RHYS-WILLIAMS (H-144/77)

Subject: Harmonisation of community currency policies

What action will the Council now take in response to the proposals for harmonisation of community currency policies proposed by Mr Duisenberg?

46. Question by Lord St. OSWALD (H-106/77)

Subject : Status of the Government in Exile of Mozambique

Is it to be understood as the view of the Foreign Ministers, construed from their answer to the Supplementary Question to Question No. 31 on the 20th April 1977 (1) that conditions, however repressive within a particular country, are totally unrelated to the existence or standing of a Government in Exile truly representative of that country, and that the Foreign Ministers fully approve of the present regime of Samora Machel in Mozambique, and regard that regime as adequately representative of the people of Mozambique, despite the fact that no free election or referendum has been held, or is proposed for the foreseeable future, in the territory?

(1) Debates of the EP of 20.4.1977, p. 128 (provisional edition)

47. Question by Mr CORRIE (H-105/77)

Subject : Status of Resistance Movements

Arising from the Ministers' answer to Question No. 32 of 20th April 1977 (1), could the Foreign Ministers provide, for the guidance of this Parliament, to be published in the provisional edition of today's Report of Proceedings, a written list of those organisations in Africa, operating in exile due to political disagreement with the controlling authority in their own country, which are seriously considered as major political forces, worthy of being admitted to international discussions?

(1) Debates of the EP of 20.4.1977, p. 130 (provisional edition)

48. Question by Mrs EWING (H-133/77)

Subject: Soviet Jews

To ask the Foreign Ministers whether, in the light of the clearly expressed views of this Parliament, they were able to adopt a common attitude at the Belgrade Conference, with a view to defending individual human rights in general and the right of the individual to leave his or her country if he or she chooses to do so, and with particular reference to the position of Soviet Jews?

49. Question by Mr DURIEUX (H-141/1977)

Subject : North-South dialogue

Following the Paris Conference on international economic cooperation which failed to reach agreement on several outstanding problems, in particular that of energy, what steps do the foreign ministers intend to take to pursue the dialogue between the industrialized and developing countries in order to create in the near future a 'new world economic order'?

50. Question by Mr CIFARELLI (H-142/77)

Subject : Democratic government in the nine Member States

Is there any truth in the press reports that certain foreign ministers declared at Leeds that it was inconceivable for a country which ceased to be governed in a democratic manner to remain in the Community? If so, will the foreign ministers indicate the specific grounds on which this position was based?