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Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTION (0-74/74)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

by Mr GLINNE, Mr DONDELINGER, Mr CIFARELLI, Mr BROEKSZ,
Mr SEEFELD and Mr LEENHARDT

on behalf of the Socialist Group

to the Council of the European Communities

Subject: The deplorable failure of the Community to adopt a
common position at the UN vote on the Charter of
Economic Rights and Duties of States

Since the third UNCTAD conference a working party has endeavoured, at several meetings, to draw up a proposal for a draft 'Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States', comparable in importance to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Pursuant to Resolution 3082 (XXVIII) of the UN General Assembly, the above working party prepared a final draft which has recently been adopted by the United Nations.

Having regard to Articles 113 and 116 of the Treaty of Rome and the 'informal consultations' which have taken place, will the Council answer the following questions:

1. How is it that a Community position could not be defined in good time, i.e. before the vote on this Charter?

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2. How is it that the votes of the Nine differed so widely?
3. Can the 'good conduct code' for private investments to be agreed between the EEC and the ACP, compensate for the failure of the EEC and the ACP to reach an agreement at New York?
4. What is the Council's position on the disputed questions in the Charter, namely:
 - the sovereignty of the developing countries over their natural resources;
 - non-discrimination and the granting of most-favoured-nation status;
 - regular supplies of raw materials;
 - price indexing for primary commodities;
 - preferences, in addition to those relating to trade, to be granted to the Third World;