

European Communities

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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

1979 - 1980

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24 September 1979

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## Oral Questions

**Pursuant to Rule 47a of the Rules of Procedure**

**for QUESTION TIME**

**on 25, 26 and 27 September 1979**

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 Tuesday 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.

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QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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1. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-58/79)

Subject : President's engagements for the next three months?

What are the President's engagements for the next three months?

2. Question by Mr PONCELET (H-62/79)

Subject: Threats to the textile industry in Europe

The failure to respect quota agreements on the principal textile products, together with illegal or even fraudulent practices both within and outside the Community, is extremely prejudicial to the Community textile industry and jeopardizes activities in many regions.

What steps does the Commission intend to take to remedy the situation?

3. Question by Miss QUIN (H-64/79)

Subject : Implementation of the directive on the inspection of  
meat and meat products

What are the results of the Commission's investigations into the qualifications of non-veterinary personnel involved in food hygiene control in premises used for the manufacture of meat products ?

4. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-65/79)

Subject: Identity checks at the Community's internal frontiers

Does the Commission think that the tighter and in some cases systematic identity controls imposed by certain Member States on persons entering and leaving the country are consistent with agreements to confine controls at the Community's internal frontiers to spot checks? Has the Commission protested to the Member States about the long queues of tourist vehicles at some frontier crossing points this summer, and what does it think can be done in the longer term to prevent tighter identity controls from nullifying the progress made in the control of goods taken into or out of the country by travellers?

5. Question by Mr FERGUSSON (H-67/79)

Subject : Dumping of mechanical alarm clocks manufactured  
in Eastern Europe

Will the Commission take the necessary anti-dumping measures to protect those undertakings (such as Westclox in the United Kingdom) currently threatened by large-scale imports of low-priced mechanical alarm clocks manufactured in Eastern Europe?

6. Question by Mr Robert JACKSON (H-68/79)

Subject : Oak Wilt

In view of the devastation caused by Dutch Elm Disease, what action does the Commission propose to take to protect the Community from the risk of oak wilt disease, which may be carried by imported timber?

7. Question by Mr SPICER (H-69/79)

Subject : Wholemilk biscuits

What information does the Commission have about the production of wholemilk biscuits in New Zealand, and what are its views on developing a similar product in the Community?

8. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-70/79)

Subject: Telegram by Mr Cheysson to Mr Nkomo

In view of the telegram of support sent in April 1979 by Commissioner Cheysson to Mr Joshua Nkomo, following the raid by troops of Rhodesia-Zimbabwe on the latter's home, will the Commission now adopt new guidelines regarding the public expression of political opinions by Commissioners on matters of general interest to individuals in countries outside the Community?

9. Question by Mr VAN AERSEN (H-61/79)

Subject: Community energy conservation programme

In its report of 21 June 1979 on the Community energy conservation programme the Commission recommends that in their outline for a basic energy conservation programme the Member States should, in the matter of pricing, maintain their current policy of taxing energy or even raise the taxes (see Annex 3A).

Does the Commission believe that its recommendation for an 'energy tax' will make for a more dynamic Community economic policy even during periods of declining economic growth (cyclical downturns), particularly as in many sectors of the economy (e.g. the iron and steel industry, the car industry, etc.,) energy is a primary cost factor?

10. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-73/79)

Subject: Operation of the European Monetary System

What initial conclusions does the Commission draw from the present operation of the European Monetary System?

Can it indicate the currencies in which the main interventions have taken place? What difficulties have arisen and how can they be remedied?

11. Question by Mr BALFOUR (H-74/79)

Subject: Energy Conservation Month - October 1979

Would the Commission report on its preparations for the Energy Conservation Month - October 1979 - agreed by the Ministerial Council of the International Energy Agency, 22 May 1979?

12. Question by Mrs DESMOND (H-75/79)

Subject: Aid for pottery industry

What means has the Commission at its disposal to provide aid for small traditional industries such as Carrigaline Potteries, Co. Cork, whose closure would have serious repercussions on employment especially in lesser developed regions?

13. Question by Mr O'CONNELL (H-76/79)

Subject: Community programme for the rehabilitation of the handicapped

What progress has been made so far in the implementation of the first Community action programme for the rehabilitation of the handicapped?

14. Question by Mrs CLWYD (H-77/79)

Subject: French restrictions on sheep and lamb imports from the UK

Why has the European Court delayed reaching a verdict on a case of vital interest to Welsh farmers - that of French restrictions on sheep and lamb imports from the UK?

15. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-78/79)

Subject: Child labour in the Community

Can the Commission state how many Community Member States have ratified the ILO Minimum Age Convention 1973 (No. 138); does it intend to propose its ratification by the Community as a whole, and what measures does it intend to propose to ensure the complete elimination of child labour in any form from the Community?

16. Question by Miss BROOKES (H-79/79)

Subject: Restrictions on heavy lorry permits for  
trans-frontier travel

What action is the Commission taking to reduce restrictions  
on heavy lorry permits for trans-frontier travel between  
Member States?

17. Question by Mr SEAL (H-82/79)

Subject: Textiles

The agreement to allow China to increase its textile exports  
to 40,000 tons/year to the EEC has recently been initialled.

How many jobs in textiles will be lost in Britain because of  
this agreement?

18. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-83/79)

Subject: Subsidies granted to Italian emigrants' associations  
on the occasion of the European elections

Would the Commission provide data on the subsidies granted to  
Italian emigrants' associations in the Community countries  
in order to stimulate their interest in direct elections to  
the European Parliament and the criteria used for granting them?

19. Question by Mr COTTRELL (H-84/79)

Subject: Transportation link between the mainland of Europe  
and Great Britain

Will the Commission make a statement on the desirability of linking  
the mainland of Europe and Great Britain with a fixed permanent  
transportation link, such as a railway tunnel, and whether this  
would be a suitable project for Community financing?

20. Question by Sir Peter VANNECK (H-86/79)

Subject : Community Energy Policy and China

Noting the decision of the Government of China not to proceed with the purchase of French manufactured nuclear reactors and having regard to the potential of China as a supplier of energy carriers to the world, what consideration is the Commission giving together with the Community's Chinese partners to the establishment of a working party on energy, within the terms of the EEC-China Trade Agreement?

21. Question by Mr BETTIZA (H-87/79)

Subject: Vote for emigrants in local elections

Can the Commission confirm that it intends to request the Member States to grant migrant workers the right to vote in local elections as from 1981, and can it give details of the legal nature of the document envisaged (recommendation, directive) and of the implementing procedure?

22. Question by Lady ELLES (H-88/79)

Subject : Parking concessions for the disabled exist throughout the Member States

Can the Commission state whether parking concessions for the disabled exist throughout the Member States and if not, what action will the Commission take to achieve this desirable objective?

23. Question by Lord O'HAGAN (H-89/79)

Subject : Oak Wilt

What steps has the Commission taken in order to prevent the introduction of oak wilt into the European Community?



24. Question by Mr RUFFOLO (H-91/79)

Subject : economic convergence

How does the Commission intend to keep Parliament fully informed of the contents of the report which it is drafting for the Council on convergence of the Member States' economies?

25. Question by Mrs WIECZOREK-ZEUL (H-92/79)

Subject : Code of Conduct for companies with subsidiaries, branches or representation in South Africa

Has the Commission now received the reports from the Member States concerning compliance with the 'Code of Conduct for companies with subsidiaries, branches or representation in South Africa' adopted by the Council of Ministers on 20 September 1979? If so, do they contain any specific information, such as a list of individual companies, that would help to identify those firms that have failed to submit a report and what action does the Commission propose to take?

26. Question by Mrs EWING (H-101/79)

Subject : Mining and disposal of nuclear material

Will the Commission disclose what recommendations they have made or intend to make with regard to the disposal of nuclear waste in hard rock sites in the United Kingdom and with regard to the proposed mining for uranium in the Highlands and Islands constituency, and will they comment on the attitude of the local inhabitants to any such proposed disposal or mining?

27. Question by Mrs WALZ (H-105/79)

Subject: Approval of the UK-Australia uranium agreement

On what legal and political grounds has the Commission modified its attitude, which was based on the EEC Treaty and rulings of the European Court of Justice, in the matter of approval of the UK-Australia uranium agreement, thus creating a precedent with unforeseeable consequences?

28. Question by Mr FRUH (H-108/79)

Subject: Competition in the poultry sector

What are the Commission's views on the position of the poultry sector in the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands?

What steps can it take to reduce the distortions of competition in this sector?

29. Question by Mr O'LEARY (H-109/79)

Subject : Transport policy and traffic congestion in large cities

In the framework of its transport policy proposals, will the Commission study the problem of traffic congestion in large cities with a view to making proposals, and providing aid towards a solution to the problem, consistent with environmental considerations and the wishes of the citizens?

30. Question by Mr CLINTON (H-112/79)

Subject : Imports of New Zealand dairy products

Would the Commission say what undertakings were given to New Zealand, on access of their dairy products to the Community, by the Commission before the meeting of the Council of Ministers which decided on this matter ?

Would the Commission say what level of imports they foresee in the next four years ?

31. Question by Mr CURRY (H-113/79)

Subject : Management of agricultural markets

Given the successful operation of the hops market through the use of a mathematical model relating production, demand, stocks, area planted, yields and unitary utilisation of production on a world-wide and Community basis, what plans has the Commission to extend its use of mathematical model methods for further agricultural sectors to facilitate more effective planning of the Common Agricultural Policy ?

32. Question by Mrs CRESSON (H-115/79)

Subject: Community migrant workers

Can the Commission assure Parliament that the repatriation premiums introduced in certain Member States to encourage migrant workers to return to their country of origin have not been offered to Community migrant workers, in violation of the Treaties and the regulations on freedom of movement and freedom of establishment?

33. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-117/79)<sup>x</sup>

Subject: CAP share of Community budget

Will the Commission give its view on how the situation may be avoided where increases in expenditure on the common agricultural policy, arising from Council decisions on farm prices, may soon, in the absence of an increase in the Community's own resources, result in expenditure on non-agricultural policies being reduced or eliminated?

34. Question by Mrs CASTLE (H-120/79)<sup>xx</sup>

Subject : Export subsidies on butter

To ask the Commission whether it will draft a Resolution for submission to the Council of Ministers to amend Article 17, 1968, Regulation 804, to ensure that no export subsidies are paid on butter unless the Commission and the Parliament have approved the sale in advance.

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<sup>x</sup> This question will not be taken because of the budget debate fixed for Thursday, 27 September 1979

<sup>xx</sup> This question will not be taken if items 16 and 17 remain on the draft agenda

35. Question by Mr BLANEY (H-121/79)

Subject : Disadvantaged areas of Ireland

Will the Commission arrange for an urgent survey of the disadvantaged areas of Ireland, particularly the Western region, with the object of providing monies under the Social and Regional Development Funds for improving the appalling existing telephone system and inadequate roads network?

36. Question by Mr ADAM (H-122/79)

Subject : Supply of Community oil to South Africa

Does the Commission consider that the supply of Community oil to South Africa, either directly or indirectly by means of exchange transactions, does nothing to relieve the Community's dependence on oil imported from third countries?

37. Question by Mr CRONIN (H-123/79)

Subject : Promoting infrastructural investment projects  
in Ireland and the Community

Can the Commission provide details of investments made in Ireland and the other Member States following the Council decision<sup>1</sup> empowering the Commission to contract loans for the purpose of promoting investment projects in infrastructure and energy sectors in the Community, the first tranche of borrowings being worth 500 million EUA?

38. Question by Mr FLANAGAN (H-124/79)

Subject : Joint fact-finding mission by the Parliament's  
Regional Committee and the Commission to Ireland

Would the Commission agree to forming a delegation with the Parliament's new Regional Policy Committee for a fact-finding mission to both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, particularly in view of the need to reduce imbalances between the richer and poorer regions of the Community?

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<sup>1</sup>OJ L 125, 22.5.1979, pages 16 and 17

39. Question by Mr K. KIRK (H-125/79)

Subject: National aid to shipbuilding

The fourth directive on aid to shipbuilding requires the Commission to endeavour to limit and reduce state aid and to eliminate distortion of competition.

What will be the overall increase in state aid if the Commission's 'scrap and build' programme is adopted, and how can this programme fail to conflict with the policy set out in the fourth directive?

40. Question by Mr FELLERMAIER (H-126/79)

Subject: Customs declarations by travellers entering France in sleeping cars

Is the Commission prepared to use all means at its disposal to persuade the French Government to end the practice of asking travellers entering France in sleeping cars for a customs declaration on goods, valuables, and currency in their personal luggage?

In the instructions for completing the declaration form it is stated that:

'With the exception of personal and used items of clothing, all articles acquired by purchase or gift and of any nature are to be listed, especially new articles of clothing or furs, knitwear, lace, textiles, linen, glass, leather goods, carpets, articles of gold or silver, radio and television receivers, cigarettes and cigars, tobacco, foodstuffs, spirits, liquors, perfumes, pharmaceutical products, etc., whether or not they are being carried for commercial purposes'.

41. Question by Mr PAISLEY (H-127/79)

Subject : Safeguard of the textile industry

What steps has the Commission taken to safeguard the textile industry in the Community against polyester imports from the USA?

42. Question by Mr LALOR (H-131/79)

Subject: Energy crisis and increase in number of passengers carried by public transport

According to the Irish national transport company, CIE, the energy crisis has led to an increase in the number of people using public transport. Has a similar trend been noted in the other Member States' public transport services?

43. Question by Mr DAVERN (H-132/79)

Subject: Eradicating Cattle Diseases

How much aid by way of special premiums for eradicating cattle diseases has been granted to the Member States under FEOGA and how successful have these schemes been?

44. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-133/79)

Subject: Data-processing equipment

Could the Commission inform us what action it intends to take on the report on the provisional acceptance of data-processing equipment installed by the ICL company?

45. Question by Mr SPICER (H-57/79)

Subject : Raw Materials from the Republic of South Africa

Will the Council confirm that the Community will not impose any restrictions on imports of raw materials originating in the Republic of South Africa until reliable alternative sources for the same raw materials have been established and proved?

46. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-59/79)

Subject : President's engagements for the next three months

What are the President's engagements for the next three months?

47. Question by Mr VAN AERSEN (H-60/79)

Subject: Speed restrictions on private cars

The Community energy conservation programme advocated by the Council of Energy Ministers envisages the introduction of drastic speed limits on private cars in the Member States in the interests of fuel economy.

Has the Council carried out a comprehensive study of road traffic to ascertain exactly how much extra fuel will be consumed as a result of the systematic slowing down of traffic - i.e. traffic jams, more frequent gear changing and use of low gears - and does it not feel that, when the fuel saved with a speed limit of 100 km per hour is balanced against the extra consumption that is simultaneously generated, the actual saving achieved will bear no relation to the resulting inconvenience?

48. Question by Mr DEBRE (H-63/79)

Subject: A new Community trade policy

Does the Council not think that the new international economic conditions justify a change in the application of the Community's trade policy, and if so does it intend to ask the Commission to submit new proposals to this effect in the near future?

49. Question by Mr DONNEZ (H-66/79)

Subject: Introduction of a European public holiday

The eighth of May is known throughout the world as the date on which the reign of the Nazi dictatorship in Europe was brought to an end. Would it not be a good idea to make this day a European public holiday, to be observed in each of the Member States of the Community?

50. Question by Mr PONCELET (H-71/79)

Subject: EEC-China agreement on textile imports

Does not the Council agree that the Commission has exceeded the terms of its mandate for negotiations with China and that the overall ceilings for imports of Chinese textiles agreed to by Europe are not compatible with the EEC's position on the matter?

51. Question by Mr ANSQUER (H-72/79)

Subject: Market organization in potatoes

Does the Council intend to introduce an organization of the market in potatoes?

Is there not an urgent need for such organization now that the United Kingdom has introduced discriminatory measures, with effect from 1 July, against imports of new potatoes, especially from France and Italy?

52. Question by Lord DOURO (H-81/79)

Subject : Consultations with oil suppliers

Would the Council report on the first meeting with representatives of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries?



53. Question by Mr RUFFOLO (H-90/79)

Subject : economic convergence

What steps does the Council intend to take to ensure that Parliament is fully informed of the contents of the basic documentation prepared for the Council on the various instruments to promote convergence of the Member States' economies and also of the contents of the report which the Commission is drafting for the Council on this subject?

54. Question by Lord BETHELL (H-93/79)

Subject : Air fares in Europe

What action are the Council taking to implement the recommendations of the Commission's memorandum of 6 July 1979 on European air transport? Do they share the Commission's aim to achieve a wider application of cheap tariffs in inter-Community air travel?

55. Question by Mr PRAG (H-96/79)

Subject : Oil pollution in Community waters

Although the OILPOL international convention makes it illegal for ships to discharge oil in the English Channel, this convention is regularly infringed, largely because enforcement is inadequate and ineffective.

The only effective agreement systems appear to be based on supervision by adequate numbers of aircraft equipped with suitable photographic equipment.

As Community action in this field should prove less costly and more effective than separate action by the member states, and could be envisaged in the Mediterranean as well as the Channel, will the Council meeting in political cooperation take initiatives with a view to the establishment of effective Community control of this particularly objectionable form of pollution, and in particular the establishment of an effective Community anti-pollution force of suitably-equipped aircraft ?

56. Question by Mr O'CONNELL (H-97/79)

Subject : Consumer Protection

Does the Council agree that proposals from the Commission regarding consumer protection have been blocked by the Council and will it state the reasons for the delay in implementing these proposals in order to ensure that the second action programme of the European Community is more successful than the first one ?

57. Question by Mr MØLLER (H-100/79)

Subject : Workers/ co-ownership rights and 'economic democracy'

Does the Council agree, especially in view of Article 222 of the EEC Treaty, that the questions of workers' rights to co-ownership of undertakings and 'economic democracy' lie outside the scope of the EEC Treaty?

58. Question by Mrs EWING (H-102/79)

Subject : Fisheries policy

Will the Council make a statement on the progress made so far in their discussions on achieving a Common Fisheries Policy?

59. Question by Mr BERKHOUWER (H-104/79)

Subject : Passport Union

When will the Passport Union decided on at the end of 1974 finally come into being?

60. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-106/79)

Subject: Community Fisheries Policy

What initiatives does the President-in-Office intend to take to expedite the adoption of a Common Fisheries Policy during his period in office?

61. Question by Mr O'LEARY (H-110/79)

Subject : Co-operation between Council and the European Parliament

What measures will the President-in-Office of the Council propose to realize the intention he expressed in his speech on 19th July to the Parliament to establish and maintain co-operation between the Council of Ministers and the European Parliament?

62. Question by Mr BATTERSBY (H-114/79)

Subject : The Community's relations with China

What are the Council's views on the outcome of the Commission's recent negotiations in Peking for the implementation of the Community's Trade Agreement with China ?

63. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-118/79)<sup>x</sup>

Subject: CAP share of Community budget

Will the Council indicate how it intends that the situation be avoided where increases in expenditure on the common agricultural policy, arising from Council decisions on farm prices, may soon, in the absence of an increase in the Community's own resources, result in expenditure on non-agricultural policies being reduced or eliminated?

64. Question by Miss CLWYD (H-119/79)

Subject : Cost of meetings

Will the Council call on the Commission to draw up a report on the financial consequences of concentrating all meetings of all Community Institutions, and all staff of all institutions in one city ?

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<sup>x</sup> This question will not be taken because of the budget debate fixed for Thursday, 27 September 1979

65. Question by Mr LALOR (H-129/79)

Subject: Energy Conservation

As the Introduction of Summer Time would be a means of conserving energy in the Community, what progress has been made in reaching agreement among the Member States?

66. Question by Mr DAVERN (H-130/79)

Subject: Occupational training for persons engaged in Agriculture

Does the Council consider that the occupational training provided for persons engaged in agriculture under the terms of FEOGA has benefited the development of a modern agricultural economy in the Member States?

67. Question by Mrs EWING (H-103/79)

Subject : Food Aid and refugees

Will the Foreign Ministers acting in Cooperation take immediate steps to bind the Community to increase the scope of its Community Food Aid Programme and to assist those countries coping with large numbers of Vietnamese, Chinese and Cambodian refugees, as some camps are short of food with consequent human suffering, and will they also consider a Community Plan for the increased reception of refugees by each Member State to an extent commensurate with the size, population and wealth of the Community?

68. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-128/79)

Subject: Violation of human rights in Chile

In view of the persistent violations of human rights and the continuing repression in Chile (perpetrated by the military Junta to stifle any form of opposition), and in view of the total uncertainty about the fate of the thousands of people who have disappeared or have been imprisoned and of whom nothing has been heard for some time - a situation highlighted in the demonstrations held in Chile and in Europe on the anniversary of the bloody coup d'état in 1973 - what steps do the foreign ministers intend to take to further the restoration of democratic freedoms in Chile?

