

European Communities

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ORAL QUESTIONS

Pursuant to Rule 47a of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 11, 12 and 13 October 1977

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English Edition

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.

1. Question by Mr COUSTE' (H-202/77)

Subject: Negotiations between President Carter's representative and the Commission spokesmen

What are the Commission's views on the talks that have recently taken place between President Carter's special representative for trade negotiations, Mr Robert STRAUSS, and the spokesmen for the Commission of the European Communities, particularly as regards the prospects for the GATT negotiations, and is it true that the Commission and Mr Strauss have agreed that the negotiations should be speeded up and not slowed down?

2. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-207/77)

Subject: Green currency system

Is the Commission now in a position to outline its proposals on phasing out the green currency system following discussions with the Council and will the Commission now state by what date it is hoped that the green currency system will be eliminated?

3. Question by Mr CIFARELLI (H-182/77)

Subject: Production of a History of Europe for schools

Has the Commission considered producing a coordinated and comparative History of Europe for schools, the need for which has often been raised in Community discussions and is, particularly acute on the eve of elections by direct universal suffrage to the European Parliament, to help to put an end to the prejudiced and distorted picture of the history of the peoples of Europe held, in particular, by many young people in the Nine; if so, can the Commission indicate how far preparatory work has gone?

4. Question by Mr BLUMENFELD (H-262/77)

Subject: Customs remission on citrus fruit imports from Israel

Can the Commission state what steps have been taken to implement the customs remission on citrus fruit imports into the six original Member States which is at present 60% but which, in accordance with the promises made at the signing of the May 1975 agreement between the EEC and Israel, should, from October 1977, be brought into line with the 80% customs tariff reduction already in force in the United Kingdom, Ireland and Denmark?

5. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-228/77)

Subject : Tachographs

In view of the fact that the Commission's power to grant derogations to Member States in respect of Reg. 1463/70 ceases at the end of this year, what steps does the Commission intend to take, and when, to ensure that the UK and Ireland are no longer in breach of this Regulation?

6. Question by Mr L'ESTRANGE (H-248/77)

Subject : European Unit of Account

Is the Commission entirely satisfied that the introduction of the European Unit of Account at the present time will not cause difficulties in the implementation of the 1978 Budget, and in financial control and audit at a later stage?

7. Question by Mr HAMILTON (H-230/77)

Subject : Trade with Japan

Is the Commission aware that despite repeated representations to the Japanese Government, there has been an unremitting increase in imports of Japanese goods to the EEC, with little corresponding increase in European exports to Japan; and when does the Commission propose to recommend more forthright active measures against these developments?

8. Question by Lord BESSBOROUGH (H-235/77)

Subject : Community's relations with China

Would the Commission report on the progress made in drafting the framework and cooperation agreement between the European Community and the People's Republic of China.

9. Question by Mr SEEFELD (H-237/77)

Subject : Joint committees in the transport sector

What action has the Commission taken or plan to take to institute a system of joint committees of workers and employers in the transport sector?

10. Question by Mr VERONESI (H-239/77/rev.)

Subject: Protection of workers exposed to vinyl chloride monomers

Does the Commission not feel that it is failing to comply with the spirit of the Treaty of Rome on the improvement of the quality of life by disregarding the express wishes of the European Parliament on the protection of workers exposed to vinyl chloride monomers which, even in low concentrations, are known to be carcinogenic and for which the Commission has increased the technical long-term limit value to 3 ppm.?

11. Question by Mrs KELLETT-BOWMAN (H-244/77)

Subject : Medical treatment for self-employed

Can the Commission state what stage its consultations on social security provisions have reached with organisations representing the self-employed, and when it will submit a proposal to the Council for a regulation governing reciprocal medical treatment for the self-employed in the Community, given that in April 1977 Commissioner Vredeling stated that the Commission would submit a proposal "in the second half of this year." (1)?

12. Question by Mrs DAHLERUP (H-246/77)

Subject : The Commission's Women's Bureau

What progress has been made to date by the Women's Bureau in its work, and is the Commission satisfied that its staffing is adequate?

(1) Debates of the European Parliament No 216 (April 1977) p, 60

13. Question by Sir Geoffrey de FREITAS (H-204/77/rev.)

Subject : Travel by citizens of the Community

What is the Commission doing to facilitate travel by citizens of the Community between member countries of the Community?

14. Question by Mr BROWN (H-233/77)

Subject : Regional Policy

Does the Commissioner for Regional Affairs intend to visit the London Borough of Hackney and other inner London boroughs in the United Kingdom to assess the results of a regional policy that effectively removed industry from the area, thereby destroying industrial employment and apprenticeship opportunity for young persons?

15. Question by Mr BAAS (H-229/77)

Subject: Results of the survey of olive plantations in Italy

Can the Commission indicate the acreage of olive plantations in Italy in the light of the aerial survey conducted by the Commission in conjunction with the Joint Research Centre at Ispra?

16. Question by Mr NOE' (H-236/77)

Subject: Recruitment of young research workers at the JRC

Does not the Commission think that in view of the average age of research workers at the Joint Research Centre the recruitment of a reasonable number of young research workers would have a beneficial effect on the operation of the centre?

17. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-238/77)

Subject: Subsidies for organizations of European interest and participation in congresses and events

How were the appropriations of 153,600 u.a. set aside this year for subsidizing organizations of European interest and the 60,000 u.a. for participation in the organization of congresses and occasional events actually spent, and how is it intended to use the amounts (170,000 u.a. and 66,000 u.a.) earmarked for 1978 having regard to the fact that they are intended for direct or indirect participation in publicity for elections by direct universal suffrage?

18. Question by Mr MASCAGNI (H-240/77)

Subject: Information on the election of the European Parliament

How was the sum of 1 million u.a. made available to the Commission for activities in connection with information on the election of the European Parliament by universal suffrage spent this year and are there any plans regarding the type of information to be provided by means of the equivalent amount earmarked in the 1978 budget?

19. Question by Mr TERRENOIRE (H-241/77)

Subject: European hunting-weapons industry

In view of the crisis in the European hunting-weapons industry - as reflected in the current difficulties of the MANUFRANCE undertaking - is the Commission prepared to take external measures, such as curtailing excessive imports of foreign hunting weapons, and to propose structural measures designed to encourage the continual existence and development of this European industry?

20. Question by Mr NOLAN (H-243/77)

Subject : Common Sheep Policy

Will the Commission explain why it is taking so long to propose measures for a common sheep policy?

21. Question by Mr McDONALD (H-249/77)

Subject : Common organisation of the market in sheepmeat

Will the Commission say when a proposal for a regulation for the common organisation of the market in sheepmeat will be sent to the Parliament and Council?

22. Question by Mr EDWARDS (H-245/77)

Subject : Conditions of employment of Sri Lanka tea-workers

To ask the Commission whether, in view of the deplorable conditions of employment of workers engaged in tea plantations in Sri Lanka, the Commission representative on the Joint Committee set up under the existing Trade Agreement with Sri Lanka will, before giving his assent to any steps to promote exports of tea from that country, insist that any benefits accruing from increased exports or from exports on more favourable terms, are passed on to the workers engaged in production?

23. Question by Mr CREED (H-247/77)

Subject : Reform of European agriculture

Is the Commission satisfied with the rate of progress in structural reform of European agriculture, and will steps be taken in the future to allocate to the Guidance Section of the EAGGF a greater proportion of the agricultural budget?

24. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-252/77)

Subject : Japanese penetration and Community economy

What measures does the Commission intend to take to complement its successful action in the ball-bearing sector concerning Japanese penetration of other sensitive sectors of the Community's economy such as motor vehicles, electronics, television tubes, zip fasteners and pianos?

25. Question by Mrs EWING (H-253/77)

Subject : Piguieat industry

In view of the widespread anxiety in the pig-producing industry in Scotland in regard to the future financial situation of pig producers, will Commissioner Gundelach visit Scotland to obtain first-hand information about the problems of the industry as a basis for making new proposals for solving them?

26. Question by Mr HOFFMANN (H-257/77)

Subject : Coal stocks

How far is it true that the present increase in coal stocks in the Community is due to the continuing rise in coal imports from third countries?

27. Question by Mr COINTAT (H-260/77)

Subject: New methods of combatting unemployment

With reference to action against unemployment, is the Commission aware of recent studies recommending efforts to gain a better understanding of the operation and development of 'economic circuits' and the training of specialists qualified to give effective assistance to persons in positions of responsibility in the employment sector with a view to taking charge of job creation, and is the Commission considering any measures in this connection?

28. Question by Mr DURIEUX (H-264/77)

Subject: Practices of certain Italian steel producers

Now that the American Government has stated that it is studying the possibility of imposing quotas on steel imports and that the Community steel industry is having to face growing imports from a number of third countries, what attitude does the Commission intend to take without delay to combat what are known in Italy as the 'Bresciani' who are flooding Europe with products at prices 20-25% lower than the new scales set by the Commission and are not applying any of the measures introduced by the Commission under its anti-crisis plan?

29. Question by Mr LAGORCE (H-265/77)

Subject: Manioc imports into the Community

How does the Commission intend to resolve the serious competition problems caused to Community maize and fodder plant producers by the growing imports of substitute agricultural products for animal feed purposes and, in particular, manioc?

30. Question by Mr KAVANAGH (H-266/77)

Subject : Development of the Community's Action Programme for
the Vocational Rehabilitation of Handicapped People

What plans has the Commission for the extension of the Action Programme for the Vocational Rehabilitation of Handicapped People into a comprehensive policy on behalf of the handicapped, and in particular, what action does it intend to take to improve the education and preparation of young handicapped for adult life ?

31. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-267/77)

Subject : Relationship between the Institutions of the Community
and the Catalan Region

What consideration is the Commission giving to the form of representation in the Community of the Generalitat, the Catalan autonomous Government in Barcelona, if and when Spain enters the Community, and will the Commission make a statement on its talks with the Spanish Government about the best form of relationship between the Institutions of the Community and the Catalan Region?

32. Question by Mr CORRIE (H-166/77)

Subject: Council's legislative deliberations

Does the President-in-Office share the anxiety expressed by this House over the past months at the lack of openness of the Council's legislative deliberations?

33. Question by Mr McDONALD (H-250/77)

Subject : Decisions in Council

On 6 July, 1977 (1), Mr Simonet told this Parliament : "We must try wherever possible to adopt the majority vote; and let me say that during our Presidency we shall tackle this question pragmatically". Can the Council state how many decisions in Council have been taken by majority decision since that statement was made, and will steps be taken to ensure that majority decisions become the rule rather than the exception, as provided for in the Treaties?

34. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-263/77)

Subject: Uniform European passport

In view of the fact that, one year ago, the Council was asked to state what progress had been made in the preparations for introducing a uniform European passport and that since then it has given the same answer to three written questions, i.e., 'the main problem still to be resolved concerns the languages in which the information in the uniform passport will be worded', can the Council state if this really is the only problem at issue or whether there are more serious underlying problems which it would be useful to know?

(1) Debates of the European Parliament No 219, July 1977

35. Question by Mr OSBORN (H-224/77)

Subject : Research and development Budget Classification

In view of the substantial expenditure on research and development by the Community, by Member States and by private organisations, what consideration is the Council giving to a uniform budgetary classification of these expenditures in each Member State so that ministers and officials may have a clearer view of the objectives to which public and private money is being committed?

36. Question by Mr JUNG (H-232/77)

Subject: EEC-EFTA cooperation

What practical steps will the Council be taking in the short, medium and long term in order to bring about closer cooperation between the European Community and EFTA countries involving, in particular, wider exchanges of information and frequent consultation on economic issues?

37. Question by Mr BROWN (H-234/77)

Subject : Regional Policy

Will the Council identify the amount of European Community funds which have been awarded to the London Borough of Hackney and other inner London boroughs in the United Kingdom and what percentage such a sum represents of the total distribution to date?

38. Question by Mr TERRENOIRE (H-242/77)

Subject: Italian textile industry

Does the Council intend, in the context of competition policy and Community industrial policy to put an end to the illegal practices in the Italian textile industry - controlled by a number of undertakings which supply individual installations, buy the products and export them under conditions amounting to dumping - which consist of non-payment of social security and tax charges and are intended to promote small-scale, artisanal production of a socially archaic nature?

39. Question by Mr CREED (H-251/77)

Subject : Community regional policy

Will the Council ensure that the proposals from the Commission for the improvement of the Community regional policy, which were submitted to the Council on 3 June, 1977, will be the subject of a decision without unnecessary delay?

40. Question by Mrs EWING (H-254/77)

Subject : Soviet fishing in EEC waters

Following the expulsion on 24 September by the Soviet Government of two British vessels and one French vessel fishing within their rights in the Barents Sea, what reports has the Chairman-in-Office received of Soviet vessels fishing illegally in EEC waters in the North Sea? Is he satisfied that adequate protection measures are taken by Member States to prevent foreign encroachment and to conserve stocks in EEC waters?

41. Question by Lord BETHELL (H-256/77)

Subject : Enlargement of the Community

Will the Council state precisely what preconditions to membership of the Community they laid down in June 1975, under the Presidency of Mr Garrett Fitzgerald, in the context of Greece's application for membership, and whether the Council still regard these preconditions as binding in respect of the current three applications for membership.

42. Question by Lord BESSBOROUGH (H-258/77)

Subject : Energy

What steps is the Council taking to give the go-ahead to the Commission's proposals for a Regulation for the Promotion of Coal in Electricity Generation, (COM (76) 648 final 2) and for a Regulation concerning Community aid for financing cyclical stocks of hard coal, coke and patent fuel (COM (77) 77 final) ?

43. Question by Mr KOFOED (H-259/77)

Subject: Outcome of the Annual Meeting of the IMF and the World Bank

Can the Council state what conclusions it draws from the discussions at the recent Annual Meeting of the IMF and the World Bank regarding the development of economic cooperation in the world and closer economic cooperation within the Community? What, in particular, are its views on the request by the Director of the IMF to the USA, the FRG and Japan for more active cooperation in promoting the recovery of the international economy?

44. Question by Mr DALYELL (H-268/77)

Subject : Relationship between the Institutions of the Community
and the Catalan Region

What consideration is the Council giving to the form of representation in the Community of the Generalitat, the Catalan autonomous Government in Barcelona, if and when Spain enters the Community, and will the Council make a statement on its talks with the Spanish Government about the best form of relationship between the Institutions of the Community and the Catalan Region?

QUESTIONS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE NINE MEMBER STATES OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MEETING IN POLITICAL COOPERATION

45. Question by Mr HAMILTON (H-231/77)

Subject : Application of Spain to join EEC and the position of
Gibraltar

Are the Ministers aware that despite the removal of the dictatorship in Spain and the welcome progress towards democracy, the attitude of the new Spanish regime towards Gibraltar appears to remain unchanged; that this continued isolation of Gibraltar and its people is an intolerable violation of human and democratic rights; and that it should cease before there are any formal negotiations on Spain's application to join the EEC?

46. Question by Mrs EWING (H-255/77)

Subject : Soviet Jews

What particular measures have the Foreign Ministers decided to take in the course of the Belgrade Conference in order to press the Soviet Government to release Jewish political prisoners in the USSR, such as Mr Wulf Zalmanson, in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration 1975?

