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ORAL QUESTIONS

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B Series: Motions for Resolutions, Oral Questions - C Series: Documents received from other Institutions (e.g. Consultations)

PE 138.610

requiring a single reading



= Cooperation procedure (second reading) which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament for rejection or amendment



= Parliamentary assent which requires the votes of a majority of the current Members of Parliament

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QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

1. Question by Mrs DURY (H-1007/90)

Subject: Economic convergence and the Gulf crisis

Article 6 of the Council Decision of 12 March 1990 on the attainment of progressive convergence of economic policies and performance during stage one of economic and monetary union provides for consultation to take place in the appropriate Community bodies to consider possible measures when events outside the Community threaten the economic stability and cohesion of the Community.

On 1 July, we entered stage one of EMU. Has the above article been implemented as a result of the Gulf crisis? If so, in what way?

24.9.1990

FR

2. Question by Mr BANDRES MOLET (H-1061/90)

Subject: The development of clean forms of energy in the light of the oil crisis

In the communiqué issued by the Council of Ministers of Economic Affairs of the EEC on 8 September in Rome, attention was drawn to the need for certain measures, in the light of the economic crisis caused by the rise in the price of oil. These measures were: refraining from subsidizing prices, wage restraint and incentives for investment and domestic energy savings.

The EEC Member States have learnt little from the previous two oil crises. Their plans for growth have been based on low oil prices: 16 dollars per barrel for 1990 and 1991. The dependence of the economies of the EEC countries has decreased only from 48% to 44% in the last ten years.

What measures are envisaged by the Council to encourage the development and use in the production process of forms of energy which are non-polluting and renewable and can replace oil-based energy?

3.10.1990

ES

3. Question by Mr HERMAN (H-1069/90)

Subject: Aid to Lebanon

Following the Council decision of 17 September 1990 unfreezing the financial protocol with Syria (146 million ECU), could the Council state its intentions with regard to LEBANON, which is one of the main victims of the current Gulf crisis and still has two thirds of its territory occupied by non-Lebanese troops, most of them Syrian, while the EEC-Lebanon cooperation agreement continues to be held in abeyance?

4.10.1990

FR

4. Question by Mr COX (H-1044/90)

Subject: EC delegate to Sudan

Given the scale of the humanitarian crisis facing the Sudanese population which threatens famine for tens of thousands of people due to a prolonged drought, poor agricultural output, crop failure and an acute shortage of food and seed reserves, does the Council of Ministers intend to appoint an EC delegate to Sudan, which office is vacant at this present critical time?

What level of commitment by the Community of humanitarian aid, especially food aid is proposed for Sudan for 1991?

27.9.1990

EN

5. Question by Mrs AGLIETTA (H-1063/90)

Subject: Humanitarian aid to Bulgaria

In view of the serious economic situation in Bulgaria exacerbated by the Gulf crisis, the fact that the Soviet Union will no longer provide essential raw materials and the approach of winter, all of which factors will have a further destabilizing effect on the difficult political and social balance achieved, does not the Council think that Bulgaria is in a situation in which emergency humanitarian aid in the form of food and urgent medicines should not be refused by the Community?

Can the Council not urge the Member States to ensure that part of the funds of the PHARE programme be allocated to Bulgaria as humanitarian aid?

3.10.1990

IT

6. Question by Mr NEWTON DUNN (H-1056/90)

Subject: The Community's relations with Romania

Is the Council satisfied that the Romanian authorities have established human rights for all the peoples of Romania sufficiently to justify proceeding with a Trade and Cooperation Agreement with Romania and to benefit Romania from Operation Phare?

2.10.1990

EN

7. Question by Mr ELLES (H-1189/90)

Subject: Soviet Union

Is the Council aware of rumours circulating, in particular in Central and Eastern Europe, about the possibility of mass emigration of Soviet citizens to the West over the next 12 months? Has the Council discussed this matter recently in the TREVI Group? Has there been any attempt to draw up a common approach on this subject within the European Community?

7.11.1990

EN

8. Question by Mr ROBLES PIQUER (H-1052/90)

Subject: Lack of progress of the directive on voting rights for Community nationals in local elections in their Member State of residence

In the light of the local elections to be held shortly in various Community countries, why have the directive on voting rights for Community nationals in local elections in their Member State of residence (COM(88) 371 final)¹, which Parliament approved with amendments, and its legislative resolution² been held up for more than a year and a half in the Council?

1.10.1990

ES

¹ OJ No. C 246, 20.9.1988, p. 3

² OJ No. C 96, 17.4.1989, p. 106

9. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-0881/90)

Subject: Checks on individuals at internal borders

Does the Council agree that the continued practice of checking individuals at internal borders within the Community during the holiday period has resulted in unjustifiable delays and queues at border crossing points? Can it give details of the situation (length of tailbacks, which crossing points were worst affected, and whether extra staff were deployed)? How many complaints from citizens have the competent authorities (at Member State and Community level) received since May 1990?

13.7.1990

DE

10. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-987/90)

Subject: Free movement of persons

Free movement of persons is one of the corner-stones of the 1993 single market. With less than two years to go, it is manifestly apparent that considerable delays have arisen in this area. By what means will the Council instil fresh political impetus into the Twelve in order to reactivate and expedite the work to bring about free movement of persons in time for the 1993 target date?

13.9.1990

FR

11. Question by Mr DESSYLAS (H-1094/90)

Subject: Dramatic fall in the incomes of Greek farmers, agricultural stabilizers and GATT negotiations

In view of the dramatic fall in the incomes of hundreds of thousands of small and medium-sized Greek farmers due to a combination of factors, and notably the unprecedented drought, the low agricultural prices in the EC, the high rate of inflation (30% in 1990), the abrogation of national subsidies and the 40% increase in production costs this year (interest on loans, the prices of fertilizers, animal feedingstuffs etc.) does the Council intend to take immediate special measures to support the incomes of Greek farmers or at least to exempt those Greek (Mediterranean) agricultural products of which there is a shortfall in the EC (cotton, tobacco, sultanas, raisins, citrus fruits etc.) from the agricultural stabilizers and the 30% reduction in CAP subsidies mooted in GATT negotiations?

16.10.1990

EL

12. Question by Mrs BANOTTI (H-1054/90)

Subject: European consumer policy

Could the President-in-Office of the Council indicate whether the Italian Presidency is planning to relaunch the Community policy in favour of the promotion and the protection of consumers' interests, which has the active support of Commissioner Van Miert (18 September)¹. In relation to this subject as a first step would the Italian Presidency give an assurance that they intend to pass the General Product Safety Directive during their Presidency?

1.10.1990

EN

13. Question by Mr VALVERDE LOPEZ (H-1098/90)

Subject: Measures taken by the Council and the Member States to encourage the use of 'permanent paper' and protect the rights of consumers

Experts and specialist international organizations are extremely concerned about the preservation of books which are at risk because of the fragility of acid paper. What measures have the Council and the Member States taken to encourage the use of 'permanent paper'?

17.10.1990

ES

14. Question by Mr RAGGIO (H-1087/90)

Subject: Protection of the environment in the Mediterranean

In view of the increasing number of deaths among dolphins over the last few months on the coast of Liguria, the Côte d'Azur and along the Mediterranean coast in general, and in view of the most recent research which shows that the cause of these deaths may be traced to the use, in some cases prohibited, of fishing nets and, more importantly, to the pollution of the water which harms the animals directly and severely damages their habitat, what measures has the Council taken or does it intend to take to protect this important species, and above all to safeguard the marine environment in the Mediterranean, remove the pollution and protect its extremely important coastal resources?

Does it intend to pay particular attention to this matter and to promote measures as soon as possible involving the Member States concerned and the scientific community?

15.10.1990

IT

¹ Agence Europe of 19.9.1990

15. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-1091/90)

Subject: Worldwide competitive position of the European Community's aeronautical industry

Will the Council put on the agenda of an early meeting of Research and Industry ministers the problem of sustaining the worldwide competitive position of the European Community's Aeronautical Industry, particularly vis-à-vis the USA?

15.10.1990

EN

16. Question by Mr WYNN (H-1101/90)

Subject: Voluntary overseas work

Recognizing the importance of people in developing countries acquiring the skills to manage their own development, and the proven success of Europe's nongovernment volunteer sending agencies in passing on these skills at local level, will the Council of Ministers ask the governments of Spain, Portugal and Greece why they are still making it difficult for their citizens to serve overseas as volunteers through not protecting their rights to social security benefits on their return, by failing to comply with the EC Recommendation 85/308 of 1985¹ on this subject?

17.10.1990

EN

17. Question by Mr McCARTIN (H-1150/90)

Subject: EC Recommendation 85/308² on social protection of volunteer development workers

When does the Council expect to receive from the Commission the review of the above Recommendation as required by the Recommendation, and what conclusions does the Council expect to draw from this review, given the fact that not all Member States have implemented the Recommendation.

30.10.1990

EN

¹ OJ L 163 of 22.6.1985, p. 48

² OJ No. L 163, 22.6.1985, p. 48

18. Question by Mr COONEY (H-1117/90)

Subject: Fishing licences

In view of the proceedings currently being brought against Ireland and the UK regarding legislation containing a nationality requirement in the granting of fishing licences, have either the Irish or British Governments taken any steps to rectify this in order to comply with Community law?

18.10.1990

EN

19. Question by Mr PAPAYANNAKIS (H-1151/90)

Subject: Turkey and the Common Fisheries Policy in the Mediterranean

On 25 October 1990 in Ankara the Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkey announced his government's objections to the setting up of a twelve-mile fishing zone in the Mediterranean to the ambassadors of 11 EEC Member States, excluding Greece. According to reports in the press and in Community circles, he threatened to use force, if the common fisheries policy is implemented in the Mediterranean and in Greek waters.

What is the Council's reaction to Turkey's attempt to split the '12' on Community matters by inviting only 11 and not all 12 members of the Community? Does the Council not think it expedient to state that in the future, where Community issues are involved, such invitations will be taken up either by all 12 members or by none at all? How does the Council view Turkey's threat to use violence (a pretext for declaring war), which is by international standards both unacceptable and illegal, in a purely internal Community matter, in particular given the Community's commitment to setting up fishing zones in accordance with the Law of the Sea and Community legislation?

30.10.1990

EL

20. Question by Mr BLANEY (H-1132/90)

Subject: Statements by the Commission's GATT negotiator

The Vice-President of the Commission, chief Community negotiator in the Uruguay round, has given a press conference with the president of UNICE and called positions discussed in the Council of Ministers of Agriculture 'unacceptable'. What is the Council's reaction to public criticism of its deliberations by the Commission? Does it agree that Mr Andriessen should be replaced as chief Community negotiator?

23.10.1990

EN

21. Question by Mr BOWE (H-1155/90)

Subject: Labelling of fruit and vegetables treated with pesticides or fungicides

Does the Council of Ministers think that fruit and vegetables which have been treated with pesticides or fungicides should bear a label indicating that fact when placed for sale in shops and markets? If not, why not?

30.10.1990

EN

22. Question by Mr MARCK (H-1161/90)

Subject: Agreement with Thailand

Is it true that the Council has refused to consult Parliament on the renewal of the Agreement with Thailand on imports of manioc?

If so, what are the main changes to the Agreement and were the provisions of the old agreement in respect of processing the manioc crop complied with?

31.10.1990

NL

23. Question by Mr FANTUZZI (H-1165/90)

Subject: Rules on the designation of origin of agricultural products

The recognition and protection of designations of origin of foodstuffs is of vital importance in the context of measures to harmonize the economies of the Member States by 1993.

Many months have gone by since the informal Beaune Council, yet the Council has not officially produced any specific proposals to date.

The problems currently facing agriculture call for swift action to provide precise definitions of traditional and 'speciality' food products and to protect their position on the market.

Would the Council state the position with regard to the deadlocked proposal for a regulation concerning indications of geographic origin and designations of origin and their protection in the Member States?

Why has that proposal not been dispatched for consideration at the earliest opportunity by Parliament and the relevant Community bodies?

31.10.1990

IT

24. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-1173/90)

Subject: Destruction of the ozone layer

At its meeting of 29 October 1990, the Council of Environment Ministers discussed the question of substances which destroy the ozone layer. What conclusions were reached at this meeting, in particular as regards the need to accelerate the timetable for eliminating controlled substances, the question of transitional substances such as hydrochlorofluorocarbons and the implementation of fiscal measures to encourage the use of substitutes?

5.11.1990

EL

25. Question by Mr DESMOND (H-948/90)

Subject: Austrian membership

Does the Council intend to take any further initiative to further the application of Austria for membership of the European Community?

6.9.1990

EN

26. Question by Mr LALOR (H-0968/90)

Subject: Drugs

Will the Italian Presidency outline what significance it attaches to the need to develop new policies to combat the drugs menace in the Community and does it intend to ensure that progress is made during the Italian Presidency on the Commission's proposal to prevent illegal money laundering?

12.9.1990

EN

27. Question by Mr NIANIAS (H-0896/90)

Subject: Relations between the Community and Turkey

The European Council meeting in Dublin on 25 and 26 June 1990 reaffirmed its support for the unity, independence and territorial sovereignty of Cyprus and reiterated that the Cyprus problem affected relations between the Community and Turkey. Similarly, the European Parliament, in its resolution of 12 July 1990¹, called for the Community institutions to adapt their policies in accordance with the statement on Cyprus issued by the European Council of 25 and 26 June 1990. What steps does the Council intend to take in this respect? Does it not agree that any form of cooperation with Turkey should be conditional upon the withdrawal of the Turkish troops occupying Cyprus and the restoration of legitimacy in the island?

18.7.1990

EL

28. Question by Mr EPHREMEDIS (H-0993/90)

Subject: War reparations after German unification

The formal completion of German unification in mid-October 1990 will have positive and negative consequences for Community countries which have already been discussed in the European Parliament and elsewhere; however, it will also give rise to a number of problems concerning the war reparation owed by Germany for the damage caused to - and the debts incurred in - the occupied countries such as Greece.

Has the Council considered these matters, and particularly the matter of debts, and, if so, does it intend to deal with them?

19.9.1990

EL

¹ Minutes of 12 July 1990, p. 26

QUESTIONS TO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION

29. Question by Mr DESSYLAS (H-1093/90)

Subject: Fresh acts of barbarism committed by Israel against
Palestinians

The appalling crime recently committed by Israel - 34 Palestinian demonstrators in Jerusalem were killed, over 1000 more injured and hundreds arrested - is the product of the contempt for, and flagrant violation of, international law and the UN resolutions on the rights of the Palestinian people and the Middle East conflict by the same forces which have now chosen hypocritically to invoke international law and the UN in the case of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

When will the twelve foreign ministers meeting in EPC finally take specific measures against Israel to force it to respect international law and the UN resolutions?

16.10.1990

EL

30. Question by Mr COONEY (H-1125/90)

Subject: Commission foreign policy initiatives

In regard to the political initiative in the sphere of foreign policy taken by the Commission in condemning the tragic events of 8 October in Jerusalem, will the Foreign Ministers state if they approve of the Commission taking such initiatives?

Were they consulted before the initiative in question was taken and have arrangements been made to coordinate the views of the Ministers and the Commission in the event of the latter taking further initiatives?

19.10.1990

EN

31. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-1169/90)

Subject: Restoration of peace in Lebanon

The Lebanese people continue to suffer the horrors of civil war and foreign intervention, while British citizens continue to be detained there as hostages. Attempts by the United Nations to restore peace have so far not met with success.

Lebanon's problems may be said to be part of the general conflict in the Middle East and can be traced back to the decisions of certain Member States of the European Community after the First World War.

Would the EPC now use its prestige and influence on behalf of the Community to exhort the United Nations Security Council to intensify its efforts to provide an effective peace-keeping force so that the Lebanese people may be enabled to seek democratic, political solutions to the problems which divide them, free from military involvement on the part of certain of their neighbours?

5.11.1990

EN

32. Question by Mr KOSTOPOULOS (H-1177/90)

Subject: Europe-America's 'stooge' in the Gulf crisis

In addition to the considerable risks to world peace posed by the prolonged Gulf crisis, there is another factor involved that should give cause for concern in Europe. Do the Ministers meeting in EPC not believe that, instead of approaching this crucial issue absolutely unequivocally on the basis of European interests, Europe is being dragged by the American war-machine into a totally confused venture in which it is uncertain where responsibilities lie? Do they intend to change tack and review their position, implementing an independent European strategy in the subsequent course of events?

6.11.1990

EL

33. Question by Mr COT (H-1109/90)

Subject: Postage stamp issued by the UN

What steps have been taken or are envisaged to obtain the withdrawal by the UN of its 36-cent postage stamp depicting the crime of robbery, illustrated by three Jewish figures in traditional dress, which flouts the joint declaration on racism and anti-semitism of 11 June 1986?

18.10.1990

FR

34. Question by Mr MELANDRI (H-1021/90)

Subject: Economic relations between the EEC and China

What is the position of EPC on the resumption of normal economic relations with China? Do the Ministers agree that it would be appropriate, before restoring full relations with Beijing, to obtain formal and substantive commitments to uphold human rights in China, beginning with a pledge to release the hundreds of political prisoners still detained in Chinese prisons?

26.9.1990

IT

35. Question by Mr TARADASH (H-1066/90)

Subject: Renegotiating economic relations with China

Having regard to newspaper reports concerning the statements by the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr De Michelis, according to which, in his capacity as President of the European Council for Foreign Affairs, he is to request that relations with China be resumed.

Can the Council state whether the events of Tienanmen Square have already been forgotten, whether reports of hundreds of executions carried out daily would not provide grounds of continuing the freezing of relations and can it also state what considerations, other than the importance of the Chinese market, have given rise to this decision?

3.10.1990

IT

36. Question by Mr DE ROSSA (H-1017/90)

Subject: Proposal to merge the EPC system and WEU

What is the current position with regard to the proposal apparently made by the President of the Council of Foreign Ministers which envisaged a merger between the EPC and the WEU and how do the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC feel it will affect countries which are not members of the WEU, or in the case of Ireland, not members of NATO or the WEU?

25.9.1990

EN

37. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-1049/90)

Subject: Absence of Greece from preparatory meetings for the Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean

The Foreign Ministers from four of the five southern Mediterranean Member States (Spain, Italy, Portugal and France) and their counterparts from the Maghreb countries are to meet in Rome on 10 October 1990 to prepare for a Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean.

Why is Greece not taking part in this meeting?

28.9.1990

EL

38. Question by Mr PAPOUTSIS (H-1137/90)

Subject: Conference on Mediterranean Cooperation

Regarding the first meeting on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean held in Rome following an initiative from the President-in-Office of the Council and given the importance of such an initiative, were the Foreign Ministers aware of this initiative and, in particular, of the reasons for the exclusion of Greece, which is a solely Mediterranean Community country, while Portugal, which is not a Mediterranean country, did take part?

25.10.1990

EL

39. Question by Mr ROMEOS (H-1138/90)

Subject: Conference on Mediterranean Cooperation

Regarding the first meeting on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean held in Rome following an initiative from the President in Office of the Council and given the importance of such an initiative, were the Foreign Ministers aware of this initiative and, in particular, of the reasons for the exclusion of Greece, which is a solely Mediterranean Community country, while Portugal, which is not a Mediterranean country, did take part?

25.10.1990

EL

40. Question by Mr BOWE (H-1156/90)

Subject: Sri Lanka

Is the EPC aware of the renewed fighting in the north-east of Sri Lanka between government security forces and the Tamil guerillas, resulting in heavy loss of civilian life, destruction of property and displacement of some 600 000 persons?

Will the EPC urge the parties to the conflict to implement and encourage respect for an immediate ceasefire, return to the process of negotiations and invite the United Nations Secretary-General to facilitate the resolution of the difficulties which have led to the present impasse and arrange the provision of appropriate relief to the affected areas, if necessary, through the International Committee of the Red Cross?

30.10.1990

EN

41. Question by Mr POMPIDOU (H-1107/90)

Subject: Children in Romania suffering from AIDS

Is European Political Cooperation aware that, according to British press sources, the Romanian Government has authorized testing on 1- to 5-year-old children by a team of doctors of a new treatment, known by the code name of FLV 23/A, the results of which are described as 'suspect' by some authorities in the Community?

Could European Political Cooperation obtain all the necessary information on this subject from the Romanian Government?

18.10.1990

FR

42. Question by Mr NEWTON DUNN (H-1081/90)

Subject: Romania

Draft legislation for the media published by the Romanian Ministry of Justice prescribes the same conditions as those specified in legislation in force during the Ceaucescu era. Given the weakness of the opposition in Romania, do the Foreign Ministers agree that free press and criticism are essential in paving the way to pluralism, and as such represent a litmus test of the sincerity of the National Salvation Front?

11.10.1990

EN

43. Question by Mr BARROS MOURA (H-868/90)

Subject: Report by Amnesty International on executions in East Timor

According to Amnesty International's annual report, at least 20 people were illegally executed in East Timor by the Indonesian security forces in 1988 and 1989. The report described particularly horrific cases of torture and murder. It also referred to the existence of more than a hundred political prisoners held by the occupying forces.

What steps will the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation take to safeguard human rights in East Timor, in line with Parliament's resolutions on this matter?

11.7.1990

PT

44. Question by Mr van der WAAL (H-1096/90)

Subject: The situation of the Papuan population in Irian Jaya and Papua New Guinea

The situation of the Papuans in Irian Jaya is still a matter of grave concern. They are still being driven from their homelands, robbed of their property and threatened with the loss of their religious and cultural identity. Many have lost their lives in resisting and others have fled to camps in neighbouring Papua New Guinea (PNG). Yet even there they are not safe. On 22 July Mr Salosa, a resistance fighter, was arrested and extradited to Indonesia, where he was executed on 14 August. In July and August the Indonesian army took action against refugees in PNG territory.

On 13 June this year I asked how far the resolution on human rights in Indonesia (A2-283/87¹) had been put into effect. Minister Geoghean-Quinn, President of the Council, said that this had not yet been discussed within EPC, but that EPC was willing to consider what can be done in this respect.

Can EPC explain what has since been done within EPC about the situation of the Papuans?

16.10.1990

NL

¹ OJ No. C 94, 11.4.1988, p. 191

45. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-0927/90)

Subject: Threats to colonize Famagusta

Turkish Cypriot threats to colonize Famagusta have seriously complicated the Cyprus problem.

What measures have the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation taken or what measures do they intend to take in response to Turkey's course of action, especially after the presidency's visit to Ankara and in the light of the resolution the European Parliament adopted in July concerning Turkey's compliance with UN resolutions, the resumption of dialogue between the two communities and the search for a just solution in Cyprus?

8.8.1990

EL

46. Question by Mr HUGHES (H-1185/90)

Subject: Visit to Iran by UN Special Representative Galindo Pohl

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation considered the visit made to Iran by Galindo Pohl from 8 to 15 October 1990 and, if not, will they consider it?

7.11.1990

EN

47. Question by Mrs BANOTTI (H-1053/90)

Subject: Raoul Wallenberg

Could the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC indicate whether they will follow-up on the case of Raoul Wallenberg with the appropriate Soviet authorities following the recent statement by the Soviets that they are to re-investigate his disappearance at the end of the Second World War?

1.10.1990

EN

48. Question by Mr Juan Maria BANDRES MOLET (H-1060/90)

Subject: Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the EEC Member States

The Convention on the Rights of the Child was adopted by the UN in 1989 and entered into force on 2 September this year.

Thousands of children will benefit from the application of this Charter, since they will be able to seek legal protection from sectarian assault, premature military conscription and enforced separation from their parents. The Convention has so far been implemented by 44 countries, but unfortunately some Member States of the EEC have not yet ratified it.

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC considered taking any steps to encourage the ratification of the Convention by all the Member States of the EEC?

3.10.1990

ES

49. Question by Mr BLANEY (H-1116/90)

Subject: Security

Do the Foreign Ministers not agree that extension of the scope of cooperation on security cannot be envisaged so long as one Member State maintains and active military presence in a territory to which another Member States formally lays claim?

18.10.1990

EN

50. Question by Mrs POLLACK (H-1129/90)

Subject: Antarctica

Do the Foreign Ministers intend to make any representations on behalf of the Community to the effect that Antarctica be declared a wilderness park within which the extraction of oils and minerals and other commercial, military and polluting activities should not be permitted?

22.10.1990

EN

51. Question by Mr ARBELOA MURU (H-1183/90)

Subject: Political importance of Parliament resolutions

What political importance do the Foreign Ministers attach to European Parliament resolutions on human rights? To what extent are they influenced by such resolutions when they stand up for human rights? Why is no reference ever made to them in their declarations?

7.11.1990

ES

52. Question by Mr NEWMAN (H-1186/90)

Subject: Dr Ismail Beskici, Kurdish scholar awaiting trial in Turkey

Dr Ismail Beskici, a Kurdish scholar, is in prison in Turkey awaiting trial. If convicted, he could face up to 20 years' incarceration. The 'crime' he is charged with under Article 141 and 142 of the Turkish Constitution is writing a book about Kurdistan.

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation discussed Dr Beskici's case and, if not, will they do so in the near future?

7.11.1990

EN

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION

53. Question by Mr KOSTOPOULOS (H-1128/90)

Subject: Use of orphans as guinea pigs in a Romanian hospital

The World Health Organization has sent a team of specialists to Bucharest to investigate charges that experimental drugs to cure AIDS have been tried out on eight orphans in a Romanian hospital. There appears to be some substance to this charge; if it proves correct, humanity and particularly Europe with its traumatic history of such experiments should mobilize all its scientific and moral resources to prevent this type of criminal action.

Does the Commission intend to follow the World Health Organization's investigation and take drastic preventive action if the charges and statements prove correct?

22.10.1990

EL

54. Question by Mrs AGLIETTA (H-1062/90)

Subject: Humanitarian aid to Bulgaria

In view of the serious economic situation in Bulgaria exacerbated by the Gulf crisis, the fact that the Soviet Union will no longer provide essential raw materials and the approach of winter, all of which factors will have a further destabilizing effect on the difficult political and social balance achieved, does not the Commission think that Bulgaria is in a situation in which emergency humanitarian aid in the form of food and urgent medicines should not be refused by the Community?

Can the Commission not urge the Member States to ensure that part of the funds of the PHARE programme be allocated to Bulgaria as humanitarian aid?

3.10.1990

IT

55. Question by Mr MELANDRI (H-1020/90)

Subject: Budget transfers to Eastern European countries

Can the Commission state whether any funds under the budget for the current financial year 1990 which had been earmarked for ACP or other less-developed countries have been transferred to Eastern European countries, and, if so, which? What other funds under the 1990 budget allocated to less-developed countries have been spent on other purposes than those initially intended?

26.9.1990

IT

56. Question by Mr COT (H-1108/90)

Subject: Postage stamp issued by the UN

What steps have been taken or are envisaged to obtain the withdrawal by the UN of its 36-cent postage stamp depicting the crime of robbery, illustrated by three Jewish figures in traditional dress, which flouts the joint declaration on racism and anti-semitism of 11 June 1986?

18.10.1990

FR

57. Question by Mr STEWART (H-774/90)

Subject: Desecration of war graves at Deauville in France

The Commission and Council are aware of the thousands of British soldiers killed in action during the liberation of France in 1944. In the recent desecration of ten war graves of young British servicemen killed in action during that period, the headstones were daubed in black with Nazi swastikas.

This action took place on St. George's day, 23 April 1990 at the British War Cemetery near Deauville, France.

The British War Veterans Associations are disgusted at the mindless attacks by modern-day fascists on the graves of young men to whom they owe their freedom today.

Will the Commission appeal to the French Government to ensure that the culprits are brought to justice and made to pay with maximum sentences for these outrages?

14.6.1990

EN

58. Question by Mr COONEY (H-1126/90)

Subject: Foreign policy

Noting the initiative taken by the Commission in condemning the tragic events of 8 October in Jerusalem, does the Commission intend to take similar initiatives in the future and, if so, has it made arrangements to coordinate its initiatives with the views and possible actions of the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation?

19.10.1990

EN

59. Question by Mr TITLEY (H-1064/90)

Subject: Sudan

Aid workers in Sudan have recently expressed alarm that many thousands of the country's poor face starvation after a disastrous crop failure. Urgent action on the part of the European Community is required if a great human disaster is to be averted.

Will the Commission agree to the following actions:

- (1) the immediate appointment of an EC delegate to Sudan,
- (2) the commitment by the Community of substantial humanitarian aid, especially food, to Sudan for 1991?

3.10.1990

EN

60. Question by Mr VERHAGEN (H-1175/90)

Subject: Request from the Sudanese Government to Western aid organizations to send food aid for Ethiopian refugees

What is the Commission's reaction to the Sudanese Government's request to Western aid organizations to send food aid for Ethiopian refugees in Sudan?

6.11.1990

NL

61. Question by Mr CHABERT (H-1139/90/rev.)

Subject: The effect on the Uruguay Round negotiations of the allocation of an excessive sugar quota to the former GDR

The 870 000 tonnes of sugar allocated to the former GDR - an amount which is known to be in excess of estimated requirements - could very soon result in a surplus of 300 000 tonnes on the world market, self-financed by the sugar industries. Does the Commission not consider that the allocation of an excessive sugar quota to the former GDR (with the result that support measures will have to be increased) may have very serious consequences and affect all the Uruguay Round agriculture negotiations, which are already at a very difficult stage?

25.10.1990

FR

62. Question by Mr ROUMELIOTIS (H-1152/90)

Subject: Commission plans to propose considerable reductions in olive oil subsidies in the Uruguay Round.

At the recent meetings of the General Affairs Council and the Agriculture Ministers, Mr MacSharry announced on behalf of the Commission that its proposal to be put to the contracting parties to GATT for negotiation in the Uruguay Round would include considerable reductions in subsidies (between 10% and 30%) for a number of agricultural products, including olive oil.

On what grounds has the Commission included olive oil in the negotiations, given that it is only produced in the Mediterranean and does not cause structural surpluses on the international market?

30.10.1990

EL

63. Question by Mr SPENCER (H-0961/90)

Subject: GATT and the environment

Will the Commission call on the GATT Council to convene the Working Party on Measures concerning Environment and International Trade which was established in 1972, but has never met?

12.9.1990

EN

64. Question by Mr BLANEY (H-1133/90)

Subject: Behaviour and position of the Community's Uruguay Round negotiator

Commission Vice-President Andriessen recently held a 'joint' press conference with the president of the Industrial Confederations of the Community (UNICE), and described positions being discussed in the Agricultural Council as 'unacceptable'. Does the Commission agree that this amounted to taking sides for industrial as against farming interests, and weakened the Community's negotiating position? Will the Commission obtain a public retraction from Mr Andriessen, or else revoke his position as chief negotiator for the Community?

23.10.1990

EN

65. Question by Mrs DURY (H-1008/90)

Subject: Controlling oil speculation

The events in the Gulf have given rise to speculators manipulating oil prices. This clearly undermines the security of supplies to the Community in fair and stable conditions.

Is the Commission legally and technically equipped to detect such speculation and take appropriate measures to protect European consumers?

24.9.1990

FR

66. Question by Mr RAFFARIN (H-1068/90)

Subject: Underground storage of radioactive substances

What conclusions would the Commission draw from the third conference on the treatment and disposal of radioactive waste, which has just been held in Luxembourg, particularly as regards the underground storage of radioactive waste?

Can the Commission give details of its policy on the choice, construction and operation of underground storage sites?

3.10.1990

FR

67. Question by Mr CASSIDY (H-1073/90)

Subject: Safety of nuclear power stations in France

Mistakes in the installation of water filters in several nuclear power stations in France have been classified by the Service Central de Surêté des Installations Nucléaires (the SCSIN) as Serious Grade 2 in a scale of 6¹.

Has the Commission been informed by the French authorities and what would have been the danger to other Member States from an accident resulting from these mistakes?

8.10.1990

EN

68. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-1074/90)

Subject: US National Cancer Institute survey on the incidence of disease and nuclear facilities

A survey undertaken in 107 localities around nuclear facilities in the USA, involving the examination of 900 000 deaths from 16 types of cancer between 1950 and 1984, concluded that deaths from these types of cancer were no different from the rate of deaths from the same cancers in 292 localities where there were no nuclear facilities. What surveys of this scale, if any, have been undertaken in the European Community?

9.10.1990

EN

69. Question by Mr PAPOUTSIS (H-1134/90)

Subject: European cooperation on the environment

In view of the need to develop pan-European cooperation in the environment sector and given that the European Community should play a key role in this process, what is the Commission's timetable for submitting its proposals in this regard and what role will the Community play in convening a European conference on the environment and in drafting a European Environment Charter, as proposed by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe?

24.10.1990

EL

¹ See 'Le Figaro' September 29-30 1990

70. Question by Mr HARRISON (H-1086/90)

Subject: Environmental Impact Assessment and the Structural Funds

Further to the Commission's Answer to my Question No. 1746/90¹ does the Commission agree that certain types of project that are not on Annex I or II of Directive 85/337² (e.g. irrigation) can constitute a threat to important wildlife areas?

What steps does the Commission take to verify the statements submitted by Member States certifying that Structural Fund projects for which EIA is not required under Directive 85/337 will not damage the environment and, if no, such verification is currently carried out, is the Commission prepared to consider introducing such a procedure?

15.10.1990

EN

71. Question by Mr RAGGIO (H-1088/90)

Subject: Protection of the environment in the Mediterranean

In view of the increasing number of deaths among dolphins over the last few months on the coast of Liguria, the Côte d'Azur and along the Mediterranean coast in general, and in view of the most recent research which shows that the cause of these deaths may be traced to the use, in some cases prohibited, of fishing nets and, more importantly, to the pollution of the water which harms the animals directly and severely damages their habitat, what measures has the Commission taken or does it intend to take to protect this important species, and above all to safeguard the marine environment in the Mediterranean, remove the pollution and protect its extremely important coastal resources?

Does it intend to pay particular attention to this matter and to promote measures as soon as possible involving the Member States concerned and the scientific community?

15.10.1990

IT

¹ not yet published

² OJ L 175 of 5.7.1985, p. 40

72. Question by Mr BONDE (H-1113/90/rev.)

Subject: Tropical rain forests

What steps will the Commission be taking to relieve the economic pressure on the timber-exporting developing countries resulting from their heavy indebtedness to the industrialized countries?

18.10.1990

DA

73. Question by Mrs Ib CHRISTENSEN (H-1114/90)

Subject: Destruction of the rain forests

What lessons does the Commission draw from the fact that both the common agricultural policy (in this case, protein production for cattlefeed in the Community) and the fulfilment by developing countries of their debt obligations are encouraging the clearing of rain forests (e.g. in Brazil)?

18.10.1990

DA

74. Question by Mrs SANDBAEK (H-1115/90)

Subject: Tropical rain forests

Will the Commission guarantee that it will not in future - either directly or indirectly - support projects which pose a threat to the environment or the indigenous population in the rain forests?

18.10.1990

DA

75. Question by Mrs Caroline JACKSON (H-1077/90)

Subject: Directive on phosphates

Following the Commission's statement in May 1989 in which an assurance was given that a proposal would be submitted for a directive on phosphates, will the Commission now tell us when this proposal can be expected?

10.10.1990

EN

76. Question by Mr BETTINI (H-775/90)

Subject: Failure to conduct an environmental impact assessment for a tourist development in the commune of Narbolia in Sardinia (Italy)

A tourist development covering an area of 240 000 cu.m. has been planned and is being constructed at present in a 300 ha. forest of mature umbrella and cluster pines planted in the 1950s in an area of considerable environmental significance in the district of Sinis-Oristanese.

This development, which is situated in a protected zone covered by the Ramsar Convention on wetlands, was not subject to any environmental impact assessment. Does the Commission agree that it would be appropriate to take steps to ensure that such an assessment is carried out, and if not, why?

14.6.1990

IT

77. Question by Mr BANDRÉS MOLET (H-1070/90)

Subject: Construction of a high-tension cable in the Gistain Valley

The Gistain Valley is included in the list of European regions of special importance as a nesting place and habitat for birds drawn up by the Commission pursuant to Article 4 of Council Directive 79/409/EEC¹.

In this same region of Aragon (Spain), there are plans to construct a high-tension cable to connect the Aragon power-station with Cazaril (France), crossing the French Pyrenean valleys of Nistros and Louron up to the border town of La Pez. Various reports have demonstrated the danger that this high-tension cable would cause for the colony of migratory and nesting birds in the valley.

Can the Commission state whether the construction of this high-tension cable complies with the Council Directive (79/409/EEC) on the protection of birds?

4.10.1990

ES

¹ OJ L 103, 25.4.1979, p. 1

78. Question by Mr da CUNHA OLIVEIRA (H-1078/90)

Subject: Suspension of proceedings for violation of Community environmental legislation

At its meeting of 11 September 1990 the Commission decided to suspend proceedings against the Portuguese Government for failure to comply with Community environmental legislation as regards the building of the 'Via do Infante' in the Algarve.

- On what grounds did the Commission decide to suspend the proceedings?
- Given that the Commission represented the only practical and impartial support and means of appeal for the many plaintiffs was sufficient consideration given to the impact of this decision?.

10.10.1990

PT

79. Question by Mr Heinz KÖHLER (H-1040/90)

Subject: Proposed irrigation in Spain

Is the Commission aware of plans for large-scale irrigation projects in the basins of the Duero and Tejo rivers and that the areas affected contain, either partly or in their entirety, 21 sites identified in the Commission's own SFF3 list as being of particular importance for the conservation of birds and qualifying for designation as Special Protection Areas under Directive 79/409¹ on the conservation of wild birds, including 5 sites that have actually been designated as SPAs that cover parts of these sites?

Has the Commission received any requests for financial assistance towards these projects and will it ensure that no Community funds are provided for these projects - directly or indirectly - unless thorough environmental impact assessments have been carried out and the Commission is satisfied that there will be no adverse effects on wildlife habitats?

27.9.1990

DE

¹ OJ No. L 103, 25.4.1979, p. 1

80. Question by Mr SPECIALE (H-1071/90)

Subject: Dumez water supply company: correct observance of competition conditions in the Community

In September 1990, attention was drawn to the serious affair of the Dumez water supply company concerning the correct observance of competition conditions in the Community. The affair also involved work financed by the European Community. Besides questions of a criminal nature for which the courts have responsibility, can the Commission state:

- whether it has sought detailed information on the affair and whether it intends to report its findings to Parliament in view of the obvious seriousness of the matter;
- whether it considers this affair an exceptional case or whether, on the contrary, it considers that this has thrown light on a hidden and worrying aspect of Community competition, at least as regards the granting of contracts for major works;
- whether, finally, it considers that existing controls are adequate to guarantee proper competition or whether, on the contrary, consideration should be given to their reinforcement?

4.10.1990

IT

81. Question by Mr GUILLAUME (H-1131/90)

Subject: Allocation of a sugar quota to the former GDR

The allocation to the former GDR of a quota of 870 000 tonnes of white sugar is in contradiction with the basis of calculation used hitherto, which would have resulted in a quota of the order of only 625 000 tonnes.

To be budgetarily neutral the quota presupposes a per capita consumption of 44kg not long-term guaranteed.

Can the Commission confirm the transitional nature of this quota and the absence of supplementary charges for other European producers in the probable event of the appearance of an exportable surplus?

23.10.1990

FR

82. Question by Mrs AINARDI (H-1082/90)

Subject: United States' ban on the import of certain European wines

The US Environmental Protection Agency's decision to postpone approval of procymidone, a fungicide used to treat botrytis, effectively bans the import of French, Italian and Spanish wines into the United States for at least a year. European wine-growers repeatedly face losses of several hundred million ECU.

This unilateral decision by the United States concerning a product approved in 26 countries is particularly unacceptable in view of the fact that the EEC is continuing to import American wines whose production involved oenological practices that are banned in the Community.

Is the Commission prepared to ask the United States to defer their decision concerning imports of wine treated with procymidone or take the necessary steps to compensate wine-growers?

11.10.1990

FR

83. Question by Mr MATTINA (H-1110/90)

Subject: Italian Government funding of the cereal sector

In view of the fact that the Ministry for the South of Italy has given Italgrani, an industrial group in the cereals sector, Lit 890 billion to finance the setting up of agro-industrial plants, would the Commission give its views on the economic validity of investing on this scale in the starch sector, which is reliably considered to be saturated already?

Does the Commission consider that state aid that will lead to increases in production which will inevitably result in imbalances in the market in starch, glucose and their derivatives is compatible with the rules of free competition enshrined in the EEC Treaty?

18.10.1990

IT

84. Question by Mr FANTUZZI (H-1153/90)

Subject: Rules on the designation of origin of agricultural products

The recognition and protection of designations of origin of foodstuffs is of vital importance in the context of measures to harmonize the economies of the Member States by 1993.

Many months have gone by since the informal Beaune Council, yet the Commission has not officially produced any specific proposals to date.

The problems currently facing agriculture call for swift action to provide precise definitions of traditional and 'speciality' food products and to protect their position on the market.

Would the Commission state the position with regard to the deadlocked proposal for a regulation concerning indications of geographic origin and designations of origin and their protection in the Member States?

Why has that proposal not been dispatched for consideration at the earliest opportunity by Parliament and the relevant Community bodies?

30.10.1990

IT

85. Question by Mr de los SANTOS LÓPEZ (H-1158/90)

Subject: Protection of Agriculture

In view of the fact that Spain's less competitive agricultural products, such as cereals and olive oil, will be included in the single market from 31 December 1992, whereas Spain's more competitive agricultural products will not be included until 31 December 1995 because of the transitional period laid down in the Accession Treaty, does not the Commission think that this way of protecting the rich countries' agriculture is totally unjustified when there are regions such as Andalusia, where 14.4% of the working population are still employed in agriculture?

Does not the Commission think that the transitional period for Spanish integration should end on 31 December 1992?

31.10.1990

ES

86. Question by Mr LIVANOS (H-1174/90)

Subject: Support measures for beekeeping

In view of the role played by beekeeping in maintaining ecological balance (pollination) and providing income support for some 450 000 beekeepers and given the lack of a common policy in this field, what measures does the Commission propose to take to support this important primary sector?

5.11.1990

EL

87. Question by Mrs Simone MARTIN (H-878/90)

Subject: Butter consumption

The Commission's latest report shows that butter consumption continued to decline in 1989. In view of the confusion caused by the appearance of countless imitation products is the Commission considering a more explicit labelling system in the interests of greater transparency for both the consumer and the market?

12.7.1990

EN

88. Question by Mr LANE (H-0976/90)

Subject: Evaluation of agricultural research programmes

What action has been taken in response to Research Evaluation Report No. 39 on 'Evaluation of the Agricultural Research Programmes (1976-78, 1979-83 and 1981-88)'?

12.9.1990

EN

89. Question by Mr ALBER (H-1072/90)

Subject: Polish agriculture quotas in the Common Market for agricultural products

What steps is the Commission taking to create market opportunities for Polish red fruits and mushrooms at fair prices, so that the hard currency earning potential of Polish agriculture can be harnessed for the renewal of the economy, using the expertise of Community firms?

5.10.1990

DE

90. Question by Mr DAVID (H-1004/90)

Subject: Subsidies for UK farmers

Is the British Government being prevented by the European Commission from granting additional subsidies to its sheep farmers who are suffering considerable economic hardship?

20.9.1990

EN

91. Question by Mr NEWTON DUNN (H-1011/90)

Subject: Animal feedstuffs

Ever since November 1989, I have been writing to the Commission on behalf of one of my constituents to ask whether they agree that the British parliament has incorrectly translated Directive 79/373/EEC¹ concerning Compound Feedstuffs into national law.

The UK's Chief Veterinary Officer, giving evidence to a Commons committee, says that under British law a batch of feed which has been identified as contaminated cannot be required to be taken off the market! The EC Directive appears to disagree.

Will the Commission please make a rapid decision?

24.9.1990

EN

92. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-1039/90)

Subject: Implementation of Article 130R of the Treaty

Can the Commission state how Article 130R of the Treaty applies to its policy for the oilseeds sector?

27.9.1990

EN

¹ OJ No. 86, 6.4.1979, p. 30

93. Question by Mr CUSHNAHAN (H-1127/90)

Subject: Fisheries

In view of the recent fish scandal in Holland, would the Commission agree that reports submitted by the EC Fisheries Inspectorate at the conclusion of its missions should be returned to the relevant Member States?

22.10.1990

EN

94. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-1075/90)

Subject: Free movement of persons

The abolition of checks on individuals at the internal frontiers of the Twelve from 1993 means that it will be necessary to strengthen checks at the Community's external frontiers so as to make good the deficit in security thus engendered.

Has the Commission given thought to encouraging the implementation of a scheme of information exchanges between member countries, in which it would itself participate, to facilitate checks at the Community's external frontiers following the example of the Schengen information scheme?

The scheme would supply information relating to foreigners who should be refused entry, persons who were the subject of police inquiries, or those whose extradition had been refused.

Does the Commission think that this exchange scheme should also apply to other areas, and can it draw up a timetable to be adhered to if the 1993 deadline is to be met?

9.10.1990

FR

95. Question by Mr PETERS (H-1085/90)

Subject: Insurance surcharge on flights to Turkey

Is the Commission aware that the Belgian airline, Sabena, recently imposed an insurance surcharge of FB 600 on flights from Brussels to Istanbul, although the airport serving that city is situated in the European part of Turkey and is thousands of kilometres away from the Gulf crisis area?

Would the Commission prevail upon the Belgian authorities immediately to abolish this special surcharge on flights to Istanbul in view of the fact that tourism in Turkey has declined by 20% since the start of the Gulf crisis and the effect of this measure to increase the uncertainty felt by tourists and business travellers?

11.10.1990

DE

96. Question by Mrs MUSCARDINI (H-1090/90)

Subject: Self-locking disposable syringes

Since the spread of AIDS and viral hepatitis is assisted by the sharing of needles among drug addicts, and since there are self-locking disposable syringes on the market, what does the Commission intend to do to promote the widespread use of self-locking disposable syringes?

15.10.1990

IT

97. Question by Mr PIERROS (H-1100/90)

Subject: Unequal distribution of appropriations for regional operational programmes

Substantiated charges have been made that the distribution of appropriations for certain regional operational programmes by prefecture in Greece under the Community Support Frameworks is being made according to purely arbitrary criteria without taking into account the actual needs of the regions which are thus treated unequally. The prefecture of Ilia in particular is not receiving the appropriations it needs to meet its development needs under the Peloponnesian operational programme. Will the Commission say whether it intends to intervene, given that it is obliged under the Treaty of Rome to ensure the balanced and harmonious development of the Community?

17.10.1990

EL

98. Question by Mr BOWE (H-1106/90)

Subject: Dumping of Korean film products in the European Community

Would the Commission agree with the widespread unease of the European film processing industry caused by the dumping of Korean film products in the European Community?

What measures has it taken to stop this anti-competitive practice by the Korean film processing industry?

18.10.1990

EN

99. Question by Mrs BJØRNVIG (H-1112/90)

Subject: VAT on public transport

In 'Perspective 92' Commissioner Carlo Ripa de Meana states that viable economic growth is inconceivable without full and systematic account being taken of the environment.

It is obvious that only if public transport is economically competitive can the use of private cars be reduced in the interests of the environment.

This being so, how can the Commission justify the attempt to pressurize the Member States into imposing VAT on public transport?

18.10.1990

DA

100. Question by Mr BOFILL ABEILHE (H-1120/90)

Subject: Development of Community legislation

With little more than two years to go before completion of the internal market and the consequent abolition of frontiers for official purposes, a considerable number of rules will have to be drawn up if all the provisions (directives, etc.) which are still awaiting adoption are to be implemented.

Could the Commission state what basic measures for remedying current deficiencies in Community legislation are provided for in the Green Paper?

18.10.1990

ES

101. Question by Mr GIL-ROBLES GIL-DELGADO (H-1121/90)

Subject: Recommendation 85/308/EEC¹ on social protection for
volunteer development workers

Recognizing the important assistance provided by EC volunteers and the free movement of people as part of the campaign for a barrier-free Europe, will the Commission prepare a report concerning the implementation of EC Recommendation 85/308? If not, what measures will the Commission take to induce the Member States to comply with EC Recommendation 85/308 and ensure that their citizens are not discriminated against and remain entitled to social security upon their return home from overseas?

18.10.1990

ES

102. Question by Mrs EWING (H-1144/90)

Subject: Social security entitlements of overseas development
volunteers

Will the Commission state why it has failed to produce its two year review of EC Recommendation 85/308 of 13.6.1985² (as required by the Recommendation) which seeks to protect the social security entitlements of volunteers from Member States who serve in developing countries?

26.10.1990

EN

103. Question by Mr de DONNEA (H-1124/90)

Subject: Failure to comply with the rules of competition

Can the Community confirm having submitted a request for information on incompatibility with the Community competition laws in connection with the refinancing of the ASAR printing works by the Brussels Regional Government?

What kind of information did the Commission have to support its suspicions?

19.10.1990

FR

¹ OJ NO. L 163, 22.6.1985, p. 48

² OJ No. L 163, 22.6.1985, p. 48

104. Question by Mr ROVSING (H-1135/90)

Subject: Free movement of goods

The obstruction of road transport currently taking place is completely contrary to the Commission's objectives in regard to the free movement of goods and, as a result, hauliers and their customers in all the Member States are incurring severe losses with every day that passes.

What steps does the Commission intend to take to ensure that traffic can flow normally between Austria and Italy and how does it propose to respond to any demands for compensation that forwarding agents and hauliers might make?

25.10.1990

DA

105. Question by Mrs FERRER (H-1141/90)

Subject: The ERASMUS programme

At a recent meeting of Parliament's Committee on Youth, a representative from the university world drew attention to a certain degree of neglect of the humanities in the running of the ERASMUS programme.

If it is the case that there is a considerable imbalance between the percentage of grant-holders on technical and social science courses as opposed to those studying the humanities, does the Commission intend to introduce any balancing factors in subsequent phases of the ERASMUS programme?

25.10.1990

ES

106. Question by Mr BLAK (H-1142/90)

Subject: Use of dipped headlights on cars in daytime

With effect from 1 October 1990 it is compulsory in Denmark for all cars to drive with dipped headlights all day. For this purpose many drivers have had their cars wired so that the lights are permanently on when the motor is running. However, in Germany (and other EC countries) it is illegal to drive with headlights during daylight hours.

Does the Commission intend, and if so how, to ensure that Danish motorists can enter Germany without being stopped and asked to turn back?

25.10.1990

DA

107. Question by Mr CABEZON ALONSO (H-1148/90)

Subject: European citizenship and basic rights

Some months ago, Mr Delors announced that the Commission intended to put forward a future 'Charter of basic rights for Community citizens'.

The Dublin Summit raised the question of how a European Union would conceive the notion of Community citizenship and extend it to the citizens of the Member States. The Spanish Government has drafted a proposal on the subject which is under consideration and is intended as a contribution to the Intergovernmental Conference on Political Union.

Is the Commission prepared to support the idea of a statute of European citizenship? What does the Commission consider should be the most important features of such a statute? Would it include, in more extensive form, the basic rights laid down in the Social Charter? How would it be made compatible with the current decision-making process in operation in the Council and with the definition of subsidiarity in social matters?

29.10.1990

ES

108. Question by Mr Brian SIMPSON (H-1157/90)

Subject: Roadworthiness of heavy goods vehicles

Is the Commission aware that, in a recent survey carried out in the UK on the roadworthiness of heavy goods vehicles, one third of those vehicles tested proved to have a serious defect in one way or another?

With this in mind, will the Commission indicate what steps it intends to take to ensure that all Community HGVs are roadworthy and safe, and will it consider enacting measures which will lead to either full and proper repairs of such vehicles or, failing this, the confiscation of the vehicle for scrapping in the interest of public safety?

31.10.1990

EN

109. Question by Mr NICHOLSON (H-1166/90)

Subject: ERM and the green pound

With the accession of the UK to the ERM, will the Commission now consider the total removal of the green pound rate?

31.10.1990

EN

110. Question by Mr NIANIAS (H-1168/90)

Subject: Dangerous counterfeit pharmaceuticals

There has been a recent upswing in the trafficking of counterfeit pharmaceuticals on the European market. This practice has severe repercussions daily throughout the world: experts estimate that, in Africa alone, trade in these bogus products has led to thousands of deaths.

What steps does the Commission intend to take to tackle this problem?

31.10.1990

EL

111. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-1171/90)

Subject: Sell-off of Olympic Catering

According to reports in the Greek press (2.11.1990), Olympic Catering was sold off under highly suspicious circumstances. The sale of the company was placed in the hands of Eurocorp-Euroholdings Banque, Worms, which never published any invitation for an expression of interest in the company.

Can the Commission state what the conditions are governing sell-offs and whether the procedures followed are compatible with competition law?

5.11.1990

EL

112. Question by Mr WELSH (H-1181/90)

Subject: Structural Funds and French Guiana

The 'Vademecum' on the presentation of Objective 1 region Operational Programmes by Member States indicates that information must be supplied on 'areas which are important for conservation (sensitive areas)'. What is the Commission's definition of a 'sensitive area' in French Guiana?

In view of the Commission's stated support for the conservation of rainforests, reiterated most recently in Parliament on 12 October 1990, does the Commission agree that the whole of the rainforest of French Guiana should be considered a 'sensitive area' and that all Structural Fund projects within it should be subject to Environmental Impact Assessment?

6.11.1990

EN

113. Question by Mr ARBELOA MURU (H-1184/90)

Subject: Publicizing the forthcoming intergovernmental conferences

What action does the Commission propose to take presently to make the European public aware of the preparations for and outcome of the forthcoming intergovernmental conferences?

7.11.1990

ES

114. Question by Mr ELLES (H-1190/90)

Subject: EC enlargement

Many people today within the European Community are expecting the EC to enlarge after 1993, once the single European market is complete. With four applications pending and several more expected, the perspective of an EC with at least 20 countries is possible by the year 2000. Has the Commission given any thought as to how such a European Community could function with common laws and common institutions? Does the Commission believe that this question should be considered at the forthcoming Intergovernmental Conference on political union?

8.11.1990

EN

115. Question by Mr DE ROSSA (H-1192/90)

Subject: Disadvantaged Areas Scheme in the Republic of Ireland

Has the Irish Government sought the establishment of an appeal mechanism to deal with borderline cases, as part of its submission to the Commission on the extension of the Disadvantaged Areas Scheme in the Republic of Ireland?

What is or would be the position of the Commission on such a proposal and, in particular, would it agree that, to be meaningful, such an appeal should be to a higher authority than that which made the decision in the first instance?

9.11.1990

EN

116. Question by Mr COX (H-800/90)

Subject: Information flow between the European Institutions and the Irish Administration

Given that a study commissioned by DG XIII has taken place into improving the flow of documents and information between the European Institutions and the Irish Administration, what measures have been put in place to use modern technologies for communication between the European Institutions and the Irish Administration?

20.6.1990

EN

117. Question by Mr McCUBBIN (H-822/90)

Subject: Invalidity benefit

In the United Kingdom, invalidity benefit for a woman stops at the age of 60, yet continues for a man until the age of 65. As the Treaties are based on the equality of treatment between men and women, would the Commission care to comment as to whether they would be willing to support action to ensure the equality of treatment in the above case?

27.6.1990

EN

118. Question by Mr VALVERDE LOPEZ (H-830/90)

Subject: Monitoring by the Commission of technical quality specifications for projects financed by ERDF

A considerable number of public works projects are currently in progress in the various Community countries with partial funding by the ERDF. There are presumably certain technical standards and minimum quality requirements, standardized at Community level. Moreover, each construction project incorporates certain technical and quality specifications endorsed by the specialists responsible for the projects and by the officials of the relevant administration. Does the Commission make a standard practice of insisting upon technical quality checks when finalizing projects partially funded by the ERDF? There have been numerous reports in the Spanish media of poor quality in some of these projects. In particular, what information does the Commission have regarding the quality of construction of the Seville-Baza motorway in Andalusia (Spain)?

28.6.1990

ES

119. Question by Mr COLOM I NAVAL (H-832/90)

Subject: Implications of EMU for the CFA franc

One of the stated aims of European EMU is the use of a single common currency. Can the Commission say what the implications of this will be for the CFA franc in current use?

28.6.1990

ES

120. Question by Mr TARADASH (H-835/90)

Subject: Illogical approach to the fight against drugs

According to the response to the special anti-drug cooperation plan put forward by Colombia, approved by the Commission on 13 June 1990, the latter proposes deploying the sum of 60 m ECU over the period 1990-1993 in order, inter alia, to replace coca by alternative crops.

This programme makes provision for a series of aid measures to promote the production and export to the EC of Colombia's other main traditional crops: flowers, coffee and tobacco.

Does the Commission consider it logical to attempt to combat the cultivation of a crop which can be used in the production of drugs by furthering the production and import into the EC of other drugs - tobacco and coffee?

Does the Commission consider this plan to be compatible with its 'Europe against cancer' programme?

2.7.1990

IT

121. Question by Mr McCARTIN (H-858/90)

Subject: Tax and Excise duties levied in Ireland on imported new and second hand cars

Will the Commission state whether, in its opinion, the method of calculation used by the Irish Government to levy tax and excise on imported new and second hand cars is in keeping with Community law?

6.7.1990

EN

122. Question by Mr FALCONER (H-864/90)

Subject: Transport costs in the Community

Recognizing Article 74 of the Treaty;

Can the Commission indicate that road and rail appraisals are undertaken equitably between modes taking into account wider costs and benefits across the European Community?

10.7.1990

EN

123. Question by Mr FORD (H-945/90)

Subject: Food industry sponsorship of members of the Scientific Committee for Food

In the absence of a satisfactory reply to my Question H-939/90 (formerly Written Question 1795/90) seeking information on which members of the Scientific Committee for Food have declared interests in the food industry, and the partner question¹ seeking information on SCF members' consultancies with companies manufacturing or using artificial sweeteners, will the Commission give its assurance that in any action it is considering taking on my request for an urgent inquiry into food industry research and use of artificial sweeteners, such SCF members as have declared interests are both identified and excluded from such inquiry?

6.9.1990

EN

124. Question by Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-951/90)

Subject: Sunday trading

What steps does the Commission intend to take to put an end to the restrictions on the free movement of goods caused by different regulations in the Member States relating to Sunday trading?

7.9.1990

EN

¹ Written question 1794/90, not yet published in the Official Journal.

125. Question by Mrs RUIZ-GIMENEZ AGUILAR (H-956/90)

Subject: Promotion of energy products in Latin America

The current Gulf crisis has shown that the Community Member States are heavily dependent on energy products, in particular oil, from the Middle East, and that, in times of crises such as the present, this can have an adverse effect on their economies.

Why has the Commission not made plans to diversify its supplies of energy products using sources in other countries?

Does it intend to encourage prospecting for energy products in Latin America?

If so, what resources and schemes has it prepared or does it intend to prepare?

11.9.1990

ES

126. Question by Mr ROMEOS (H-0962/90)

Subject: The Gulf crisis and Turkey

Turkey is the only country which has raised the question of compensation in return for its support for the UN Security Council's decision to impose an economic embargo on Iraq. Some members of the Commission, together with certain Community Member States, have 'welcomed' the position adopted by Turkey and called for relations between the Community and Turkey to be strengthened in recompense.

It is a well-known fact that, in 1974, Turkey invaded and occupied the north of Cyprus, deploying troops to ensure that it remains cut off from the Republic of Cyprus. Just like Iraq, Turkey is implementing a plan to annex territory. The UN Security Council has condemned the Turkish invasion and called for the withdrawal of the Turkish troops. The European Parliament has also adopted similar resolutions, and the European Council meeting in Dublin issued a statement which echoed these views.

Does the Commission intend to 'reward' Turkey for the stance it has taken in the Gulf crisis, without requiring it to implement the UN resolutions and the Community decisions concerning the withdrawal of Turkish troops from Cyprus? Does it not agree that Turkey's invasion of Cyprus and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait amount to a violation of exactly the same principles upheld by the United Nations?

12.9.1990

EL

127. Question by Mr LALOR (H-0966/90)

Subject: Preparation of working documents on the impact of the completion of the internal market at sectoral level

In order to provide a broader appreciation of the problems and challenges of, for example, the food, electronics and pharmaceutical industries in the context of the completion of the internal market at sectoral level, does the Commission share the view that EC Industry Ministers would be assisted in any discussion they might have on this subject by the preparation by the Commission of suitable working documents?

12.9.1990

EN

128. Question by Mr FITZGERALD (H-0981/90)

Subject: Community initiative reserve fund assistance for the long-term unemployed

At the EC Council of Social Affairs Ministers on 29 May 1990, it was noted that the Commission intends to finance a number of labour market initiatives from the 600m ECU (£450m) funds available under the Community initiative reserve fund.

Will the Commission now state how it envisages the divide-up of these funds for labour market initiatives?

12.9.1990

EN

129. Question by Mr KILLILEA (H-0985/90)

Subject: Funding for breast cancer screening programme in Ireland

Considering the level of interest and concern that the European Commission has expressed over the past year or so on the subject of cancer and cancer prevention, and indeed considering the amount of money which has been spent on publicity materials and PR efforts to highlight the possible ways of cancer prevention, can the Commission now explain why it has cut the budget of the first and only breast cancer screening programme in Ireland (where one in thirteen women is affected by breast cancer) from £IR 139 000 (approximately 173 000 ECU) last year to £IR 60 000 (approximately 75 000 ECU) this year. This programme, now in its second year, is due to run for two more years. Is the Commission not of the opinion that it is as important to see the final outcome of a programme as it is to see it started up? Most especially a programme such as this, when breast cancer is a major cause of death for so many women throughout the EC.

I understand that in the cancer prevention code which has been adopted by the EC, screening is to be the area of primary concern in 1991, and with this in mind, it would seem to be a logical step to allocate a realistic figure to this programme.

12.9.1990

EN

130. Question by Mr WYNN (H-989/90)

Subject: Tobacco

Would the Commission accept the argument of Dr Roberto Masironi, head of the Tobacco or Health programme of the WHO, that it would be 'totally unacceptable and against all ethics, for the EC to dump high-tar tobacco on the Third World. They should not export tobacco to Third World countries that is too dangerous for them to smoke themselves'?

Will the Commission undertake that as of 31 December 1992, when the maximum tar content of cigarettes will be 15 mg. no export subsidies will be paid on tobacco exceeding that level of tar content?

13.9.1990

EN

131. Question by Mrs RAWLINGS (H-0994/90)

Subject: Funding for the disabled

Does the Commission not agree that initiatives which aim to promote EC disabled trainees into television production, namely, in the BBC's 'One in Four' series, should be encouraged and warrant financial support from the Commission through the European Social Fund, or other appropriate means.

19.9.1990

EN

132. Question by Mr ELLIOTT (H-1033/90)

Subject: Food irradiation

Will the Commission inform the Parliament as to the state of progress in agreeing a Community Directive on Food Irradiation. Would it also say whether, in view of its clear intention to establish such a Directive, it has made any critical representations regarding the ill-timed proposals of the British Government to remove the present prohibition on food irradiation in the UK and permit its use on a much wider range of foods than the Commission is recommending in its draft Directive.

26.9.1990

EN

133. Question by Mr GANGOITI LLAGUNO (H-1042/90)

Subject: New European economic area

The Dublin European Council authorized the Commission to open negotiations with the EFTA countries with a view to the creation of a European economic area.

Given that the fisheries sector is one of the topics for discussion, and bearing in mind the problems facing the Community fleet - notably that of the newest Member States - and the size of some of the EFTA countries' fishing-grounds, will the Commission take this opportunity to secure a significant increase in access to these waters, in particular for those fleets which are currently most disadvantaged?

What is the Commission's overall approach to these negotiations as regards the fisheries sector?

27.9.1990

ES

134. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-1048/90)

Subject: Loan to Greece

It is known that the Greek Government intends to make a formal request to the Community for a loan of some 2 billion ECU.

In the event of this, what does the Commission envisage, particularly with regard to the probable legal basis and the conditions attaching to subsequent economic policy?

28.9.1990

EL

