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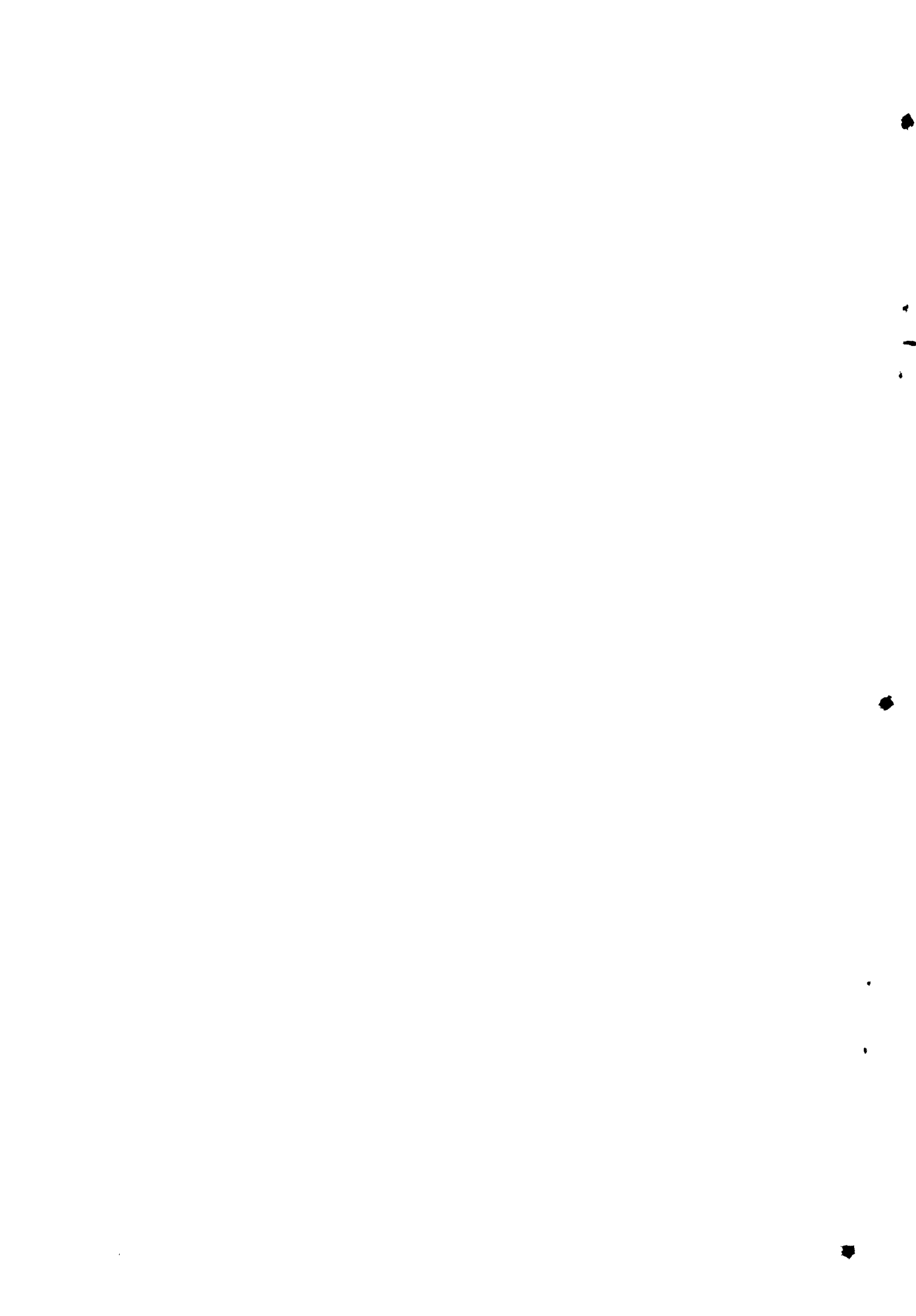
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ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME

on 12 and 13 March 1985



1. Question by Mr FITZGERALD (H-348/84)(x)

Subject : Reactivating the European Shipbuilding Industry

To ask the Commission what notice it has taken of the Resolution adopted by the European Parliament which asks the Commission to devise a genuine policy for reactivating the shipbuilding industry for example, by encouraging European shipbuilders to place their orders with EEC shipyards, launch modernisation programmes, have fair competition rules respected and harmonise support conditions for financing ?

18.10.1984

2. Question by Mr MAHER (H-352/84)(x)

Subject : VAT on imported motor vehicles

Bearing in mind the Council's answer to question 54 in the first October part session of 1984, does not the Commission agree that the Irish Government's proposed level of imposition of VAT on imported motor vehicles will in effect maintain the situation as it has been during the past ten years and that therefore the free trade rules of the EEC will be breached ?

22.10.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

3. Question by Mr MACSHARRY (H-360/84) (x)

Subject : International Youth Year

In view of the fact that 1985 has been designated International Youth Year, will the Commission indicate what proposals it has put forward or intends to consider to mark this important event ?

23.10.1984

4. Question by Mr BARRETT (H-364/84) (x)

Subject : Shannon study

In view of the importance of the Shannon Estuary to the economic and social welfare of the West of Ireland and the stated purpose of the ERDF which is to contribute to the correction of the principal regional imbalances within the Community through participation in the development and structural adjustment of regions whose development is lagging behind, will the Commission indicate whether or not it would be prepared to fund a study into the infrastructural problems of this region ?

23.10.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

5. Question by Mr FITZSIMONS (H-365/84)(x)

Subject : New technologies and the textile industry

Will the Commission state what action it is taking to implement the calls made by the European Parliament to devise a Community strategy in the textile and clothing industry which involves :

- (a) a more rigorous and efficient management of the Community's textile agreements;
- (b) promoting the sector's general competitiveness by specific measures;
- (c) accompanying reconversion by social measures, since a loss of one million jobs is expected by 1990?

23.10.1984

6. Question by Mrs LEMASS (H-382/84)(x)

Subject : Accidents in the Home

Will the Commission state what results have been achieved from the pilot programme which it started, in close cooperation with national authorities on information relating to accidents in the home ?

25.10.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

7. Question by Mr FANTON (H-385/84)(x)

Subject: Sheep imports from New Zealand

A few months ago, the exasperation of French sheep farmers at the aberrations in the sheepmeat market led to incidents such as the interception of British lorries on French roads.

The exasperation of these farmers is due to recent imports into France of sheep carcasses from New Zealand, which had simply passed through the United Kingdom in transit.

What measures does the Commission intend to take to put an end to New Zealand's policy of selling sheepmeat at low prices on the European market, and to ensure that all Member States comply with the rules established by the European institutions?

The Commission is surely aware that, unless it meets its responsibilities, sheep farming is liable to disappear in many regions of Europe.

25.10.1984

8. Question by Mr ANDREWS (H-387/84)(x)

Subject : Food assistance to hunger-stricken countries

Could the Commission tell us why considering that some of its food productions are in excess it does not increase its food assistance in favour of populations suffering from starvation ?

25.10.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

9. Question by Mr DALSASS (H-464/84) (x)

Subject: Article on South Tirol in 'EG-Magazin' in October
1984

In October 1982 the European Parliament published a resolution calling for protection for regional languages and cultures which was seen as the first step towards protecting various ethnic groups within the Community.

This opinion was also welcomed by the Commission. How, therefore, can the Commission allow an article to be published in the October 1984 issue of the 'EG-Magazin' which is financed by the Community, which presents a false picture of the situation in South Tirol and is so biased that it gives a false impression of and is detrimental to the South Tirolian ethnic group? Does the Commission not believe that it should disclaim such reports? And what steps will it take to ensure that in future the EG-Magazin promotes the interests of ethnic groups rather than working against them.

12.11.1984

10. Question by Mr SIMMONDS (H-468/84) (x)

Subject : Commission Funds for Slaughter Houses

With reference to the Commission's answer to my question H-88/84 (1) of 11.9.1984, and to Mr Dalsager's assurances that he would investigate the matter, what have been the fruits of that investigation, and will the Commission agree to pursue the matter further ?

(1) Debates Nr 2-316 of 11.9.1984

12.11.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

11. Question by Mr SEAL (H-482/84) (x)

Subject: Progress of Multifibre Arrangement

The current term of the multifibre arrangement (MFA) is due to expire in July 1986, and international negotiations are now beginning to fix the terms on which it will be renewed. Bearing in mind the implications of the MFA for the Community's textiles and clothing industries, with 2.5 million employees,

Can the Commission state what arrangements will be made for consultations with the textile and clothing industries, including notably the trade unions, and will it take fully into account the fact that the textile industries are largely concentrated in a number of specific regions of the Community, many with particularly high levels of unemployment?

15.11.1984

12. Question by Mrs CHOURAQUI (H-485/84) (x)

Subject: Effects and consequences of demographic change

Last April Commissioner Richard told the House that 'demography, the birth rate, the encouragement of population or otherwise within Member States, is essentially a matter for the national policy of individual Member States', but he added that the Council of Ministers of Social Affairs had asked the Commission to analyse the effects and consequences of the demographic changes that are now taking place.

Could the Commission make a statement on this very important question?

19.11.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

13. Question by Mr FLANAGAN (H-509/84) (x)

Subject: Cut-backs on Social Fund aid for the handicapped

Will the Commission confirm whether or not it has taken a decision to cut back on the level of Social Fund aid at present being made available to rehabilitation institutes for the handicapped and if so will it state its reasons for doing so?

28.11.1984

14. Question by Mr ROUX (H-564/84) (x)

Subject: Rhine-Rhone river link

Is the Commission in a position to explain why in its transport infrastructure policy it has not been able to include the Rhine-Rhone river link as a project of Community interest, as common sense would dictate?

19.12.1984

15. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-566/84) (x)

Subject: Proceedings against Greece under Article 169

What justification, what factual elements and whose requests have prompted the Commission to institute against Greece the procedure provided for under Article 169 with reference to Greek regulations and the practice of the Greek authorities in the matter of public contracts relating to State supplies?

20.12.84

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

16. Question by Mr CHRISTODOULOU (H-574/84)(x)

Subject: Availability of lead-free petrol in countries which are not Members of the EEC

The recent decision of the Council of Ministers of the Environment on the use of lead-free petrol from 1989 will - owing to the geographical position of Greece - hinder the passage of private vehicles both to and from Greece and have a particularly damaging effect on tourism, unless it is decided to make available lead-free petrol in the transit countries Austria and Yugoslavia as well.

Can the Commission state whether these countries (Austria and Yugoslavia) will have petrol stations to supply tourists with lead-free petrol in 1989? If not, what steps does the Commission intend taking to tackle this problem?

20.12.1984

17. Question by Mr STEWART (H-596/84)(x)

Subject : Barrage across the Mersey

Can the Commission give their view on the feasibility of the recent proposal for a tidal barrage across the Mersey from a technical and economic viewpoint and can they also comment on the regional benefits to employment that might accrue during the construction and subsequent operation of such a barrage?

14.1.1985

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

18. Question by Mr PASTY (H-597/84)(x)

Subject: Increase in suckler herd premiums

Suckler herd premiums were introduced by the Community to offset the inadequacy of specialist meat producers' incomes compared with those of milk producers. Because of the collapse in beef prices, which are now considerably below the guide price, the situation for these farmers is now disastrous and it is aggravated by the effects of the introduction of milk quotas on dairy cow slaughterings. Does the Commission consider that it is fair to make specialist meat producers, who are already penalized by their income levels, suffer the consequences of an imbalance that has arisen in another sector? Does it not consider that under these circumstances it would be fair to propose a substantial increase in suckler herd premiums or any other measures having an equivalent effect in the price review for the next marketing year?

14.1.1985

19. Question by Mrs THOME-PATENOTRE (H -614/84)(x)

Subject: Transport of horses

In its resolution of 10 June 1983 the European Parliament tackled the question of the transport of horses. What action has been taken in response to this resolution? What are the Commission's intentions, in particular, as regards reducing the distances over which horses are transported and what measures does the Commission intend to take when strikes or any other circumstances lead to animals in transit being held up at frontiers?

16.1.1985

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

20. Question by Mr GUERMEUR (H -620/84)(x)

Subject: European petrochemical industry

Is the Commission aware that the Community's petrochemical industry is increasingly unable to defend itself against competition from countries in the Middle East, which have lower production costs, and does it not consider it necessary to negotiate a ceiling on imports into the Community of petrochemical products from Saudi Arabia?

17.1.1985

21. Question by Mrs DUPUY (H-621/84)(x)

Subject: Consequences of the cold weather in the Community

Is the Commission aware of the serious consequences of the wave of exceptionally cold weather on certain products, particularly in the Mediterranean regions, which are having a substantial effect in terms of price rises, and does it plan to make emergency aid available to the most seriously affected regions of the Community?

17.1.1985

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

22. Question by Mr JUPPÉ (H-640/84) (x)

Subject: Plan by the United States to tax imports of oil and consumer goods

Is the Commission aware that Congress is currently studying a plan to introduce degressive taxes of 20, 15 and 7% per year on imports of oil and consumer goods over a period of three years, with a view to reducing the budgetary and trade deficits, and has it assessed the serious consequences of such measures, if they are adopted, for Community exports of the products concerned?

18.1.1985

23. Question by Mr PITT (H-644/84) (x)

Subject : Flag of convenience shipping

Would the Commission give details of the economic effects of supporting flag of convenience shipping, in terms of the contributions to the balance of payments of Member States, to shipbuilding and associated industries, and employment in shipping, shipbuilding and associated industries?

21.1.1985

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

24. Question by Mr RAFTERY (H-654/84)(x)

Subject : The flying of the flags of the Member States
throughout the Community

Is the Commission aware that in a part of the European Communities it is illegal to fly together the flags of all ten Member States? This is the case in Northern Ireland, where under legislation dating from the now defunct Stormont Parliament, it remains illegal to fly or display the flag of Ireland. Can the Commission indicate whether similar legislation exists, in any other part of the Community and if so, where and would the Commission not agree that this situation is clearly contrary to the spirit of the Treaties; if so what action do they intend to take?

23.1.1985

25. Question by Mr WIJSENBEEK (H-681/84) (x)

Subject: Inland navigation.

Can the Commission state whether it intends to ensure that measures are taken, either directly or by the Member States, in connection with inland navigation, particularly as regards north-south routes, to guarantee free competition as set out in the Treaty?

29.1.1985

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

26. Question by Mrs TONGUE (H-260/84)

Subject : Child Care provision in the European Community

Given that equal treatment for male and female workers constitutes one of the objectives of the Community, is the Commission aware of the inequality suffered by women seeking access to the labour market because they do not have equal access to adequate child care provision in all EEC countries ?

Convinced that public provision of child care facilities for the under fives is necessary to guarantee real equality for women, will the Commission undertake to draw up proposals for a framework directive calling on Member States to acknowledge their responsibilities in this field and to make the necessary provisions ?

28.09.1984

27. Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-267/84)

Subject : VAT on food

Would the Commission please confirm that it has no plans to ask the U.K. Government to impose VAT on Food ?

1.10.1984

28. Question by Mr FORD (H-327/84)

Subject: Severn barrage

Further to the Commission's answer to oral question No H-201/84 by Mr Llewellyn SMITH¹, will the Commission state what consideration has been given to the possibility of the Community's support for a second Severn crossing by means of a short barrage scheme incorporating a tidal power facility, rather than by means of another bridge?

11.10.1984

29. Question by Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK (H-501/84) *

Subject: The status of conscientious objector

On 7 February 1983 the European Parliament adopted a resolution on conscientious objection² on the basis of the report drawn up by Mrs MACCIOCCHI .

Can the Commission indicate what action it has taken on that report?

What progress has been made in implementing its provisions in the various Member States?

Is the Commission aware of the recent adverse developments in this area in Belgium, Germany and France?

24.10.1984

* Former oral question without debate (0-65/84) converted into a question for question time

¹ Verbatim report of proceedings, 10 October 1984, p.142

² OJ No. C68/1983

30. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-527/84)

Subject: Abolition of personal checks at the internal frontiers

What is the Commission's assessment of the effects of the resolution adopted by the Council and the Member States on 7 June 1984 at its instigation on the easing of checks on persons on the Community's internal frontiers? Can the Commission indicate any tangible changes for the ordinary traveller, compared with the previous legal or actual situation at the Community's internal frontiers, that have come about following this agreement?

5.11.1984

31. Question by Mr HABSBURG (H-455/84)

Subject: Article in the Community's German language magazine (EG-Magazine), October 1984 issue, entitled 'In Südtirol ist auch 'Europa' gefordert' (The South Tyrol needs Europe too)

Is the Commission of the opinion that the 'EG-Magazin', which is financed from Community funds, i.e. by us all, is duty bound to be truthful, factual and fair to all Members in its reporting, does it share the view that the abovementioned article does not meet these criteria in any way and is extremely discriminatory against the population concerned, and what measures are planned to prevent a publication which is entirely financed by the Community from acting in this manner again?

12.11.1984

32. Question by Mr von WOGAU (H-496/84)

Subject: German regulations governing the issue of a German driving licence to citizens of Community Member States

Under paragraph 15 of the German Road Traffic Regulations as amended on 23 November 1982, (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 1533), a citizen of a Member State of the Community can 'exchange' his driving licence from a different Member State for a German driving licence if he has taken up residence in the Federal Republic of Germany and no more than 12 months have elapsed since he took up residence.

The holder of a driving licence from the German Democratic Republic on the other hand may do so at any time, i.e. without observing a one year deadline (paragraph 14a of the Road Traffic Regulations).

Once the year has elapsed, irrespective of any previous driving experience and irrespective of the fact that he has acquired over a year's experience driving in West Germany, the Community citizen has to retake the driving test to acquire a German driving licence which involves considerable expense.

I would therefore ask the Commission:

Does the Commission regard the one year deadline in paragraph 15 of the Road Traffic Regulations to the detriment of Community citizens as compatible with the EEC Treaty, and would it not be appropriate to extend the provisions for citizens of the German Democratic Republic in paragraph 14a of the Road Traffic Regulations to Community citizens?

26.11.1984

33. Question by Mr MATTINA (H-709/84) (x)

Subject: The critical situation in the Third World

- A. Noting that, as a result of Community policy on milk production, Italy has decided to slaughter more than 70,000 dairy cows;
- B. whereas this constitutes an intolerable destruction of resources given that in many Third World countries food products are in very short supply;
- C. considering that 70,000 dairy cows could be put to better use by increasing the livestock resources of poor countries;

Does the Commission not think it would be a good idea for the animals in question, which are not suffering from diseases and could still be productive, to be saved from death and sent to Third World countries where they can be of further use?

If so, will it act accordingly?

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-93/84), converted into a question for question time.

3.12.1984

34. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-533/84)

Subject: Dooge Committee

At the Dublin summit the committee was asked to submit its final report by March 1985. What role will the Commission now play in the committee and does it intend to defend the draft Treaty establishing the European Union?

11.12.1984

35. Question by Mr LALOR (H-726/84)

Subject: Imports of Swiss milk

Will the Commission indicate what quantities of Swiss milk are imported into the Community by each Member state, giving the basis of the agreement, if any, which authorizes such imports and furthermore how does the Commission justify such imports at a time when the Community farmers are being harassed by milk quotas and superlevies?

13.12.1984

36. Question by Mr McMAHON (H-600/84)

Subject : Iron and steel employees : ECSC Redaptation Benefit

Can the Commission spell out in detail the regulations for payment of benefits to certain steel workers who lose their jobs as a result of capacity reductions in the Iron and Steel Industry; in particular, BSC wish to close the Glengarnock Works and transfer the work to Shelton. The product at Glengarnock being Universal Flats and TH arches. If BSC transfer production to another Mill and do not cut back on production of TH Arches and Universal Flats, will the workforce at the Glengarnock Works still be entitled to assistance for retraining under the ECSC scheme?

14.1.1985

37. Question by Mr DEPRez (H-608/84)

Subject: Second European programme to combat poverty

Despite weaknesses and gaps, the first programme (1975-1980) created hopes that resources could be amassed, combined or boosted at European level to support or direct measures and policies to combat poverty in the Member States. Unfortunately, the limited resources available (44 million ECU over five years) restricted the scope of the measures and projects undertaken.

With the second programme the Commission considered that the sum of 35 million ECU over five years (i.e. an average of 7 million ECU per annum) was a minimum for carrying out a programme with even a little impact. On 13 December 1984 the Council of Ministers of Employment and Social Affairs adopted the second programme to combat poverty but restricted it to 25 million ECU over four years (or 6.25 million ECU per annum), i.e. 10 million ECU less than the Commission's proposal and 19 million ECU less than the first programme.

What will the Commission be able to do with such a restricted sum at a time when there is a substantial increase in poverty throughout the European Community?

15.1.1985

38. Question by Mr EVRIGENIS (H-740/84)^(x)

Subject: Protection of confidentiality of legal documents

According to document COM(84) 548 final of 9 October 1984, the Commission has requested the Council's authorization to negotiate the conclusion of agreement's between the European Economic Community and third countries with the object of ensuring protection of confidentiality of legal documents in the field of competition. According to the Commission, the conclusion of agreements of this nature is necessary following the publication of the judgement of the European Court of Justice of 18 May 1982 (case 155/79, AM & S EUROPE LTD/Commission)¹ and is designed both to extend the protection of professional secrecy to independent lawyers from third countries and, correspondingly, to strengthen and make internationally binding the protection granted by third countries to independent lawyers from the Member States.

Would the Commission state:

1. Why the proposed negotiations and the international agreements which may result are confined to matters concerning competition under the EEC Treaty and are not broadened to cover competition under the terms of the other treaties or other related fields such as those defined under the anti-dumping rules or Article 213 of the EEC Treaty?
2. Whether it intends to request the opinion of the Court of Justice under Article 228(1), paragraph 2, as to whether the international agreements which are to be negotiated are compatible with the provisions of the Treaty or Treaties?
3. Whether it also intends to amend and supplement Council Regulation 17/62² in order to clarify and consolidate the system of protection of lawyers' professional secrecy in accordance with the proposals contained in Parliament's resolution of 13 April 1984³.

¹ European Court Reports 1982, pp. 1575 - 1616

² OJ No. C13, 21.4.1962, p. 104

³ OJ No. C127, 14.5.1984, p. 131

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-114/84), converted into a question for question time

15.1.1985

-9. Question by Mr SCHMID (H-776/84) *

Subject: Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1890/84
introducing special measures of Community
interest relating to energy strategy

Article 4(4) of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1890/84¹
introducing special measures of Community interest
relating to energy strategy reads as follows: 'Community
financial assistance shall be made only in respect of
projects, schemes or measures initiated after 1 January 1983.
No contribution shall be made in respect of projects or
schemes completed before the entry into force of this
Regulation.'

The Commission Decision of 17 October 1984 (84/511/EEC)²
approves nine projects in the Federal Republic of Germany.
Which specific projects, schemes or measures initiated
after 1 January 1983 are concerned?

¹ OJ No. L 177, 4.7.1984, p. 7

² OJ No. L 283, 27.10.1984, p. 50

15.01.1985

* Former oral question without debate (0-112/84) converted into
a question for question time.

40. Question by Mr GRIFFITHS (H-623/84)

Subject : Maritime Transport

With whom did the Commission consult in the preparation of
their draft paper entitled "Progress towards a common Transport
Policy-Maritime Transport"?

17.1.1985

41. Question by Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-649/84)

Subject : Mobility of labour within the Community

Does the Commission share my view that, in order to encourage the mobility of labour within the community, a greatly simplified system of the transferability of entitlement to national welfare benefits is required and how does the Commission propose to devise a suitable scheme to satisfy this need?

17.1.1985

42. Question by Mrs EWING (H-643/84)

Subject : Spanish fisheries

Will the Commission comment on recent developments on Spanish Accession negotiations vis-à-vis fisheries?

21.1.1985

43. Question by Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE (H-665/84)

Subject: Commission's attitude to the FIFA transfer system

A meeting was held in December between the Commission and FIFA representatives to discuss problems arising from the current transfer system and its incompatibility with the provisions of the Treaty of Rome governing the free movement of persons. Would the Commission indicate the outcome of the talks and its attitude to this issue?

23.1.1985

Question by Mr PEARCE (H-679/84)

44.

Subject : Use of animals for research and training purposes

What steps has the Commission taken to bring about in the Community a general code of practice on the extent to which and the nature of the use of animals for research and training purposes ?

29.01.1985

Question by Mrs CRAWLEY (H-695/84)

45.

Subject : Second EEC Anti-Poverty Programme

Following the approval by the Council of Social Ministers last December of the second EEC anti-poverty programme, due to begin this year, will the Commission state when it will be requesting tenders for the "action-research" projects which make up the main part of the programme, and when the common criteria for selection of these projects will be made public? In particular, will the Commission state what directions will be or have been given to Member States to ensure a fair and open bidding process from interested groups to establish the credibility of the programme amongst disadvantaged groups in the EEC; furthermore, what measures will it be taking to advertise this programme throughout the Community?

1.2.1985

46. Question by Mrs DURY (H-699/84)

Subject: New pesticides

The Belgian press recently reported on the mysterious cases of neurological illnesses at Fernelmont in Belgium.

Investigations have revealed that land near Fernelmont has been used for experiments involving phytopharmaceutical products under development in the United States, prior to marketing, though no causal connection has been established.

What legislative steps has the Commission taken to prevent Europe from becoming a test bed for new pesticides prior to marketing in the United States? How does it supervise this type of activity?

4.2.1985

47. Question by Mr COLLINS (H-702/84)

Subject: Soil pollution

Will the Commission say what work is being carried out in the Community on soil pollution, soil erosion and soil conservation? How is this work funded, and is there any indication that some Member States are withdrawing resources from such work in spite of widespread concern about the interrelationship of agriculture and the environment?

4.2.1985

Question by Mrs CASTLE (H-705/84)

48.

Subject: VAT

Is the Commission aware that Britain has never levied a tax on books and that the last tax on newspapers and journals was abolished in 1855 on the grounds that knowledge should be made as widely available as possible and be as cheap as possible? Would it agree that VAT on newspapers, journals and books constitutes a tax on knowledge and culture, which is contrary to the principles of a civilized Community? When reviewing the Sixth Directive on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States relating to VAT, will it promote an amendment to make it clear that harmonization should exclude the essentials of life, of which the right to knowledge is one, and thus make an effective contribution to the creation of a People's Europe?

4.2.1985

Question by Mr PANNELLA (H-707/84)

49.

Subject: European Convention on Human Rights

In view of the established case law of the Court of Justice to the effect that the European Convention on Human Rights is already considered an integral part of the Community legal order, does the Commission not intend to propose to the Council of Ministers, as it did once before in a 1976 memorandum that the Community should accede to that Convention?

What are the reasons that would prevent the Community from acceding to that Convention?

5.2.1985

50. Question by Mr McCARTIN (H-711/84)

Subject: Factory closure in Castlebar, Ireland

Is the Commission aware of the closure of Travenol Ltd of their factory at Castlebar, Ireland with the loss of 700 jobs?

Can the Commission state whether in fact the decision to close this factory whilst maintaining a factory producing identical products in France was influenced by the Public Procurement Policies pursued by the French authorities?

6.02.1985

51. Question by Mr WURTZ (H-712/84)

Subject: Food aid and emergency aid to Nicaragua

The Nicaraguan Government recently requested food aid for 1985, as well as emergency aid, including deliveries of cereals and milk powder.

Has the Commission acceded to this request? If not, can it explain the reasons for its refusal and indicate whether it proposes to grant such aid to Nicaragua in the future? In addition, has it received requests for this type of aid from the NGOs?

6.02.1985

52. Question by Mr MARCK (H-719/84)

Subject: Dumping prices for milk

A number of reports have indicated that various German distributors are selling large quantities of milk on the Belgian market at retail prices which are well below the cost price of the domestic products. When one learns that the price which these same distributors are paying for milk supplies in Germany is higher than the price paid to Belgian producers, one is entitled to ask the reason why. Is the Commission able to explain this phenomenon? Has it something to do with the refund on VAT to compensate for the dismantling of monetary compensatory amounts? Is any other form of subsidy involved?

11.2.1985

53. Question by Mr DE VRIES (H-723/84)

Subject: Accession of the Community to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

Is the Commission in a position to state why it has not yet taken action in line with the Gonella resolution (Doc. 1-547/82) (1) calling on the Commission to submit to the Council as soon as possible a formal proposal providing for the accession of the Community to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, and does it intend to make such a proposal soon?

(1) OJ No. C 304, 22.11.1982

12.2.1985

54. Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-724/84)

Subject: Developments in the case involving Stanley Adams,
Hoffmann La Roche and the Commission

Can the Commission give details of the latest developments in
the case involving Stanley Adams, Hoffmann La Roche and the
Commission?

13.2.1985

55. Question by Mr SEEFELD (H-727/84)

Subject: Programme of action to promote the social and
economic integration of disabled people (1)

Can the Commission give details of the latest state of social
and economic integration of disabled people at Community
level, with particular reference to the standardization of
the definition of the term 'disabled person' in all Member
States, the introduction of a disabled person's pass valid in
all Community countries, building regulations for residential
and public premises that take account of the needs of
disabled people, measures to integrate disabled persons in
working life and greater access for disabled young people to
vocational training?

(1) May 1982 - May 1987, adopted by the Council on
21 December 1981

13.2.1985

56.

Question by Mr PETERS (H-728/84)

Subject: Programme of action to promote the social and economic integration of disabled people (1)

By the end of 1984 the Commission was supposed to have submitted a report on its activities relating to the implementation of the abovementioned action programme and on the latest state of progress with regard to measures at Community level.

Is this report by the Commission available in the official languages and, if not, why not? Has the Commission drawn up draft directives providing for the introduction of common criteria and standards governing the rights of disabled people in the Member States and of a workable quota system for the employment of disabled people in the Member States?

(1) May 1982 - May 1987, adopted by the Council on 21 December 1981

13.2.1985

57.

Question by Mrs CINCIARI RODANO (H-735/84)

Subject: Fight against tuberculosis in Vietnam

Has the project submitted by TROCAIRE on behalf of CISDE (International Cooperation for Development and Solidarity) to combat tuberculosis in the Pham Ngoc Ehang Hospital in Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam) been financed in accordance with the European Parliament's resolution of 17 February 1984 on the granting of humanitarian aid to Vietnam and, if not, what are the reasons for refusing to do so?

14.2.1985

58. Question by Mr FILINIS (H-737/84)

Subject: Disbursements from the European Social Fund

Although Greece has been classified as a priority area eligible for the highest amount of Social Fund intervention, it emerges from statistical data published in 'Agence Europe', an authoritative bulletin of information on the Community, and in the explanatory statement of the RAGGIO report¹ that in 1984 Greece received only 5.1% of the ESF's total budget, which is an extremely small amount in comparison with the ESF grants to the other Member states, considerably lower than the percentage Greece received in 1983 (6.4%) and not at all commensurate with the country's structural problems.

What, in the Commission's view, is the reason for this retrogression in ESF disbursements and what measures does it intend to take on Greece's behalf to remedy this situation?

14.2.1985

¹Doc. 2-1333/84, p. 19

59. Question by Mr HOON (H-745/84)

Subject: Operation Flood

Given that 'Operation Flood is regarded by the European Commission as a prime example of how food aid can be used to promote long-term rural development', and that it provides help to 10 million families in India through the provision of Community skimmed milk powder and butteroil, does the Commission intend to continue with this valuable programme on the same scale?

19.2.1985

60. Question by Mr SCHINZEL (H-747/84)

Subject: The Euro-Arab dialogue

What is the Commission's assessment of the current situation in the Euro-Arab dialogue? Is it planning to step up the dialogue and if so, what initiatives has it considered?

20.2.1985

61. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-751/84)

Subject: Conditions governing the sale of motor vehicles in Greece

The automobile industry is in severe crisis in Greece - where its level of development does not of course compare with the level in most of the Member States - with successive closures of companies or the conversion of production (assembly) plants into commercial enterprises.

Would the Commission state whether and, if so, how it has intervened in order to put an end to the favourable credit terms under which motor vehicles assembled (or produced) in Greece are sold in comparison with imported vehicles, in view of the fact that this will create additional problems in Greece in this sector in which a large number of workers have already been made redundant?

20.2.1985

62.

Question by Mr ADAMOPOULOS (H-752/84)

Subject: Subsidies and imports of fertilizers into Greece

The proposed total abolition of subsidies on fertilizers will raise the price of fertilizers by at least 100% and will adversely affect agricultural income by increasing production costs for agricultural produce. Moreover, liberalizing imports will severely affect the domestic fertilizer industry and the workers employed in it.

In view of all the detrimental effects on the Greek economy and to Greek workers which abolition of fertilizer subsidies and the liberalization of fertilizer imports will entail, does the Commission intend taking steps to prolong the system of national subsidies and to maintain the restrictions on imports of chemical fertilizers?

20.2.1985

63.

Question by Dame Shelagh ROBERTS (H-753/84)

Subject: Status of 'Au Pairs'

Has the Commission taken any action to improve and protect the status of 'au pairs' within the Community following the resolution of the European Parliament passed in 1983?

20.02.1985

64. Question by Mr SHERLOCK (H-755/84)

Subject: Hormones

Will the Commission please indicate what action it proposes to take in regard to the French Government's introduction of the three new hormonal substances as growth promotants in cattle raising contrary to Directive 81/602/EEC¹? Since the French action prejudices both Parliament's opinion and the Council's decision on the Commission's current proposals on hormonal substances (COM(84) 295 final), as well as the Commission's own ad hoc committee of scientific experts, will legal measures be taken?

20.2.1985

¹OJ No. L 222, 7.8.1981, p. 32

65. Question by Mr CROUX (H-756/84)

Subject: Statute for Members of the European Parliament

On 13 February 1985, in its answer to an oral question by Mr Van Miert, the Council stated that in November 1983 it had consulted the Commission on the proposal submitted by Parliament's enlarged Bureau on 29 September 1983 and that it was still awaiting the Commission's reply. Without wishing to go into detail, i.e. into the substance of the enlarged Bureau's proposal, I should like to put the following question to the Commission on the procedure for drawing up a uniform statute for Members of the European Parliament.

Why has the Commission not yet informed the Council of its opinion on this proposal, does it consider that it is obliged to deliver such an opinion and, if so, on the basis of which provisions of the Treaties or other Acts?

20.2.1985

66.

Question by Mr PAPOUTSIS (H-775/84)

Subject: The possibilities of concluding sponge-fishing agreements between the Community and third countries

The Community has already successfully negotiated fisheries agreements with many third countries. These agreements have produced considerable results in that they expand the scope for development of Community fishing (agreements on fishing in third countries' waters) and provide for the monitoring of the market in fishery products (agreements laying down import and export quotas). Could the Commission investigate the possibilities of concluding agreements in the sponge-fishing sector, in particular with the Mediterranean countries of North Africa?

20.2.1985

67.

Question by Mr NEWTON DUNN (H-781/84)

Subject: Commission Memorandum on Maritime Transport

When will the Commission formally issue the Memorandum on Maritime Transport understood to have been approved by the Commission in December 1984, informal copies of which have been circulated to all interested bodies, except the European Parliament?

22.2.1985

68. Question by Mr ELLIOTT (H-784/84)

Subject: Definition of minority groups in the Community

In view of the growing numbers of second and third generation immigrants making up the increasingly multi-racial society of many Member States, the current definition of migrants, designed to cover those groups whose special needs are assisted by certain specific provisions made by Community Institutions, is now inadequate.

Having regard also to the reply given by the President-in-Office of the Council of Ministers in February 1984 to Oral Question No. H-631/84¹ in which he stressed the importance of this problem.

Would the Commission be prepared to make new proposals aimed at widening the definition of minority groups, eligible for specific help and consideration, to include all those of different ethnic origins to the indigenous Communities in which they live, even if they have legal citizenship of the countries concerned?

¹Annex of the verbatim report of proceedings of 13.2.1985,
p.205

22.2.1985

Subject: Transmission of broadcasts by the RAI

Beginning in June 1984, it was possible in certain areas of Belgium and Luxembourg - in the areas around Liège, Charleroi and Ghent - to receive the RAI first channel. The explanation is that certain private television companies were able to pick up RAI broadcasts transmitted via the ECS 1 satellite which is also used by francophone television for channel 5 broadcasts. Consequently, these television companies, equipped to receive channel 5, were able to retransmit Italian programmes, giving great enjoyment to people of Italian origin who, up till that time, had no access to information, cultural or entertainment sources from Italy. Does not the Commission consider that the Community should use its good offices to encourage the resumption of the broadcasts in question, in view of its institutional duty to promote closer relations between the States and peoples that comprize it?

22.2.1985

70. Question by Mr SELVA (H-792/84)

Subject: Economic relations with Malta

Does the Commission not think that economic cooperation relations with Malta should be reviewed or even suspended since the Maltese authorities have for the umpteenth time violated the freedom and right of expression? Massimo Gorla, President of the European Young Christian Democrats was in fact arrested and sentenced on 24 February merely because he had taken part in a meeting of the opposition.

26.2.1985

71. Question by Mr ZAHORKA (H-795/84)

Subject: Further development of the cooperation agreement
with the ASEAN states

What alterations or additions to the cooperation agreement with the ASEAN states does the Commission now think are possible and should be sought, and will it be possible in the near future to extend the agreement to include a cultural dimension?

26.2.1985

72. Question by Mrs NIELSEN (H-799/84)

Subject: Funding of a Centre for Small and Medium-Sized
Companies for the functioning of a liaison centre

According to certain sources, the Commission has directed the funds allocated in the 1984 budget for the setting up of a Centre of Small and Medium-Sized Companies, which so far has only been agreed in principle, with no definite decision on the exact means by which it is to be effected, to the functioning of a SMC liaison office based in Brussels. Can the Commission confirm the accuracy of these assertions, in which case can it specify the nature of the expenditure undertaken and the identity of the office benefiting from it, and its type of activities and can the Commission also confirm that it has not allocated funds from the 1985 budget to ensure the functioning of this office?

28.2.1985

73.

Question by Mrs BOSERUP (H-800/84)

Subject: Commission as sponsor of a European sailing race

On 18/19 February 1985 the press agency Agence Europe announced that the Commission had decided to sponsor 'The European Sailing Race' to the tune of 44,000 ECU, more than Dkr 350,000. In return for this gift, the organizers have to comply with the following conditions: they must promote the Community's image by using the Commission's emblem on sails and in advertisements. Knowledge of the European idea (whatever that is) must also be spread through competitions.

Which budget item is to be used for this sailing race and is the amount the Commission is to spend in this way 44,000 ECU or is it also going to contribute to the 450,000 ECU to be provided by public funds? Lastly, does the Commission also intend to sponsor holiday events for poor hill farmers and the unemployed and if so, will it refrain from insisting that they go around with the Commission's emblem on their clothes?

1.3.1985

74.

Question by Mr MARINARO (H-801/84)

Subject: Compulsory fingerprinting of foreigners

At the express instruction of the Belgian Ministry of Justice, local authorities in Belgium have for years taken the step of fingerprinting foreigners.

Since there is no provision that requires the Ministry to obtain such fingerprints, since the Belgian Government does not apply this measure to its own citizens, and since the European Convention on Human Rights prohibits any discrimination on grounds of nationality, does the Commission not think the time has arrived to put an end to this practice which smacks of police-state tactics and is contrary to the spirit of the Treaty of Rome and the principle of non-discrimination between Community citizens?

1.3.1985

Subject: Ban on imports of hormone-treated beef and veal

Denmark bans the use of hormones of any type as growth-promoting agents in livestock production. Other Community countries however use both natural and artificial sex hormones as growth-promoting agents in livestock production.

The Commission has issued a directive which permits the use of certain natural sex hormones as growth-promoting agents.

It should be possible, armed with the Treaty of Rome, to defend a Member State's sovereign right to uphold sensible legislation in the interest of the consumer and not give in to perpetual abuses by referring to the abolition of quantitative restrictions between the Member States.

Article 36 of the Treaty of Rome states that:

'The provisions of Articles 30 to 34 (quantitative restrictions on imports and exports) shall not preclude prohibitions or restrictions on imports, exports or goods in transit justified on grounds of public morality, public policy or public security; the protection of health and life of humans, animals or plants; the protection of national treasures possessing artistic, historic or archaeological value; or the protection of industrial and commercial property. Such prohibitions or restrictions shall not, however, constitute a means of arbitrary discrimination or a disguised restriction on trade between Member States.' Will the Commission permit Denmark to draft legislation pursuant to that article prohibiting the sale and import of foodstuffs in which natural sex hormones have been used?

If the Commission will not permit recourse to Article 36, how will it ensure that consumers in Denmark do not have to eat foodstuffs imported from other Community countries that use hormones in livestock production?

1.3.1985

76. Question by Mrs BANOTTI (H-587/84) (x)

Subject: Lomé Convention and sport

With reference to the European Parliament's resolution on sport and the Community (adopted in April 1984) what action has been taken to implement paragraph 18 of the resolution which "requests that when the Lomé Convention is renewed, a special section be devoted to sports events, with the objective of promoting contacts between young people engaged in sport, providing assistance for the provision of facilities and training competent personnel"?

8.1.1985

77. Question by Mr McMAHON (H-601/84)(x)

Subject : Sugar quotas for Portuguese Entry into the EEC

Would the Council please let Parliament have an up to date position of Portugal's entry into the EEC. In the December Parliamentary session, the Minister and President of the Council Peter Barry replied to a supplementary question that the subject would be discussed at the December meeting of the Council of Ministers. Nothing appeared in Press reports of the meeting nor in the communique issued by the Council to the Office of the European Commission in Edinburgh. In view of the keen interest in the West of Scotland by the Sugar Industry and by Tate and Lyle Limited, would the Council please give an update position in negotiations?

14.1.1985

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

77. Question by Mr HUGHES (H-613/84) (x)

Subject : Imports of Namibian Uranium to the European Community

Can the Council advise Parliament of the current amounts of Namibian Uranium imported to the European Community; is the Council aware of the worker exploitation involved in the production of uranium in Namibia, South African illegal presence in Namibia and the fact that illegal uranium is used to make nuclear bombs; can the Foreign Ministers give an undertaking that the European Community will cease importation of Namibian Uranium?

15.1.1985

78. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-669/84) (x)

Subject: Measures to ensure compliance by Belgium with
Community directives

One Member State, Belgium, is not implementing a considerable number of Community directives. Can the Council publish a List of these and propose measures to prevent Member States dragging their feet in this way?

28.1.1985

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

80. Question by Mr FITZGERALD (H-453/84)

Subject : fishery protection vessels to prevent closure of Verolme
Cork Dockyard

Will the Council indicate if there are provisions in the negotiations with Spain and Portugal for financial assistance to the Irish government for the purchase of two additional fishery protection vessels, and furthermore does the Council agree that such a requirement is necessary because of the size of the Spanish fleet, and because of recent incidents in Irish territorial waters and that such an arrangement would prevent the closure of Verolme Cork Dockyard and preserve badly needed employment in the area ?

12.11.1984

81. Question by Mr FLANAGAN (H-510/84)

Subject: Postponement of EEC decision on turf development

Could the Council explain why it postponed a decision on 13 November 1984 on a planned £730 million solid fuel programme which includes long-overdue aid to Ireland's vitally important turf industry?

28.11.1984

82. Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-534/84)

Subject: Building of a Channel tunnel

On 30 November 1984 the French President, Francois Mitterand, and the British Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, gave the go ahead to an immediate study on the building of a Channel tunnel. In a joint statement, the two leaders declared that such a project was not only technically feasible but would also be financially rewarding.

In the past the European Parliament has repeatedly and consistently advocated the building of a Channel tunnel and Community participation in such project.

What practical steps does the Council intend to take to ensure that the Channel link project is brought to a successful conclusion?

11.12.1984

83. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-538/84)

Subject: Improvements to conciliation procedure

Following my question (H-116/84)(1) on this subject at the December 1984 session, will the President-in-Office, in the absence of a vital national interest, seek a majority decision of the Council favourable to the opening of discussions with Parliament on the reform of the conciliation procedure?

11.12.1984

(1) Verbatim report of proceedings, provisional edition of 12.12.1984, p. 170

84. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-571/84)

Subject: Mediterranean Programmes

Can the Council state what stage has been reached, since the European Council in Dublin, with authorizing the implementation of the Mediterranean Programmes and what precise steps have been taken to this end?

20.12.1984

85. Question by Mrs DURY (H-605/84)

Subject: Accession of the European Economic Community as a party in its own right to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

The European Economic Community has not yet applied to accede as a party in its own right to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. There are considerable differences of opinion between certain Member States and these are delaying this accession which is of great importance for the people of Europe.

Can the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community explain the difficulties that actually stand in the way of accession? How strong is the Council's desire for the Community to accede to the Convention and when could accession become effective?

15.1.1985

86. Question by Mr DEPREZ (H-611/84)

Subject: Return to Belgium of the seat reserved for Greenland

During the negotiations concerning the first direct elections to the European Parliament, Belgium agreed to give up the 25th seat it had been allotted in order to enable Greenland to be properly represented. Since Greenland is leaving the European Community in 1985 would it not be fair for the seat assigned to Greenland to be returned to Belgium? What is the Council's opinion on this matter?

15.1.1985

Subject: Publication of the preparatory documents for the Brussels Convention on international jurisdiction and the enforcement of judgements in civil and commercial matters

The Brussels Convention of 27 September 1968 on international jurisdiction and the enforcement of judgements in civil and commercial matters, together with the supplementary interpretation of the European Court of Justice in its protocol of 3 June 1971 is one of the fundamental legal texts governing everyday contractual arrangements in the Community, as evidenced by the jurisprudence of the European Court of Justice and the courts of the signatory states as well as the wealth of interpretative literature. The awaited ratification of the accession conventions of 9 October 1978 and 25 October 1982 will extend the scope of the 1968 Convention to all the Member States of the Community.

The preparatory documents for the 1968 and 1978 Conventions (official records and working documents), which are of particular importance for the interpretation of the corpus of the Convention, were recently released by the responsible Commission service and are now housed in the library of the legal affairs department at the Commission.

Does the Council intend to publish these preparatory documents and thereby make them available as they should be to the large number of jurists engaged in the interpretation and implementation of the Convention.

(x) Former oral question without debate (O-115/84), converted into a question for question time.

15.1.1985

88. Question by Mrs THOME-PATENOTRE (H-615/84)

Subject: Programme of major European infrastructure works

A major European infrastructure programme is a means both of combating unemployment and of ensuring the development of major intercontinental transport links. The progress of the project for a fixed link across the Straits of Dover is an important step in this direction. In the Council's view, what priorities should be set and followed as regards major intercontinental transport links?

16.1.1985

89. Question by Mrs EWING (H-642/84)

Subject : the last meeting of the Council of fisheries ministers

Will the President-in-Office comment on the outcome of the last meeting of the Council of fisheries Ministers?

21.1.1985

90. Question by Mr TOKSVIG (H-692/84)

Subject : European Space Programme

Will the Council report on the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the European Space Agency in Rome 30/31 January, 1985 ?

1.02.1985

91. Question by Mr BOCKLET (H-693/84)

Subject: A common approach by the Member States of the European Community towards various infringements of the law by the new organizations operating under the protection afforded to religious bodies

On 22 May 1984, the European Parliament adopted a resolution (1) on the above subject which includes specific demands for action at Community level.

Has this matter been discussed by the Council, and are there plans for a common approach by the Member States?

1.2.1985

(1) OJ No. C 172, 2.7.1984, p. 41

92. Question by Mr VANDEMEULEBROUCKE (H-698/84)

Subject: Situation and problems of the aged in the European Community

1982 was the Year of the Elderly, in view of which the European Parliament adopted the Squarcialupi report on the situation and problems of the aged in the European Community (Doc. 1-848/81).

Parliament asked the Commission and the Council to put forward practical initiatives in a number of policy areas.

What measures has the Council taken in response to this report?

4.2.1985

93. Question by Mr BALFE (H-700/84)

Subject: Volunteer development workers

What action is being taken to harmonize social policy in the Community with regard to volunteer development workers in the Third World, so that their full social and political rights can be maintained during and after their service?

4.2.1985

94. Question by Mrs CASTLE (H-703/84)

Subject: Aid to Africa

Which governments have agreed to contribute money to establish the proposed \$1 billion World Bank fund to help rescue Africa from growing famine and economic collapse, and will the Council take action to ensure that all Member State governments agree to make the necessary contributions to launch the fund?

4.2.1985

95. Question by Mrs OPPENHEIM (H-706/84)

Subject: Organized hold-ups of lorries

What action does the Presidency propose to take in response to the renewed hold-ups of foreign lorry-drivers in Italy, who are risking life and limb while going about their legitimate business as hauliers in that country in spite of the fact that the free movement of goods and persons is laid down in the Treaty of Rome?

4.2.1985

96. Question by Mr PANNELLA (H-708/84)

Subject: Human rights

Since, in the case law of the Court of Justice human rights are already considered an integral part of the Community legal order, does the President-in-Office of the Council intend to propose that the Community formally accede to the European Convention on Human Rights?

5.2.1985

97. Question by Mr COSTANZO (H-720/84)

Subject: European television

It appears that, despite encouragement from the European Parliament, pressure from public opinion, a positive attitude on the part of the EBU and the fact that various schemes and projects are currently being studied by the Commission, it would be some years before a European television service can be set up due to the very considerable difficulties encountered in a number of areas.

This being the case, what does the Council intend to do in the meanwhile, and as soon as possible, to bring about a free interpenetration of national programmes which would have the advantage of allowing an exchange of information amongst the peoples of Europe before a future European television service can be inaugurated?

12.2.1985

98. Question by Mr WIJSENBEK (H-721/84)

Subject: A European surcharge on VAT

The Netherlands State Secretary for Foreign Affairs with responsibility for European cooperation, Dr W.F. van Eekelen, has put forward the idea that a European surcharge be put on VAT to provide the national contribution towards the shortfalls in the Community budget and in this way to make the costs of Europe more readily apparent to its citizens. What does the Council as an institution think of this idea put forward by one of its members?

12.2.1985

99. Question by Mr FILINIS (H-738/84)

Subject: Cyprus-EEC Association Agreement

Would the Council state why, despite repeated resolutions by the European Parliament, it does not proceed with the second stage of Cyprus' Association Agreement with the Community?

14.2.1985

100. Question by Mr HOON (H-746/84)

Subject: Operation Flood

Given that 'Operation Flood is regarded by the European Commission as a prime example of how food aid can be used to promote long-term rural development', and that it provides help to 10 million families in India through the provision of Community skimmed milk powder and butteroil, does the Council intend to continue with this valuable programme on the same scale?

19.2.1985

101.

Question by Mr ALVANOS (H-749/84)

Subject: Community aid to Turkey

At the part-session in February, the President-in-Office of the Ministers meeting in political cooperation refused to answer my question whether there were plans to freeze in 1985 the funds provided for in the 3rd and 4th Financial Protocols and the special financial aid from the Community to Turkey, because it had been put as a supplementary question to an oral question by Mrs Ewing¹ during Question Time.

Would the President-in-Office of the Council, therefore, in his official capacity, state the Council's position on this matter, bearing in mind that democratic and human rights continue to be violated in Turkey, as he himself admitted during discussion of Mrs Ewing's question?

20.2.1985

102.

Question by Mr LALOR (H-758/84)

Subject: Dumping of soft fruit

Will the President-in-Office of the Council give an assurance that the Council will undertake to adopt, as a matter of urgency, measures to ensure that the dumping of strawberries and raspberries on the EEC market, from state-trading countries outside the Community, is discontinued immediately in the interest of the fruit industry in County Wexford, Ireland?

20.2.1985

¹ Oral Question H-477/84, Verbatim record of proceedings, 31.2.1985, p. 148 (provisional edition)

103. Question by Mrs LEMASS (H-765/84)

Subject: Confiscation of assets of drug 'Barons'

Does the Council support the view that the introduction of legislation in the Member States aimed at confiscating the assets of illegal drug traffickers would make a positive contribution to the Community's efforts to combat the drug menace that is rampant in Dublin and the other capitals of Europe, and, if so, what action would the Council be prepared to take a decision on?

20.2.1985

104. Question by Mr ANDREWS (H-771/84)

Subject: Mobilization of aid to famine stricken countries in
Africa

In the press release issued following the 960th meeting of the Council on Development Cooperation, which was held on 6 November 1984, the Council stated in relation to the mobilization of aid for the Sahel region that account must be taken of the crucial role played by the WFP.

Will the Council elaborate on the role of the WFP and the information which this organization can supply regarding ports and railways, storage capacities and internal transport and distribution facilities, and will it further agree to ensuring that this information is telexed to the Commission offices or Foreign Affairs Offices of each of the Member States at least twice weekly, so that charities know exactly where supplies are in transit and exactly when the supplies will arrive which will help religious communities and charities to cope with rationing?

20.2.1985

105. Question by Mr NEWTON DUNN (H-782/84)

Subject: Commission Memorandum on Maritime Transport

At the meeting of the Committee on Transport in Genoa in November 1984, Mr Signorile, Italian Minister for Transport, promised to start work on the Commission Memorandum on Maritime Transport as soon as it was available.

Can the Council now indicate when it intends to start work on this Memorandum?

22.2.1985

106. Question by Mr DI BARTOLOMEI (H-786/84)

Subject: Transmission of broadcasts by the RAI

Beginning June 1984, it was possible in certain parts of Belgium and Luxembourg - in the areas around Liège, Charleroi and Ghent - to receive the RAI first channel. The explanation is that certain private television companies were able to pick up RAI broadcasts transmitted via the ECS 1 satellite which is also used by francophone television for channel 5 broadcasts. Consequently, these television companies, equipped to receive channel 5, were able to retransmit Italian programmes, giving great enjoyment to people of Italian origin who, up till that time, had no access to information, cultural or entertainment sources from Italy. Does not the Council consider that measures should be taken, by joint agreement between the governments concerned, to allow the broadcasts in question to be resumed? This would be a positive step in the direction of a 'people's Europe' about which there is so much talk.

22.2.1985

107. Question by Mr CLINTON (H-790/84)

Subject: Trade with Canada

What action has been taken in order to counteract the decision of the Canadian Government to restrict imports of beef and veal from the EEC to a quota of 2,700 tonnes whereas 23,000 tonnes were exported from the EEC to Canada in 1984?

25.2.1985

108. Question by Mr ELLES (H-794/84)

Subject: Sessions of the Council

The European Community had the great advantage of being founded on the sound democratic systems of its Member States. Decisions are habitually taken openly by legislators in full public view. Would the Council please explain why its sessions are held in secret and is there a specific provision in the Treaty of Rome to this effect? Can the Council cite any other democratic state or organization which normally takes all its votes in camera and would the Council be willing to open its deliberations or even part of them to the public?

26.2.1985

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

109.

Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-671/84) (x)

Subject: WEU

Have the Ministers meeting in political cooperation tackled the subject of the WEU, and in particular the updating of its objectives, and what are their conclusions and proposals for action?

28.1.1985

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-429/84)

Subject: Steps to frustrate the deployment of Pershing 2 and
Cruise missiles in Europe

In response to Question (H-242/83)¹ which called for the whole of Europe to be declared a nuclear-free zone, I received the following answer: 'The Ten support all specific, balanced and verifiable disarmament measures which enhance the security of Europe and elsewhere, and which lessen the risk of nuclear conflict. For the Ten nuclear disarmament is a matter of top priority.' In view of the fact that peace and disarmament is a matter concerning the whole of mankind, i.e. it is clearly a political matter which cannot be confined within the narrow concept of military security, what measures have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation so far taken to prevent the deployment of nuclear weapons in the United Kingdom, West Germany and Italy, where an accelerated rate of deployment of Pershing 2 and Cruise missiles has recently been observed - especially in West Germany, where, according to the Washington Post, 46 Pershing 2 missiles have been deployed.

5.11.1984

¹Debates of the European Parliament No. 1-303/83 of 13.9.1983, p. 98

111.

Question by Mr VAN MIERT (H-445/84)

Subject: Gibraltar

On 23 October 1984, the Spanish Prime Minister, Mr Felipe Gonzalez, made a statement to the Spanish Parliament on the most important aspects of Spanish security policy, including Gibraltar.

According to Mr Gonzalez, a British colony which formed an integral part of the NATO command existed on Spanish soil. Attempts must be made to solve this problem by bringing Gibraltar under Spanish sovereignty.

What is the attitude of ministers to these statements, what initiatives have they already taken and what results have been achieved?

7.11.1984

112.

Question by Mr EVRIGENIS (H-742/84) (x)

Subject: Member States' relations with UNESCO

On 31 December 1984, the United States of America withdrew from UNESCO. The Government of the United Kingdom has also announced its intention to withdraw from the same organization at the end of 1985.

Do the Foreign Ministers believe that these developments, which, inter alia, create enormous financial problems within UNESCO, are expressions of a profound crisis in the workings of the organization?

If so, have they considered the problem in the context of political cooperation and are they taking steps to draw up a common or harmonized Community policy towards UNESCO?

15.1.1985

113.

Question by Mr ADAMOU (H-664/84)

Subject: Cyprus and the Italian Presidency

Would the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation state why the Italian Presidency's policy statement, though making reference to a large number of international issues, ignored the Cyprus problem, when the northern part of the island is occupied by Turkish troops despite the fact that Cyprus is a member of the United Nations Organization and the situation on the island is currently at a critical juncture and calls for the active support of the international community?

23.1.1985

(x) Former oral question without debate (O-116/84), converted into a question for question time.

114. Question by Mrs FONTAINE (H-694/84)

Subject: Christians in Lebanon

In recent months, there has been a steady increase in the harassment and intimidation of Lebanese Christians. Monasteries, convents, bell-towers and schools are being razed to the ground, and every effort is being made to force the Christians to leave a land where they have lived since the dawn of Christianity. So far, the political response from the European Community has been virtually non-existent.

Will the Foreign Ministers state how they plan to assist a community whose fate has always been so closely bound up with our own?

1.2.1985

115. Question by Mrs CASTLE (H-704/84)

Subject: Trading with South Africa

Have the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation discussed the question of sanctions against South Africa, in respect of both exports, particularly military and related products, and imports, in particular fruit, clothing and minerals? If not, when do they propose to discuss these imports and exports?

4.2.1985

116. Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-730/84)

Subject: Participation in EPC

Are the Foreign Ministers willing to invite other countries, for example, Norway, Sweden and Finland, to participate in EPC as soon as possible?

14.2.1985

117. Question by Mr FILINIS (H-739/84)

Subject: Talks between the President of the Republic of Cyprus and the representative of the Turkish Cypriot community

How does the Council of Ministers intend to follow up the talks initiated by the Secretary-General of the UNO, Mr Cuellar, between the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr Kyprianou, and the representative of the Turkish Cypriot community, and does the Council believe that it can take any positive action to further the implementation of the UN and European Parliament resolutions?

14.2.1985

118. Question by Mr SCHINZEL (H-748/84)

Subject: A peace settlement in the Middle East

What contribution, in the Ministers view, can the European Community make to bringing about a lasting peace settlement in the Middle East?

20.2.1985

119.

Question by Mr BOUTOS (H-750/84)

Subject: The Iraq-Iran war and attacks on merchant vessels

The continuation of hostilities between Iraq and Iran represents a constant threat to shipping in an extremely sensitive crisis area. Recently, attacks on merchant vessels have become more frequent again, very often seriously endangering the lives of Community citizens and Community interests.

What action do the Foreign Ministers intend to take on this serious and pressing matter in order to put an end to a situation which underscores the Member States' inability to take effective measures in such circumstances?

20.2.1985

120. Question by Mr CROUX (H-757/84)

Subject: Convention against torture¹

On 4 February 1985, 20 states, primarily Western European and Latin American countries signed the above Convention.

The governments of all countries that have special relations with the European Community should be urged to sign and ratify this Convention.

Can the Foreign Ministers say whether they are prepared to take such action, particularly in the case of Member States of the Community that have not yet signed, the applicant countries, the associated countries and the countries that are signatories to the Third Convention of Lomé.

In so doing, will they also urge the countries concerned to authorize the Committee against Torture, established under the Convention to carry out on-the-spot investigations of complaints, and will they ensure that the Member States themselves ratify the Convention as soon as possible.

20.2.1985

¹ Resolution 39/46 of the UN General Assembly, adopted on 10.12.1984

121. Question by Mr CHAMBEIRON (H-777/84)

Subject: Action by the Ten to reestablish human rights in
Turkey

During Question Time on 13 February 1985, the President-in-Office of the Council, Mr FORTE, undertook to inform the Turkish government of the critical view taken by the Ten of the grave situation with regard to human rights prevailing in Turkey.

Can the Ministers say what action has been taken on this undertaking by Mr FORTE?

20.2.1985

122. Question by Mrs CRAWLEY (H-783/84)

Subject: Progress of Banotti Resolution

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware of what progress has been made to implement the resolution by Mrs Banotti (Doc. 2-1417/84) adopted overwhelmingly by Parliament on 17 January 1985 and what opportunity will there be for Members to be involved in the recommendations of the resolution?

22.2.1985

123. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-787/84)

Subject: Need to respect international agreements to avoid war

In connection with the planned rally in the FRG of German war veterans from Polish Silesia, the Prime Minister, Mr Helmut Kohl, and the chairman of the parliamentary Christian-Democratic Party, Mr Dregger, have been adopting slogans and making territorial claims that amount to contempt for international agreements such as the Helsinki Final Act, which guarantees the inviolability of borders and the territorial integrity of States, and the 1945 Potsdam decision on the establishment of Poland's western border along the Oder-Neisse line.

What view do the Foreign Ministers take of this serious matter and do they intend to make a statement to the effect that respect for international agreements and the safeguarding of peace are the central pillars of the Member States' political cooperation?

20.2.1985

124. Question by Mr WURTZ (H-789/84)

Subject: Human rights situation in Turkey

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation endorse the stance taken by Sir Geoffrey HOWE, Foreign Secretary, in Ankara on 13 February 1985 in support of the release of \$600 million in Community appropriations for Turkey? Do they not think that this money should instead remain frozen, as the European Parliament has clearly indicated, until democratic rights have been restored in full in Turkey?

25.2.1985

125.

Question by Mr IVERSEN (H-791/84)

Subject: Code of conduct on wages in South Africa

In the Foreign Ministers' press release of 20 November 1984 on the fourth analysis of national reports on how Community undertakings with subsidiaries in South Africa apply the Community's code of conduct the Ten noted that the percentage of workers whose wages were higher than those recommended in the code had fallen slightly, presumably because of the economic recession in South Africa. Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation consider this trend gratifying since they merely take note of this deterioration of the situation of workers in South Africa, and does the fact that it is the black workers that have to pay for the economic recession in South Africa reflect their attitude to the South African apartheid regime?

25.2.1985

126.

Question by Mr SELVA (H-793/84)

Subject: Restriction of Liberty in Malta

What do the Foreign Ministers intend to do about relations with Malta following that country's umpteenth attempt to restrict the liberty of a Community citizen, in this case Massimo Gorla, President of the European Young Christian Democrats who was arrested and sentenced on 24 February merely because he had taken part in a meeting of the opposition.

26.2.1985

