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ORAL QUESTIONS

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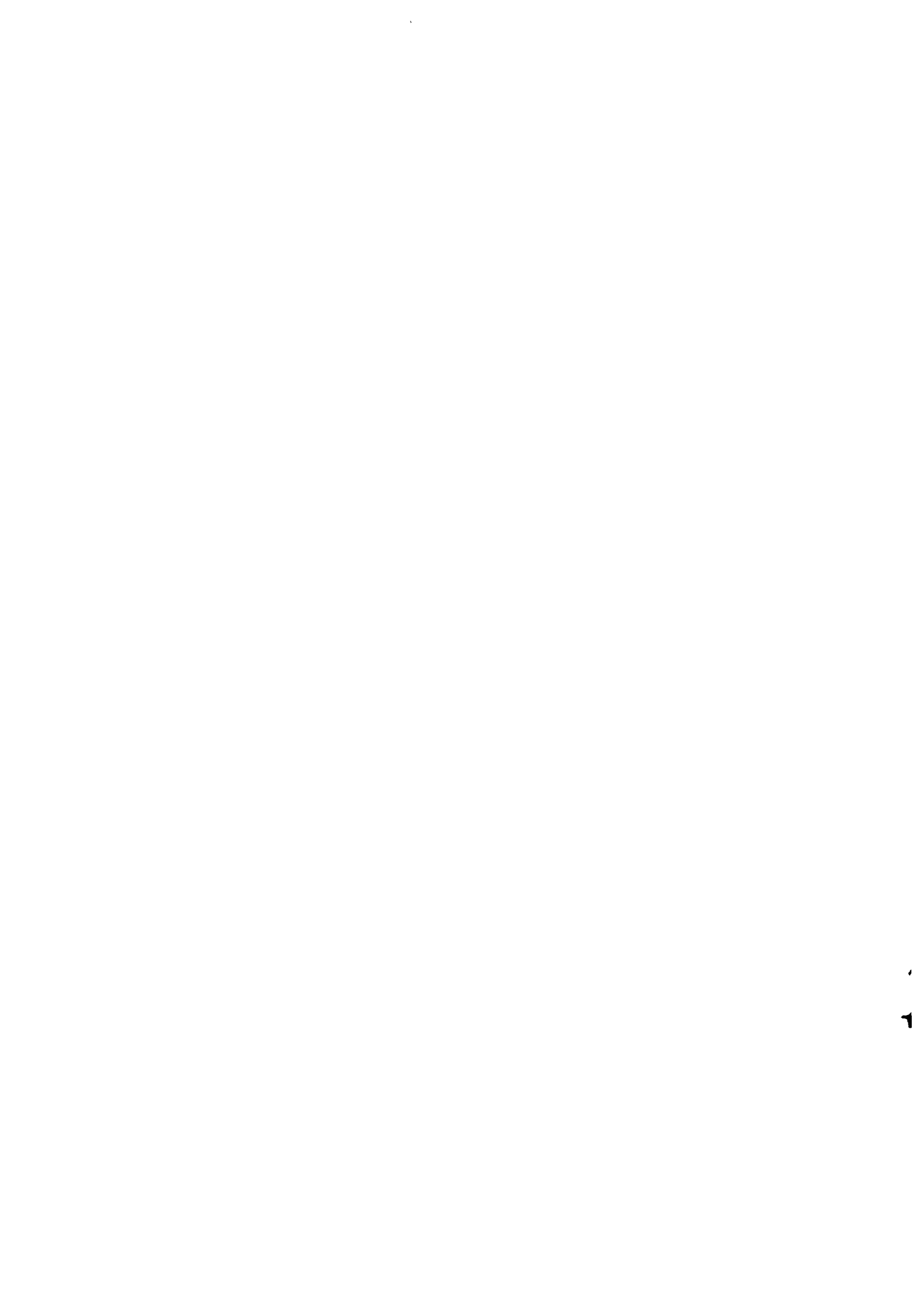
A Series Reports - B series Motions for Resolutions, Oral Questions, Written Declarations, etc - C Series Documents received from other Institutions (e.g. Consultations)

***** = Consultation procedure requiring a single reading

****II** = Cooperation procedure (second reading) which requires the votes of the majority of the Members of Parliament

****I** = Cooperation procedure (first reading)

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



QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

1. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-1321/90)

Subject: Free movement of people

The removal of internal frontiers within the Community in 1993 will necessitate strict surveillance of external frontiers. Can the Council give details of the measures it proposes to adopt to ensure such surveillance, particularly in view of the ease with which frontiers such as those of Greece, giving access to Europe from the East, can be crossed?

18.12.1990

FR

2. Question by Mr HADJIGEORGIOU (H-0024/91)

Subject: Massive influx of refugees into the countries of the European Community

Thousands of Albanians, mainly of Greek origin, are entering Greece seeking freedom and better living conditions. The Albanian Government has not reacted to this mass exodus in any way. Following the collapse of their socialist regimes, the countries of Eastern Europe are in a desperate situation: it is extremely likely that other regions of the European Community will also face massive influxes of refugees with all the attendant consequences.

Does the Council intend to adopt a position with regard to this phenomenon in Albania and what measures does it intend to take to prevent a similar occurrence in other regions of the European Community?

Does it intend to continue its special financial support for the Greek Government to help it accommodate the thousands of Albanian refugees? Is it satisfied with the measures it has so far taken to boost the economies of, and further the process of democratization in, the countries of Eastern Europe?

9.1.1991

EL

3. Question by Mr RAFFARIN (H-0010/91)

Subject: Procedure for election to the European Parliament

What measures does the Council intend to take to harmonize the procedure for election to the European Parliament in the twelve Member States?

The European Parliament has stated that it wishes elections to be based on a regional ballot system, so that Members may represent a specific geographical area. How does the Council propose to ensure that all the Member States choose the regional ballot for the 1994 elections?

7.1.1991

FR

4. Question by Mr PAPAYANNAKIS (H-1341/90)

Subject: Community initiative to find a solution to the Cyprus problem

Reviewing the achievements of the Italian Presidency at a press conference in Brussels on 19 December 1990, the President of the General Affairs Council, Mr DE MICHAELIS, stated that despite the efforts made by the Italian Presidency, there had been no improvement in relations between the EC and Turkey and stressed that the EC, Greece, Turkey and Cyprus should sit down at the same table to make a serious attempt to find a solution to the Cyprus problem.

Will the Presidency of the Council state what initiative it intends to take in this direction?

20.12.1990

EL

5. Question by Mr DE ROSSA (H-1296/90)

Subject: Incidents involving submarines off the British and Irish coasts

Having regard to the loss of 4 crew members of the fishing vessel 'Antares' in the Clyde Estuary, on Thursday, 23 November, apparently following an incident involving the nuclear-powered submarine 'Trenchant', and whereas numerous other fatal incidents are attributable to the same cause, has the Council given any consideration to measures for the protection of fishermen and seafarers generally from 'submarine attacks' in the seas off the British and Irish coasts and, if not, will it now do so?

3.12.1990

EN

6. Question by Mr GANGOITI LLAGUNO (H-1299/90)

Subject: TV without frontiers

The Soule intercommunal syndicate in the French Basque country is looking into the possibility of setting up a television booster station on the Franco-Spanish border, with the twin aims of enabling Basque television to be viewed in the French Basque country and French television to be viewed in the Spanish Basque country.

Does the Council consider that such a move falls within the Community's philosophy of promoting television without frontiers? Might this syndicate be entitled to some type of Community aid for setting up this cross-border booster station?

4.12.1990

ES

7. Question by Mr DESSYLAS (H-1318/90)

Subject: Measures to support beekeeping in the EC

Given the increasing problems facing beekeepers in the EC (falling honey prices on the European market, high production costs in the EC etc.,) and the indispensable contribution made by beekeeping in protecting and maintaining the equilibrium of the rural environment and the way of life in problematic and disadvantaged regions of the EC, does the Council intend to take immediate measures to support beekeeping based on the specific proposals put forward by COPA and COGECA (annual aid per hive for Member States divided into zones I and II, income support measures, controls on the quality and origin of imported honey, improved product identification, measures to promote the production and marketing of honey in the EC, etc.,)?

14.12.1990

EL

8. Question by Mr CUSHNAHAN (H-1325/90)

Subject: Indebtedness of less-developed countries

Having regard to the massive net transfers of resources from the less-developed countries to richer countries throughout the past decade, does the Council have any proposals aimed at ensuring that this trend does not continue through the 1990s, so that the developing countries can achieve sustainable levels of economic recovery and development?

18.12.1990

EN

9. Question by Mrs BANOTTI (H-1327/90)

Subject: Tobacco advertising ban

Following the Health Ministers meeting of 3 December which discussed a draft directive on tobacco advertising, could the Council inform the House why the opinion of the European Parliament, which overwhelmingly voted in favour of a ban on tobacco advertising, failed once again to persuade all Health Ministers to vote for a ban?

18.12.1990

EN

10. Question by Mrs RAWLINGS (H-1332/90)

Subject: European cities of culture

Following my report on European cities of culture, Doc. A3-296/90¹, which was adopted by Parliament on 23 November 1990, what steps has the Council taken to implement the proposal set out therein?

18.12.1990

EN

11. Question by Mr ROMEOS (H-1339/90)

Subject: Press restrictions in Greece

The Community has repeatedly stressed its adherence to the principle of pluralism in the mass media and freedom of expression.

It is reported that the Greek Government is endeavouring to impose severe restrictions on the press and all the other mass media by adopting a new anti-terrorist law.

Does the Council not agree that this law will violate fundamental rights, rights which a citizens' Europe is seeking to establish? What action does it intend to take to safeguard freedom of the press in Greece?

19.12.1990

EL

¹ Minutes of the sitting of 23 November 1990, p. 35

12. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-1343/90)

Subject: 'Ozone' Regulation

At its meeting at the end of December, the Council of Environment Ministers discussed the proposal for a regulation on substances that deplete the ozone layer.

Did the Council take into account the decisions adopted unanimously by the European Parliament at its sitting of 14 December 1990, in particular those relating to the speeding up of the timetable for restricting and banning ozone-depleting substances, to hydrochlorofluorocarbons and to measures for reducing pollution, such as the registration and taxation of products which contain such substances?

20.12.1990

EL

13. Question by Mr COLOM I NAVAL (H-0004/91)

Subject: New customs code and regulations governing the profession of customs agent

The proposal for a regulation establishing a new Community Customs Code (COM(90) 71 final) contains provisions on the profession of customs agent.

These provisions are in contravention of the EEC Treaty, as the rules governing customs declaration and those governing the related professions are subject to different legal disciplines, one set of rules being covered by a regulation and the other by a directive.

All attempts to correct this have so far been blocked by representatives of certain Member States and the Commission.

The technical arguments repeatedly put forward have been totally ignored.

Does the Council not consider that it should remedy this situation as a matter of urgency, by amending the proposal for a regulation on this point, to avoid an increase in the number of disputes on this matter and to ensure that this does not set a dangerous precedent allowing other regulations to introduce the abolition or limitation of existing professions?

7.1.1991

ES

14. Question by Mr NIANIAS (H-1207/90)

Subject: Excessive profits of oil companies

On 8 November 1990, the oil companies BP and SHELL announced particularly large profits. For the third quarter of 1990 BP's profits were £822 million (compared to £211 million for the same period in 1989) and SHELL's £1094 million (compared to £652 million for the same period in 1989).

A representative of the Automobile Association in the UK has called on the companies to explain how they had made these profits because, in his words, 'such announcements would give rise to the suspicion of profiteering'. What is the Council's view on this matter and what measures does it intend to take to throw light on the origin of these excessive profits?

14.11.1990

EL

15. Question by Mr PIERROS (H-1215/90)

Subject: Granting of emergency food aid to Bulgaria

It is well known that Bulgaria will have to face enormous problems of food shortages this winter. These problems could lead to serious social unrest and jeopardize the current efforts at political and economic reform. Does the Council intend to take positive, adequate measures in this direction?

15.11.1990

EL

16. Question by Mr TSIMAS (H-1217/90/rev.)

Subject: Arrest, detention and prosecution of the journalist
Filippos Petridis in Greece

A Greek journalist, Filippos Petridis, has been arrested and detained by the Security Police and is being prosecuted in connection with a journalistic assignment. There has been an sharp increase in actions of this kind on the part of the Greek authorities over the last few months and there is a danger that freedom of the press and the freedom of journalists to carry out their work unhindered may be undermined and even abolished.

How does the Council view such incidents and what measures does it intend to take in this connection?

15.11.1990

EL

17. Question by Mr ARBELOA MURU (H-1268/90)

Subject: The inclusion of the tourist sector in the Treaties

Does the Council agree that the inclusion of the tourist sector in the Treaties will enable the Community to draw up multiannual Community programmes and allocate adequate funding thereto, thereby promoting the development of the economically-disadvantaged regions? Are there any obstacles to the inclusion of this sector?

28.11.1990

ES

QUESTIONS TO EUROPEAN POLITICAL COOPERATION

18. Question by Mr KOSTOPOULOS (H-1286/90)

Subject: The systematic dehellenization and extirpation of Greek Orthodox Christians on the islands of Imvros and Tenedos

There has been almost total dehellenization of the islands of Imvros and Tenedos, which were granted a system of home rule by Article 14 of the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923. In 1922 there were 6662 Greek Orthodox Christians living on Imvros, whereas today there are barely 350, and of the 2500 Greek Orthodox Christians living on Tenedos in 1922, today only 140 remain. Does EPC intend to take any measures, and if so which ones, against Turkey to stop its annihilation and persecution of the remaining Greek Orthodox population, which are now continuing under the pretext of reorganizing the local public land register, but with the manifest aim of depriving the Greek population of its property?

30.11.1990

EL

19. Question by Mr NEWENS (H-1288/90)

Subject: Human rights in Iran

According to the state-run Iranian press, 116 people were executed in Iran between 20 October and 20 November 1990. Has European Political Cooperation made any protest in relation to these executions?

30.11.1990

EN

20. Question by Mr Alex SMITH (H-1289/90)

Subject: Human rights in Iran

Two Mojaheddin political prisoners, named as Mrs Brazendeh and Mrs Mousa Taghavi-Yeganeh, who were already serving prison sentences, have been executed in the City of Gashsaran in south western Iran. Will European Political Cooperation protest at these executions?

30.11.1990

EN

21. Question by Mr BARTON (H-1290/90)

Subject: Executions in Iran

Has European Political Cooperation made any protest at the mounting number of executions in Iran which, according to the Rafsanjani regime's own official announcements, totalled 550 by mid-November during 1990 alone?

30.11.1990

EN

22. Question by Mr Brian SIMPSON (H-1291/90)

Subject: Human rights in Iran

During the week 11-17 November 1990, the Iranian press officially reported 18 public executions in six Iranian cities including the cities of Rasht, Kerman and Ahwaz. When will the European Political Cooperation condemn the mounting toll of executions in Iran?

30.11.1990

EN

23. Question by Mr HOON (H-1292/90)

Subject: Execution of Massaud Keshavarz

Will European Political Cooperation investigate the recent torture and execution of a political prisoner, Massaud Keshavarz, in Iran who was arrested in the northern City of Rasht in 1981 and imprisoned for 9 years before his execution?

3.12.1990

EN

24. Question by Mr HUGHES (H-1297/90)

Subject: Report by UN Special Representative Galindo Pohl

On 19 November 1990, Galindo Pohl, UN Special Representative, published an interim report critical of human rights abuses in Iran based on evidence he gathered during his mission to Iran during October. Have European Political Cooperation considered that report?

3.12.1990

EN

25. Question by Mr BANDRÉS MOLET (H-1352/90)

Subject: Release of a Galician sailor imprisoned in Iran

Jesús Manuel Rosales, a captain of the Spanish merchant navy, has been imprisoned in Iran for more than 19 months, and has been fined US\$ 7 m by the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran under civil liability law, in respect of harm incurred by third parties for which he is deemed responsible and which occurred on board the vessel MINAB-4, owned by the Iranian state oil company.

At the trial, which took place in the presence of an Islamic judge, secretary and prosecutor, Captain Rosales denied responsibility for the tragic accident, which he said had occurred by misadventure.

What steps could be taken by European Political Cooperation, whether of a diplomatic or a political and economic nature, to achieve the unconditional release, as soon as possible, of Captain Manuel Rosales by the Iranian Government?

20.12.1990

ES

26. Question by Mr DE ROSSA (H-1295/90)

Subject: EC nationals imprisoned in Iraq and Kuwait

Will EPC state what action has been taken to safeguard the interests of EC nationals imprisoned or facing charges in Iraq and Kuwait, and will it comment in particular on the case of Brian Duffy of County Down, Ireland?

3.12.1990

EN

27. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-1345/90)

Subject: International conference on the Palestinian question

The convening of an international conference on the Palestinian question could prove to be a decisive factor in avoiding a dangerous outbreak of war in the Middle East, solving the Gulf crisis and stabilizing the situation in the Middle East. What steps have the Community Foreign Ministers taken towards convening such an international conference?

20.12.1990

EL

28. Question by Mr CORNELISSEN (H-0019/91)

Subject: Violation of the human rights of Kurds

What is the response of EPC to the reports of the violation of human rights, the inhumane treatment and lamentable situation of the Kurds in general, and in particular the (displaced) Turkish Kurds and Kurdish refugees from Iraq in Turkey? In the light of the aid recently granted by the EC to Turkey in connection with the Gulf crisis, will EPC use its influence to bring about an improvement in the living conditions and respect for the human rights of Kurds in general, and of Kurdish refugees in particular?

9.1.1991

NL

29. Question by Mr Christopher BEAZLEY (H-1312/90)

Subject: The Community's relations with the Baltic States

What conclusions has EPC reached about developing the Community's relations with the Baltic States?

12.12.1990

EN

30. Question by Mr CASSIDY (H-1293/90)

Subject: The Community's relations with Romania

In its issue No. 363, Keston College News Service reports that only three out of the 2000 Eastern-rite Catholic Churches confiscated by the Romanian Communist authorities in 1948 have been returned. At that time, the estimated number of Eastern-rite Christians was 2 million, people now obliged to worship in the open air. Will EPC insist that there is no Community relationship with the Iliescu regime until human freedoms, including freedom of religious practice, are manifestly respected?

3.12.1990

EN

31. Question by Mr McMILLAN-SCOTT (H-1294/90)

Subject: The Community's relationship with Romania

Reports indicate that the National Salvation Front is organising show trials for the writer Andras Sutö, who lost an eye in March 1990 as a result of violence by Romanian Open Hearth activists, and for Bishop Laszlo Tökes, whose resistance started the revolution against Ceaucescu. The Catholic Bishop of Alba Julia, Mgr. Balint, has been excluded by the Romanian Ministry of Cultural Affairs from round table discussions on relations with the Churches.

Machinery and paper for an independent press cannot be imported, hobbling a free press. Will European Political Cooperation mandate the Commission to suspend the Cooperation Agreement if the Romanian authorities do not establish themselves as a state based on the rule of law, human rights and pluralism?

3.12.1990

EN

32. Question by Mr Anthony SIMPSON (H-1303/90)

Subject: Ethnic rights in Romania

Is European Political Cooperation aware that the Romanian authorities are refusing to establish human rights for all the peoples of Romania, exemplified by the refusal to authorize the reopening of the Bolyai University for ethnic Hungarians, an institution of great academic distinction in times past?

5.12.1990

EN

33. Question by Mrs DURY (H-1259/90/rev.)

Subject: Resurgence of anti-Semitism during the Polish election campaign

According to press reports, the Presidential election campaign in Poland has been marked by anti-Semitic words and attitudes on the part of the candidates. Has EPC considered this phenomenon and, if so, what conclusions does it draw for the future of relations between the Community and Poland?

27.11.1990

FR

34. Question by Mrs BANOTTI (H-1329/90)

Subject: Cambodia

Could EPC inform the House about its present position with regard to the awful situation in Cambodia, the UN plan for an interim administration in Cambodia and the possibility of further EC aid for this beleaguered country?

18.12.1990

EN

35. Question by Mr BALFE (H-1335/90)

Subject: Violation of human rights in Greece

Are the Foreign Ministers aware of the recent Helsinki Watch report 'Destroying Ethnic Identity: The Turks of Greece'?

Are the Foreign Ministers prepared to draw the attention of the Greek Government to this report and ask the Greek Government to address itself to the well-documented abuses of human rights set out in the report?

18.12.1990

EN

36. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-1347/90)

Subject: Statements concerning Cyprus

Speaking at a press conference on 19 December 1990 Mr de MICHAELIS, President-in-Office of the Council of Foreign Ministers, told journalists that the European Community, Greece, Turkey and Cyprus should meet to find a solution to the problem of Cyprus and specified that a settlement must be based on the relevant UN resolutions.

What specific initiatives have been taken in this direction?

20.12.1990

EL

37. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-0001/91)

Subject: Sri Lanka

How have the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC used their influence to ensure that the Sri Lankan Government conducts an independent judicial investigation into all reports of army and police personnel involvement in extra-judicial killings and disappearances in Sri Lanka?

7.1.1991

EN

38. Question by Mr PAISLEY (H-0006/91/rev.)

Subject: Extradition

When last did the Ministers meeting in political cooperation discuss the question of a common extradition treaty between member states of the Community and what proposals have been forthcoming?

7.1.1991

EN

39. Question by Mr CABEZON ALONSO (H-0012/91)

Subject: Death of the Spanish photographer Juan Antonio Rodríguez in Panama on 21 December 1989

On 21 December 1989, invading US troops in Panama fired on and killed the Spanish photographer Juan Antonio Rodríguez, while he was engaged on professional work as a graphic journalist.

Despite the demands of one or two governments and various bodies and institutions, including the European Parliament, the US authorities have not adequately clarified the facts of the matter, nor is it known whether an inquiry was held and if so, what its findings were, nor whether those responsible for this death have been brought to justice. Neither has any compensation been paid to the victim's family.

My previous questions concerning this matter have not been answered satisfactorily.

Do the Foreign Ministers intend to insist that the US Government provide the necessary clarification, hold an inquiry and trial and provide adequate compensation?

7.1.1991

ES

40. Question by Mr LANGER (H-0014/91/rev.)

Subject: Community reaction to the pardon granted in Argentina

What reaction does EPC intend to express and what steps will it take to indicate to the Argentinian President, Carlos Menem, the feelings expressed in the press showing that the vast majority of Europeans strongly disapprove of the pardon which has recently been granted to the military officers responsible for bloody dictatorship, executions, deportations, torture, repression, the denial of human rights and other crimes?

8.1.1991

IT

41. Question by Mr NIANIAS (H-1205/90/rev.)

Subject: Role of the European Community in security

What is the position of the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation on:

The massive armament of Turkey envisaged in NATO circles, when the EC, as part of the CSCE, is in favour of disarmament in Europe, and when at least two Community Member States (Italy and Spain) are proposing an expansion of the CSCE in the Mediterranean, and on the recent nuclear cooperation agreement between Turkey and Argentina, which is expected to allow Turkey to build up a whole nuclear arsenal within a short space of time, which will constitute a permanent threat to peace in the Mediterranean?

14.11.1990

EL

42. Question by Mr MELANDRI (H-1209/90)

Subject: Sanctions policy against South Africa

It is now known that, within a few months, European Political Cooperation is to review its policy of EEC sanctions against South Africa and the De Klerk government. Recent international decisions on this subject include the adoption by the UN General Assembly of a resolution of 17 September 1990 calling on the international community to maintain sanctions against South Africa until there is clear proof of irreversible change in that country.

Does European Political Cooperation not consider that, despite the important changes that have occurred in South Africa, sanctions against Pretoria should nevertheless be maintained, given that only the adoption of a law which applies the principle of 'one man, one vote' can bring about the 'irreversible change' which is needed before the sanctions policy can be reviewed?

14.11.1990

IT

43. Question by Mr ARBELOA MURU (H-1234/90)

Subject: Sanctions against Turkey and Israel

What are the legal and political reasons behind the failure on the part of the Twelve to apply any sanctions against the Republic of Turkey for its occupation of part of Cyprus and against the State of Israel for its continued presence in the Occupied Territories of Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem?

20.11.1990

ES

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION

44. Question by Mr ROMEOS (H-0002/91)

Subject: Community aid to resettle Albanian refugees in Greece

The arrival in Greece of 5000 refugees from Albania - the overwhelming majority of whom are of Greek origin - poses a number of serious problems both as regards care and accommodation.

Does the Commission intend to contribute financially to efforts to resettle these refugees, notably by granting special emergency aid from the Social Fund, and to draw up a special professional training and social integration programme for them?

7.1.1991

EL

45. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-1313/90)

Subject: The Community's relations with Romania

On 1 December 1990, Romania's National day, at a public meeting in Alba Julia organized by the National Salvation Front Government, opposition leaders from the National Liberal Party, National Peasant Party and Union of Democratic Hungarians were shouted down by NSF supporters. The disruption was personally orchestrated by Prime Minister Petre Roman, whom President Delors met privately in Namur, on 27 September 1990. Does the Commission recognize that democratically-elected opposition parties were prevented on a symbolic day for Romanian unity from expressing their support for full and equal rights for the Hungarian minority and that the National Salvation Front is not interested in pluralism in Romanian society?

12.12.1990

EN

46. Question by Mrs BANOTTI (H-1328/90)

Subject: Aid to Romanian orphanages

Could the Commission inform the House how effective the distribution of aid to orphanages in Romania is at present, and does it feel that there is need for better coordination between the European Community authorities and the NGOs working directly with the Romanian authorities?

18.12.90

EN

47. Question by Mrs von ALEMANN (H-0039/91)

Subject: Presence of the Commission representative in Bucharest

Is it true that the Commission representative at its Office in Bucharest who has been responsible for coordinating Community aid to Romania, in particular aid for the Romanian orphanages, is no longer in service there?

If so, can the Commission say why this situation has occurred at a time when the presence of such an official is particularly necessary in order to ensure maximum effectiveness of Community aid by coordinating the activities of the non-governmental organizations which receive financial backing from the Community? Does it intend to appoint a replacement without delay?

11.1.1991

DE

48. Question by Mr DESAMA (H-1333/90)

Subject: Electricity supplies to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe

In view of the serious energy problems facing the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, particularly with regard to electricity supplies, is the Commission planning any urgent measures in the near future to link the electricity grids of the countries in question with those of the Community, and what kind of measures are involved?

If measures are envisaged, and bearing in mind the major risks of such a link to the integrated grids of the Community, is the Commission planning to provide the technical and financial means to modernize the electricity grids of the countries of Central and Eastern Europe?

18.12.1990

FR

49. Question by Mr SARIDAKIS (H-1342/90)

Subject: Inclusion of citrus fruit in the Community aid programmes for the countries of Eastern Europe

Does the Commission intend to include citrus fruit in its food aid programmes for the countries of Eastern Europe? As is well known, these countries have traditionally provided a market for Community citrus fruit. The collapse of their economies, however, means that they will be unable to buy citrus fruit this year, which will harm those Community countries which produce it, this will particularly affect the agricultural economy of Greece and, of course, its external balance of payments.

In order above all to avoid large-scale Community withdrawal measures, i.e. the mass destruction of citrus fruit at considerable expense to the EAGGF, and also in order to help the people of the countries of Eastern Europe, it would in many ways be advisable to include citrus fruit in the Community food aid programmes for the countries of Eastern Europe.

20.12.1990

EL

50. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-1323/90)

Subject: Emergency aid for Angola

It is estimated that 1.9 million people in southern Angola are facing starvation because of a combination of war and drought. What aid does the EC intend to provide in support of the UN Special Relief Programme for Angola, a \$75 million emergency relief effort coordinated by the UN and approved by the Angolan government and UNITA?

18.12.1990

EN

51. Question by Mr CORNELISSEN (H-0020/91)

Subject: Violation of the human rights of Kurds

What is the response of the Commission to the reports of violations of human rights, the inhumane treatment and lamentable situation of the Kurds in general, and in particular the (displaced) Turkish Kurds and Kurdish refugees from Iraq in Turkey? In the light of the aid recently granted by the EC to Turkey in connection with the Gulf crisis, will the Commission use its influence to bring about an improvement in the living conditions and respect for the human rights of Kurds in general, and of Kurdish refugees in particular?

9.1.1991

NL

52. Question by Mr NIANIAS (H-1208/90)

Subject: Persecution of Kurds in Turkey

In recent months, the Turkish army has burnt over 400 Kurdish villages, woods and crops in the region of Kurdistan. Tens of thousands of people have been removed from their homes and are living under atrocious conditions. Those Kurds who were in prison in Dgiarbalir and Bisuàl (in Kurdistan) have been transferred to prisons in Turkey where it is almost impossible for their relatives to contact them. Hundreds of them are to be executed, including 25 children between the ages of 11 and 17.

What measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure that the Turkish authorities call a halt to these unacceptable acts of persecution which have increased in scale and frequency since the outbreak of the Gulf crisis.

14.11.1990

EL

53. Question by Mr CASSIDY (H-1298/90)

Subject: 1979 Birds' Directive

Given that it is widely known that an internal working draft has been under discussion in the Commission's services for some time, when will the Commission publish in the Official Journal its proposal for an amendment to this Directive to reinstate the Pests' Annex which was deleted from the original draft directive?

4.12.1990

EN

54. Question by Mr CANAVARRO (H-1301/90)

Subject: Child labour in Portugal

What up-to-date information does the Commission have on the incidence of child labour in Portugal and how is it approaching this issue in the other Member States?

5.12.1990

PT

55. Question by Mr da CUNHA OLIVEIRA (H-1304/90)

Subject: Production aids for olive oil

In November 1990 the governing board of the Elvas Area Olive-Growers Association in Portugal stated that the payment of production aids for olive oil had been delayed since the 1987/88 marketing year. For these three marketing years, the total amount of subsidy owed must be between Esc 120 and 150 million, which is a lot of money! These Community subsidies were introduced in 1986/87 to support the cultivation of olive trees by olive oil producers and were paid to them in that year.

Is the failure to pay the subsidy due to the money in question not being forwarded to Portugal?

If not, what does the Commission intend to do to ensure that these subsidies are paid to the olive growers of Elvas immediately?

7.12.1990

PT

56. Question by Mr DE ROSSA (H-1305/90)

Subject: The effect of the elimination of border controls on customs clearance staff

Will the Commission outline what consideration it has given to the plight of staff engaged in customs clearance duties - particularly those who are self-employed or employed by small privately-owned companies - in view of the abolition of border controls in 1992 and what proposals it has on the subject?

10.12.1990

EN

57. Question by Mr SPECIALE (H-0003/91)

Subject: New customs code and regulations governing the profession of customs agent

The proposal for a regulation establishing a new Community Customs Code (COM(90) 71 final) contains provisions on the profession of customs agent.

These provisions are in contravention of the EEC Treaty, as the rules governing customs declaration and those governing the related professions are subject to different legal disciplines, one set of rules being covered by a regulation and the other by a directive.

All attempts to correct this have so far been blocked by representatives of certain Member States and the Commission.

The technical arguments repeatedly put forward have been totally ignored.

Does the Commission not consider that it should remedy this situation as a matter of urgency, by amending the proposal for a regulation on this point, to avoid an increase in the number of disputes on this matter and to ensure that this does not set a dangerous precedent allowing other regulations to introduce the abolition or limitation of existing professions?

7.1.1991

IT

58. Question by Mr MATTINA (H-1315/90)

Subject: Crisis in the Community data processing industry

Community analyses have always pointed out the weakness of the European data processing industry and its basic dependence on the Japanese and United States industries in terms of know-how.

Community research has failed to serve as a focal point for national research, and the resulting piecemeal approach has led to modest results.

Does not the Commission consider it necessary to undertake a more meaningful commitment in terms of guidance and support for research in this sector, without excluding solutions which, at least in the short term, aim at greater protection of the market?

12.12.1990

IT

59. Question by Mr van der WAAL (H-1316//90)

Subject: Unfair competition vis-à-vis inland waterway vessels from the EC and Switzerland

According to a report in the 'Scheepvaartkrant' ('Shipping Journal') of 20 November 1990, in November 1990 the German authorities issued Czechoslovak vessels with permits for voyages from Germany to the Netherlands and Belgium and within Germany.

- Does the Commission consider this to be compatible with the fact that wholly free cabotage is not yet allowed in German inland shipping?

The issue of these permits adds capacity from outside the EC to the EC fleet, in the form of vessels which are not covered by EC Regulation No. 1101/89¹ on structural improvements in inland waterway transport and which pay no contribution to the EC ship scrapping fund.

- Does the Commission agree that this represents a form of unfair competition vis-à-vis vessels from the EC Member States and Switzerland?

- What measures will it take to end this situation?

13.12.1990

NL

60. Question by Mr DESSYLAS (H-1319/90)

Subject: Problems facing employees of the Greek National Statistical Service and the reliability of its data

The dismissal of 278 specialist employees of the Greek National Statistics Service (where although 1700 permanent staff are needed, only 950 are employed at present) will not only create very serious social problems for the dismissed persons and their families, it will also mean that statistical research subsidized by the EC (for instance, annual industrial data, data on electricity consumption per household) will be suspended and that the reliability of the statistics submitted by Greece to the EC, notably as regards the 1990-1991 census, will be seriously undermined.

What representations does the Commission intend to make to the Greek authorities to put an end to this unacceptable state of affairs?

14.12.1990

EL

(1) JO No. 116, 28.4.89, p. 25

61. Question by Mr RAFFARIN (H-1320/90)

Subject: Rail links between France and Spain

The Transport Ministers of France and Spain have set up a working party to study rail links between their two countries, a topic which is of particular significance for both the southern part of Europe and its Atlantic regions.

In what way is the Commission involved with the working party in question?

How does the Commission intend to take part in the decisions which are being prepared in the Member States concerned?

17.12.1990

FR

62. Question by Mr SIMEONI (H-1349/90)

Subject: European master plan for high speed trains and 'Atlantic arc'

On 6 December 1990, the Commission announced its European master plan for high speed trains as far as 2010. The plan does not include the idea of an 'Atlantic arc' because two routes which are essential for the integrated economic development of the whole region do not form part of the plan: the first being the Channel Tunnel - Caen - Rennes - Nantes - Bordeaux line, and the second being Bilbao - Gijon - Vigo - Oporto.

Does not the Commission consider that this omission runs the risk of dangerously aggravating the regional imbalances which already work to the detriment of the peripheral Atlantic regions? Does it not contradict the declared intention of DG XVI (Regional policy) to take action to promote the 'Atlantic arc' in the context of the review of structural policies after 1992? Is the Commission prepared to rectify this omission, and within what timescale?

20.12.1990

FR

63. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-1344/90)

Subject: L arissa-V olos railway

A number of major structural improvements to the Athens-Thessaloniki railway have been included in the Community Support Framework.

However, no improvements are to be made on the V olos-L arissa section, despite the fact that the feasibility study carried out by the municipal authorities of Nea Ionia/V olos authorities and incorporated in the report of the prefectural authorities shows that the service is disrupted and major ecological problems occur where the railway crosses the municipality.

Does the Commission intend to include the modifications to the railway in the Community Support Framework?

20.12.1990

EL

64. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-1322/90)

Subject: Free movement of persons

In the run-up to the single market and given the need for a common immigration policy within the Community, the question of the compatibility of national immigration policies needs to be tackled now. Certain Member States' immigration policies comprise preferential arrangements for workers, while others are more favourable to families. Does not the Commission believe that efforts should be made to agree on a minimum common position, failing which the Member States, especially those with more restrictive policies, will not agree to abolish internal border controls in 1993 for fear of calling their internal immigration policy into question?

18.12.1990

FR

65. Question by Mr MELANDRI (H-0016/91)

Subject: Commission immigration policy

What was the outcome of the policy debate on immigration from third countries held in Brussels on 4 and 9 January?

Is it true that the Commission intends to apply the principle of 'temporary access' to the labour markets, which would avoid the question of the right to settle and the right of family reunification?

8.1.1991

IT

66. Question by Mr TITLEY (H-0013/91)

Subject: Free movement of labour and legal processes

Will the Commission take steps to ensure that the free movement of labour, following the completion of the Single Market in 1992, will not be hindered by wide variations in the standards of justice in Member States? In particular will the Commission take action to ensure that the Spanish Government reviews the quality of its legal system to bring it up to a standard which is commensurate with that applying in other Member States?

8.1.1991

EN

67. Question by Mr HARRISON (H-1324/90)

Subject: Shipbuilding intervention fund

Could the Commission explain why it insists on maintaining the 1985 agreement between itself and the UK Government concerning access to intervention fund under the 5th Directive for Shipbuilding Yards previously involved in defence contracting, despite the obvious disadvantage to the UK compared with other EC Member States?

Would the Commission also explain why it has not allowed the contents of this agreement to be made available to the European Parliament?

18.12.1990

EN

68. Question by Mr CUSHNAHAN (H-1326/90)

Subject: European integration through education

As part of its policy of promoting integration in the Community, would the Commission agree to prepare a Community initiative with the objective of encouraging first and second level schools in all Member States to include European studies in their curricula, in order to foster better respect for cultural diversity, better understanding of European languages and deeper knowledge of the structures of, and the relationships between, the institutions of the Community?

18.12.1990

EN

69. Question by Mr MARCK (H-1330/90)

Subject: Interpretation of Regulation No. 3094/86¹

The Commission's answer to my Written Question No. 2294/90 does not tie in with the interpretative note on the same subject that appeared in the journal of the shipowners' federation.

What are the Commission's real views on the subject, particularly as regards whether fish should be separately sorted into boxes in the fish-hold, i.e. below deck?

18.12.1990

NL

70. Question by Mrs RAWLINGS (H-1331/90)

Subject: European cities of culture

Following my report on European cities of culture, Doc. A3-296/90², which was adopted by Parliament on 23 November 1990, what steps has the Commission taken to implement the proposal set out therein?

18.12.1990

EN

71. Question by Mrs POLLACK (H-1334/90)

Subject: Centre for alternatives to animal testing

What progress has been made by the Commission with the proposal to set up this unit, and have any decisions yet been taken as to where it will be located?

18.12.1990

EN

72. Question by Mrs LLORCA VILAPLANA (H-1336/90)

Subject: Languages in the Community

During the debate in plenary on 10 December 1990, Commissioner Ripa de Meana, replying to the Reding report, referred to the other two languages which, along with Catalan, were officially recognized by the Spanish Constitution - Basque and Galician. Has the Commissioner forgotten that the Valencian language is also officially recognized?

18.12.1990

ES

¹ OJ No. L 288, 11.10.1986, p. 1

² Minutes of the sitting of 23 November 1990, p. 35

73. Question by Mr PAPAYANNAKIS (H-1338/90)

Subject: Harmonization of legislation governing compensation for non-material damage

An investigation carried out by the European Bureau of Consumers' Unions in October 1990 on the rules governing compensation for non-material damage in the Community found that there were substantial differences between the Member States in this matter. This inequality in the treatment of citizens of the twelve Member States is contrary to the principle that consumers' interests should be protected in the same way in all Member States, one of the objectives of the Community. Given that after the completion of the single market contacts between European citizens will multiply and that citizens of one Member State will increasingly be able to opt for goods and services from the other Member States, will the Commission say whether it intends to take measures to harmonize the rules applicable to this specific sector, and if so, when?

19.12.1990

EL

74. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-1346/90)

Subject: Protection of seamen in Greece

The EC Court of Justice ruled against Greece for its failure to implement Directive 80/987/EEC¹ on the social protection of seamen in the event of the insolvency of their employer.

The Court delivered its judgment on the basis of the Greek legislation in force up to the expiry of the period laid down by the 'reasoned opinion'. Law No. 1836/89 was passed subsequent thereto and therefore was not taken into account by the Court.

Does the Commission consider that Law No. 1836/89 is compatible with Community legislation relating to the insolvency of an employer?

20.12.1990

EL

¹ OJ No. L 283, 20.10.1980, p. 23

75. Question by Mrs BRAUN-MOSER (H-1348/90)

Subject: Belgian national debt

Will the Commission put pressure on countries with a large national debt (such as Belgium, which has a debt amounting to 129.4% of its GDP) and persuade them to introduce a proper system of taxation?

Although the Belgian national debt (which in 10 years has grown by about 80%) is far larger than the national product, it is well known that many citizens are, improperly, not taxed, or taxed too little, whereas others pay too much in tax based purely on estimates, which places a burden on the middle classes.

20.12.1990

DE

76. Question by Mrs McINTOSH (H-1350/90)

Subject: Seat belts in buses and coaches

Further to the Commission's response to an oral question on coach safety (H-806/90¹), can the Commission report on any progress regarding the extension of EC legislation to cover the fitting of seat belts in buses and coaches?

Has the Committee for Adaptation to Technical Progress reached a decision on this subject?

20.12.1990

EN

77. Question by Mr BANDRÉS MOLET (H-1351/90)

Subject: Conversion of the hotel industry in the Balearic Islands

The ERDF has, since 1988, allocated Ptas 24 000 m to the conversion of Spanish hotel installations.

However, the Autonomous Community of the Balearic Islands (which, together with Catalonia, accounts for more than 50% of the total Spanish hotel capacity) has received no aid from the Fund, since it is not covered by Objective 1 of the ERDF.

In view of the severe crisis affecting tourism in the Balearic Islands and the insufficient level of the funds allocated to conversion by the national and regional governments, does the Commission intend to take any action to support the general conversion of the hotel and tourist industry in the islands?

20.12.1990

ES

¹ Annex to the Verbatim report of proceedings 11.7.1990 p.26

78. Question by Mr MAHER (H-1353/90)

Subject: Import levels for horses and horse meat

Can the Commission state what the level of imports into the Community is for horse meat and for horses for slaughter?

20.12.1990

EN

79. Question by Mr PAISLEY (H-0007/91)

Subject: Compensation for small family farms

What consultations has the Commission had with the H.M.G. of the UK about proposals for the compensation of the small family farmers of Northern Ireland when the cuts in subsidies are implemented?

7.1.1991

EN

80. Question by Mrs HERMANS (H-0008/91)

Subject: 'Light' food products

Because manufacturers are taking advantage of the need for healthy, low-calorie foodstuffs, the market has recently been flooded with 'light' products. Nevertheless, no criteria have been laid down to define the meaning of 'light'. Is the Commission planning a regulation on this subject or does it intend to ban the use of this often misleading term?

7.1.1991

NL

81. Question by Mr LANGER (H-0015/91)

Subject: Averting a possible nuclear disaster in Bohunice (Slovakia, CSFR)

In what form does the Commission intend to give the Czech and Slovak Federative Republic any assistance it may request in order to prevent a major accident at the nuclear power station in Bohunice (near Bratislava), where critical faults have apparently been discovered in the safety system and the threat of a second Chernobyl is being discussed, and in what way will it make a timely contribution both to the shutting-down of the reactor and the provision of adequate disaster-prevention measures? With what other institutions and states is it cooperating in this connection?

8.1.1991

IT

82. Question by Mr DI RUPO (H-0018/91)

Subject: Withdrawal of Glifanan from the market

Given that, as of 1 January 1991, the Belgian authorities are withdrawing the powerful analgesic drug 'Glifanan' (glafenium) from the national market, can the Commission say whether this product and other proprietary medicinal products containing glafenine will be withdrawn from the Community market?

Can the Commission ascertain whether the side-effects of this drug, particularly those arising from anaphylactic shock, have had serious and/or fatal consequences in other Community Member States?

9.1.1991

FR

83. Question by Mr FALQUI (H-0021/91)

Subject: Inclusion of the district of CENGIO (Piedmont, Italy) in the list of geographical areas in Italy coming under Objective 2 of the Community's structural funds

The decision of 20 December 1989 outlining the policy the Community intends to pursue with regard to Objective No. 2 of the structural funds as far as Italy is concerned (Community support framework) does not include, in the list of areas entitled to receive Community aid, the district of Cengio or, more generally the Val Bormida, although the list is to be discussed again during 1991. In the Val Bormida there is an industry (ACNA) which is in a serious state of decline.

In view of the above, does the Commission not consider that it should use its authority to propose that the area in question is included in the new Objective 2 lists for Italy?

9.1.1991

IT

84. Question by Mr Brian SIMPSON (H-0022/91)

Subject: Yugoslavia

Can the Commissioner say whether or not he welcomes the move by Yugoslavia to increase the number of transit permits to Greece for 1991 from 30 000 to 40 000 and could he explain how this gesture from the Yugoslavs will help the situation for Greece with its links to the rest of the Community?

9.1.1991

EN

85. Question by Mr WIJSENBEEK (H-0025/91)

Subject: The erection of cordon fencing in Botswana

Is the Commission aware that a fence for the protection of livestock is being put up in the Okavango Delta in Botswana, at the same time as the Lake Xau is being dredged?

What measures does the Commission intend to take to counter this?

9.1.1991

NE

86. Question by Mr Heinz Fritz KÖHLER (H-0026/91)

Subject: Designation of the territory of the former GDR as a low-tax area

At the coalition talks following the Bundestag elections in Germany, a good deal of consideration was given to the proposal to declare the five new Länder a low-tax area. According to the German Finance Minister this would require subsidies of up to DM 10 billion. In conjunction with the regional aid already granted by the Commission, this would undoubtedly lead to distortions of competition.

Would the designation of the five new Länder as a low-tax area be compatible with Article 93 of the EEC Treaty and, if so, on what conditions?

10.1.1991

DE

87. Question by Mr PIERROS (H-0027/91)

Subject: Failure by Turkey to fulfil its obligations as regards imports of raisins into the Community

According to existing evidence, Turkish importers are not respecting the minimum price in force for imports of Turkish-produced raisins into the Community. Despite constant complaints, the Turkish authorities refuse to cooperate with the relevant Community authorities to prevent and effectively put a stop to this practice. Moreover, despite their contractual obligations, they are pressing the Community to abolish the above minimum price for imports.

Does the Commission intend to take the drastic measures necessary to put a stop to this illegal activity?

10.1.1991

EL

88. Question by Mrs BJØRNVIG (H-0030/91)

Subject: The cadmium directive

The Commission has put forward a proposal (COM(89) 548 final) for the tenth amendment of Directive 76/769/EEC¹, and on 20 December 1990 a majority of the Council of Ministers adopted a common position on this basis. If interpreted as a total harmonization directive, this proposal will gravely undermine current Danish regulations governing the use of cadmium, to the detriment of the environment. Nevertheless, the proposal is regarded by the Danish government as permitting the retention of more rigorous regulations in Denmark, as Directive 76/769 does not contain a marketing clause. Does the Commission agree with the Danish interpretation?

10.1.1991

DA

89. Question by Mr FORD (H-0032/91)

Subject: Commission support for Community anti-racist programmes

In view of the Commission's signed commitment to fight racism in the terms of the Solemn Declaration against Racism and Xenophobia, and the further recommendations before it to promote anti-racist activity and education, in the terms of the Ford report, can the Commission now say what measures it will take to put these ideals into effect, particularly with regard to creating channels to assist projects such as the Heartstone Circles which as the Commission knows are already struggling to continue to work in just these important areas.

10.1.1991

EN

90. Question by Mr IVERSEN (H-0033/91)

Subject: ESPRIT

With reference to the answer to my question No. 1271/90², when on the point about Community monitoring of undertakings taking part in ESPRIT, the Commission replied that 74 undertakings holding contracts between 1987 and 1990 were being, or would be, checked, would the Commission please state how many of these 87 contract holders have been checked to date. How many of these have been requested to 'adjust' their statements of costs, and what sort of sums are involved? Would the Commission also state in how many cases it checks the financial status and research activities of the actual undertakings?

10.1.1991

DA

¹ OJ No. L 262, 27.9.1976, p. 201

² Annex to the verbatim report of proceedings 12.12.1991, p. 22

91. Question by Mr Llewellyn T. SMITH (H-0034/91)

Subject: Toxic waste incinerators

How many incinerators for toxic waste treatment exist in the Member States of the European Communities, where are they located, when did each first start operating and do they all comply with environmental protection standards developed by the Commission?

10.1.1991

EN

92. Question by Ms ODDY (H-0037/91)

Subject: Solvent abuse

One of my constituents, André Cartland, aged only 18 years, died after inhaling Butane. Is the Commission aware that the number of deaths from solvent abuse in the UK has risen from 111 to 134 in 1988 and what steps does it intend to take to rectify this situation.

10.1.1991

EN

93. Question by Mr ROUMELIOTIS (H-0038/91)

Subject: Influx of foreign population groups into Greece

There has recently been a shift of population from the countries of Eastern Europe to the economically more powerful neighbouring countries and this trend seems set to continue. This problem has recently become particularly acute in Greece with the influx of refugees from countries such as Albania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria: the sporadic protests from Skopje in this connection have recently become more strident in tone and two months ago 2000 or so Bulgarians moved towards the Greek border seeking to cross over en masse. It should be noted that Greece is particularly concerned about the fate of the 400 000 or so Greeks in Albania.

Will the Commission say whether it intends to make available appropriations to deal with this problem in both the long and short terms?

10.1.1991

EL

94. Question by Mrs Caroline JACKSON (H-0040/91)

Subject: EC Beef Regime

In view of the fact that EC beef producers are having severe problems as a result of the loss of the Middle East market and large increases in exports of meat and livestock from East Europe, will the Commission consider lifting the 235 000 tonne ceiling on intervention, and removing the headage restrictions on the Beef Special Premium Scheme, in order to allow greater stock numbers to be eligible and thus to assist producers in a very difficult climate?

14.1.1991

EN

95. Question by Mrs Simone MARTIN (H-0999/90)

Subject: BSE

Can the Commission confirm the incidence of BSE in the cattle population of the Republic of Ireland?

If so, does the Commission not intend to apply the same measures as those taken in respect of the United Kingdom?

19.9.1990

FR

96. Question by Mr NEWTON DUNN (H-1010/90)

Subject: Help for the audibly handicapped

Does the Commission agree that there is an anomaly resulting from the 1977 Sixth VAT Directive - in that VAT is charged on hearing aids purchased by the audibly handicapped, whereas devices such as television teletext adaptors, vibrator alarm clocks, safety warning devices and telephone amplifiers may be purchased by them free of VAT?

If the Commission agrees, will it propose an amendment so that hearing aids are also free of VAT?

24.9.1990

EN

97. Question by Mr BETTINI (H-1024/90)

Subject: Motorway franchises in Italy and road tolls

The European Community has declared on a number of occasions that it is in favour of gradually abolishing road tolls.

The communication from the Commission (COM(86) 750) on road tolls and taxes shows that motorway tolls engender distortions (unfair competition).

In the Lalor report, the European Parliament urged that road tolls be gradually abolished.

Lastly, the compromise put forward by Mr Topmann in 1989 spoke of gradually abolishing road tolls. In view of the fact that the Italian Government's bill, which is currently before the Italian Parliament, renews the franchise of the Italian motorway management companies for 12 years and also maintains road tolls for that period, and that road tolls form part of the complex issue of the charging of transport infrastructure costs, can the Council state whether the Italian Government has consulted the European Community on this matter? Does it agree that, while it does not infringe any Community regulation, this unilateral measure would be contrary to the desired aim of harmonization?

26.9.1990

IT

98. Question by Mr COX (H-1043/90)

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 Commission 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

99. Question by Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-1079/90)

Subject: Need for a Serious Fraud Office in the Community

Has the Commission noted the achievements of the Serious Fraud Office in the UK since its inception two years ago, with 59 out of the 81 defendants prosecuted in the 39 cases it has instituted being convicted? Does the Commission not think that its pursuit of serious fraud within the Community would benefit from close study of the SFO?

10.10.1990

EN

100. Question by Mr VALVERDE LOPEZ (H-1097/90)

Subject: Concern amongst nut growers in Spain regarding Community aid and the lack of coordination between the Ministry of Agriculture and the regional governments

On 18 July 1989 the Commission adopted Regulation (EEC) No. 2159/89 (OJ No. L 207, 19.7.1989) laying down detailed rules for applying the specific measures for nuts and locust beans as provided for in Title IIa of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1035/72¹ of 18 May 1972. Under these rules, Community aid may be granted for measures intended to achieve any of the following four aims: the formation of nut producers' organizations; the establishment of a revolving fund by producers' organizations which have submitted a quality and marketing improvement plan; and an increase in consumption. Could the Commission state what information it has regarding the implementation of the Regulation in Spain? When can Spanish producers expect to receive the aid referred to in the Regulation?

17.10.1990

ES

¹ OJ No. L 118, 20.5.1972, p. 1

101. Question by Mrs DURY (H-1102/90)

Subject: Preserving cultural diversity in the European audiovisual sector

Europe's wealth lies in its diversity, especially in terms of culture. It is therefore essential to preserve this diversity, especially in the audiovisual sector, which will not be achieved if a few powerful broadcasting networks are allowed to take over most of the advertising market, causing broadcasting networks in the smaller countries to disappear. The controversy between TF1 and the executive of the French-speaking community in Belgium would seem to be a prime example. Have all the necessary safeguards been undertaken to prevent this problem occurring?

17.10.1990

FR

102. Question by Mr STEWART (H-1103/90)

Subject: Surface storage of fossil fuels at Merseyside, (Bootle Docks) and answer to Written Question E-0821/90¹ and E-1544/90² by Commissioner Ripa De Meana

The Commissioner will recall sending two of his experts to assess the coal dust problem at the above location which is well appreciated. Could he now provide me with a copy of their report?

Would he also state what action he would propose if the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company persist in ignoring Directive 85/337/EEC³ which explicitly covers such projects in Annex II?

Has the Commissioner received my letter outlining the problem in greater detail than Question Time will allow, and if so will he take steps to see the British Government conforms with the said directive?

18.10.1990

EN

¹ Not yet published

² Not yet published

³ OJ L 175 of 5.7.1985, p. 40

103. Question by Mr COONEY (H-1119/90)

Subject: Drinking water

Given the reticence with which Member States are implementing the 1980 directive on the quality of drinking water and the abuse of authorized exemptions provided for in this directive, will the Commission be taking further measures in order to oblige Member States to implement this directive to the full?

18.10.1990

EN

104. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-1136/90)

Subject: Community competition policy applied to gas distribution in Germany

The distribution of natural gas in East Germany, TREUHANDANSTALT, is in the process of being privatized, 45% of the equity having been acquired already by RUHRGAS and BEB.

How will the Commission ensure the application of the Community's rules on competition in the disposal of the remaining 55% of the Treuhandanstalt equity?

25.10.1990

EN

105. Question by Mr CHABERT (H-1143/90)

Subject: The policy of the Community institutions on promoting cities

The dramatic events which took place in Vaux-en-Velin in October once again drew attention to the functional problems of certain big cities, which have a number of causes: habitat, multiple disadvantages, problems of unemployment, immigration, lack of recreational and cultural facilities etc., which call for a general mobilization of everyone concerned.

Can the Commission say what measures it intends to propose to promote a genuine European development policy for large cities and their most disadvantaged districts in particular?

25.10.1990

FR

106. Question by Mr de los SANTOS LÓPEZ (H-1160/90)

Subject: Support for agriculture

The Commission's decision to propose to the Council a 30% reduction in support for agriculture, i.e. a significant reduction in export subsidies and protection for these products against competition from third countries, will, if it is endorsed by the Council, signify the beginning of an agricultural crisis with unforeseeable consequences in areas of southern Europe such as Andalusia.

Does the Commission possess an estimate of the economic, political and social consequences of such a measure?

What action will the Commission take to offset and/or mitigate the consequences of such a decision?

31.10.1990

ES

107. Question by Mrs MUSCARDINI (H-1163/90)

Subject: Community aid for video telephones for deaf-mutes

Does the Commission intend to develop the project to provide video telephones for deaf-mutes, which it has already promoted, decide on the technical specifications required for European standardization of such telephones and urge the telecommunications corporations in each country to introduce reduced rates for video telephone calls and make the purchase of such equipment tax-free?

31.10.1990

IT

108. Question by Mrs RUIZ-GIMÉNEZ AGUILAR (H-1243/90/rev.)

Subject: Cancellation of the debt of Latin American countries

Does the Commission intend to draw up a proposal for cancellation of the debt of the Latin American countries along the lines of that put forward for the debt of the ACP countries?

Is any provision being made for other measures similar to those contained in the initiative for the Americas proposed by President Bush?

21.11.1990

ES

109. Question by Mr KILLILEA (H-1250/90)

Subject: Radon gas levels in the west of Ireland

Studies recently carried out in Ireland by University College Dublin and the Nuclear Energy Board have shown the existence of dangerously high levels of a naturally-occurring radioactive gas known as radon, which poses a major threat to the health of thousands of people living mainly in the west of the country. This gas is being found in unacceptably high levels in homes built on predominantly limestone rock in the west of Ireland.

The Nuclear Energy Board has stated that this gas presents a threat hundreds of thousands of times greater than Sellafield or Chernobyl. The gas, which breaks down into another more radioactive element, polonium, becomes embedded in the lungs, greatly increasing the risk of lung cancer. The acceptable level for this gas is thought to be around 150 Becquerels per cubic metre, whereas in 1.5% of homes, the level was found to be at 400 Becquerels, and in one home as high as 2000 Becquerels.

The implications of these surveys is that major structural work will have to be carried out on these homes to prevent the seepage of radon gas into them. At present, an estimated 70 000 or more people are at risk from the effects of this gas. However, to construct a house that will be radon proof, or to take remedial action on houses already built, is enormously expensive.

Can the Commission say whether funding can be made available to enable home-owners in affected areas to carry out structural work on their homes which would insulate them from the effects of radon gas?

26.11.1990

EN

110. Question by Mr ARBELOA MURU (H-1267/90)

Subject: The inclusion of the tourist sector in the Treaties

Does the Commission agree that the inclusion of the tourist sector in the Treaties will enable the Community to draw up multiannual Community programmes and allocate adequate funding thereto, thereby promoting the development of the economically-disadvantaged regions? Are there any obstacles to the inclusion of this sector?

28.11.1990

ES

111. Question by Mr McCARTIN (H-1287/90)

Subject: Dumping of Norwegian salmon on EC markets

What action is the Commission taking following the anti-dumping investigations (concluded at the end of October) which showed that serious damage had been caused to EC producers by the salmon dumping practices of the Norwegians?

30.11.1990

EN

