

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



session documents

ENGLISH EDITION

7 MARCH 1994

B3-0012/94

ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rule 41 of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME

on 9 MARCH 1994

DOC_EN\QH\247\247188

PE 175.963

- Consultation procedure
simple majority
- **I Cooperation procedure (first reading)
simple majority
- **II Cooperation procedure (second reading)
simple majority to approve the common position
absolute majority of Parliament's component Members to reject or amend the common position
- *** Assent procedure
absolute majority of Parliament's component Members to give assent
except for simple majority under Articles 8a, 105, 106, 130d and 228 EC
- ***I Codecision procedure (first reading)
simple majority
- ***II Codecision procedure (second reading)
simple majority to approve the common position
absolute majority of Parliament's component Members either to adopt a declaration of intent
to reject the common position, or to amend or confirm the rejection of the common position
- ***III Codecision procedure (third reading)
simple majority to approve the joint text
absolute majority of Parliament's component Members to reject the Council text

DA

DE

EL

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FR

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NL

PT

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL

1. Question by Mr NIANIAS (H-0197/94)

Subject: EU's opinions on the closure of Thessaloniki harbour

There is widespread despondency in Greece after press reports that the EU is not satisfied at, and disagrees with Greece's having closed the port of Thessaloniki and imposed a kind of embargo against Skopje.

Greece of course is entitled to act in this matter as a sovereign state according to her interests and in accordance with international law. Now this affair raises the relevant question of whether the Union, in its well-known spirit of unanimity, is considering publishing a map in which the land and sea frontiers of the Union will be clearly defined and seen, and therefore international law (civil, naval, etc.) and Union legislation can be clearly applied whenever cases appear.

Let me add that I think this matter cannot be delayed or avoided for long.

21.02.1994

GR

2. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-0230/94)

Subject: Report in the possession of the United Nations Secretary-General concerning the bomb attack on Sarajevo market-place

The disclosure by a French television station that a report in the possession of the United Nations Secretary-General attributes responsibility for the murderous bomb attack on Sarajevo market-place to the Muslim side, contrary to the widely-held view that the Serbs were responsible, is creating a serious problems with which moral and political implications need to be fully clarified.

Will the Council officially request a copy of this report from the Secretary-General in order to ensure that the peoples of Europe, the Member States and the European institutions are kept informed?

24.02.1994

GR

3. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-0238/94)

Subject: Information about the systematic use of provocation by the Muslim side in Bosnia

According to recent reliable press reports, the bombing of the market in Sarajevo, which was attributed to the Serbian side, was an act of Muslim provocation, and local UN commanders were aware of the fact but remained silent after pressure had been exerted.

This information is of enormous significance, particularly since the incident was used as a pretext for the NATO ultimatum and the threat of foreign intervention, which is a potential time bomb threatening the prospects for peace in the wider Balkan region as well as in Europe as a whole, and since there have also been allegations of wider use of provocation by the Muslim side. Does the Council not consider that these allegations should be properly investigated and, if found to be true, the guilty parties censured and the whole stance of the European Union, and of the other international organizations in the region, reviewed?

24.02.1994

GR

4. Question by Mr LANGER (H-0146/94)

Subject: Repression in Croatia

There are, unfortunately, increasingly frequent reports about repressive measures taken by the Croatian authorities against individuals or groups working to promote democratic freedoms, living together without racial discrimination, human rights and political pluralism. Is the Council aware of cases such as those of Viktor Ivancic, editor of 'Feral Tribune', who has been conscripted into the armed forces, Nikola Viskovic, a university professor and well-known legal expert, who is being prosecuted for his political opinions, and the persecution of 'Dalmatinska Akcija'? What action does it intend to take to defend Croatian democrats?

02.02.1994

IT

5. Question by Mr PIERROS (H-0220/94)

Subject: Financing of the EU's common foreign and security policy

The Council is reportedly divided over how to fund activities related to the common foreign and security policy mandated by the Maastricht Treaty. The division reportedly pits countries that wish to finance such activities largely from national budgets against others that wish to see them financed from the EU budget.

What is the Council Presidency's view of the matter, and what is the rationale behind it?

23.02.1994

GR

6. Question by Mr COONEY (H-0115/94)

Subject: Middle East talks

In view of the demise of the Soviet Union and its consequent disappearance as one of the sponsoring parties of the Middle East peace process, should not the European Union seek a role in that process as 'an honest broker', particularly in view of the recent statement by Mr Rabin, Prime Minister of Israel, to the Council of Europe that Europe should take a more direct role in the Middle East peace talks?

28.01.1994

EN

7. Question by Mr ARBELOA MURU (H-1164/93)

Subject: Draft Constitution

Is the Council thinking of 'taking into consideration', at least as a working document, any Draft Constitution adopted by Parliament?

09.11.1993

ES

8. Question by Mr RAMIREZ HEREDIA (H-0155/94)

Subject: Development of new relations between the associate countries of Central and Eastern Europe

In view of the Italian and British Foreign Ministers' initiative within the Council, proposing the development of a new relationship between the Twelve and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe with which association agreements have been concluded, in respect of the two intergovernmental pillars - the common foreign and security policy and home affairs and justice,

- how far-reaching will these new relations be;
- what will be most important proposals to these countries by the Twelve, as regards these areas of policy?

04.02.1994

ES

9. Question by Mrs RAWLINGS (H-0049/94)

Subject: Compensation to Bulgaria

Given that the Council of Ministers delayed the adoption of the Interim Agreement with Bulgaria, causing it financial loss and political uncertainty, is the Council going to give priority to the consideration of a compensation package and, if so, what is it going to envisage?

14.01.1994

EN

10. Question by Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-0177/94)

Subject: Safety of EU unit in South Africa

What steps is the Council taking to ensure the safety of people involved in operating the EU unit to assist and monitor the situation in South Africa in April?

17.02.1994

EN

11. Question by Mr van der WAAL (H-0111/94)

Subject: Reduction of 'abnormal births' in China

According to the Chinese press agency Xinhua, draft legislation designed to combat births of 'inferior quality' and to 'raise the level of the whole population' has been put before China's parliament. Abortion and sterilization are to be used to reduce the number of 'abnormal births'. If passed, the law will also prohibit marriages involving Chinese who have venereal diseases and/or mental abnormalities.

Does the Council not agree that this would be a violation of human rights, including those of the unborn child, and can it say what action it will take with regard to the People's Republic of China to prevent this violation?

28.01.1994

NL

12. Question by Mr DESSYLAS (H-0149/94)

Subject: Politically-motivated persecution of artists in Turkey

Kemal Sahir Gürel, a vocalist with the musical group, 'Yorum', has been arrested by police in Edirne and held since 15 January 1994 in strict solitary confinement by the security forces in Istanbul, and has no opportunity to communicate with his family and his lawyers.

Mr K.S. Gürel was sentenced in March 1993 (together with the singer Elif Soumrou Gürel) by the State Security Court in Izmir to 20 months' imprisonment and a fine of 42 million Turkish liras on the grounds that, at a concert given by the group 'Yorum' in the town of Denizli, they had sung songs calling for the secession of Kurdistan and urging the Turkish people to revolt!!!

What representations does the Council of Ministers of the European Union intend to make to the Turkish authorities in view of these flagrant violations of human rights so as to obtain the immediate release of Mr K.S. Gürel and put an end to the politically-motivated persecution of the group, 'Yorum', and of artists in Turkey in general?

02.02.1994

GR

13. Question by Mr KARELLIS (H-0171/94)

Subject: Genocide of the Kurdish people

According to the reputable British newspaper, 'The Independent' and reports by Amnesty International which have appeared in the French press, Turkish army and police units are being deployed in south-eastern Turkey as part of a Government plan to carry out a systematic purge of the Kurdish population which amounts to nothing less than genocide.

Will the European Union remain passive in view of the fully substantiated fact that a government, while aspiring to become a member of the European Union, is nevertheless organizing the genocide of the Kurds? If not, what action does it intend to take?

16.02.1994

GR

14. Question by Mr ANDREWS (H-0215/94)

Subject: Attacks on Kurds in Northern Iraq

What action is the Council taking to keep the situation of the Kurdish people in Northern Iraq under review and how does it consider the EU should react to the reports in February that Turkish Air Force aircraft have 'pounded' rebel Kurds along border areas in Northern Iraq with considerable loss of life?

22.02.1994

EN

15. Question by David MARTIN (H-0198/94)

Subject: Political killings and disappearances which occur around the world

Is the Council aware of the concern of many European Union citizens about the increasing numbers of political killings and disappearances which occur around the world, eg the Marsh Arabs, the South American street children, the Vietnamese boat people etc? What does the Council intend to do about this gross violation of human rights and does it support Amnesty International's 14 point programme for the prevention of 'disappearances'?

21.02.1994

EN

16. Question by Mrs ODDY (H-0222/94)

Subject: Mass graves in Sri Lanka

Is the Council aware that mass graves have been found at Surivakande?

Will the Council urge the Sri Lankan Government to ensure that UN guidelines on disinterment and analysis of skeletal remains are followed?

23.02.1994

EN

17. Question by Mrs van PUTTEN (H-0123/94)

Subject: Women in Development (WID)

Do the Member States of the European Union and the Commission share a common approach to the implementation of WID policy?

What efforts are being undertaken to improve coordination and cooperation in this respect (Article 130x)?

28.01.1994

NL

18. Question by Mrs ERNST de la GRAETE (H-0126/94)

Subject: Women in Development (WID)

What sectoral criteria does the EDF Committee apply before accepting projects submitted, and does the committee employ experts on sectoral and cross-cutting issues, e.g. WID, environment, etc.?

28.01.1994

FR

19. Question by Mr KOSTOPOULOS (H-0141/94)

Subject: Prolongation of subsidized transport for Greek exports of fruit and vegetables to other Member States

The war in the former Yugoslavia is continuing to impede Greek exports of fruit and vegetables to Community markets. Will the Council say whether it intends to extend the period during which the transport of these products to the other Member States of the Community (excluding Italy, Spain and Portugal) will be subsidized?

01.02.1994

EL

20. Question by Mrs von ALEMANN (H-0145/94)

Subject: Supplies of pesticides to Albania and Eastern Europe

217 t of pesticides ordered by the former Communist government are stored in a railway train near the border between Albania and the Yugoslav Republic of Montenegro. Some 3600 t of pesticides are still being stored in Albania. They are no longer needed following the privatization of an ecologically based agricultural sector. A study of plant protectives in Albania carried out by the World Bank in 1993 concludes that 560 t should not be used under any circumstances.

Can the Council draw up an inventory of all such stores in Eastern Europe and a plan for disposal?

01.02.1994

DE

21. Question by Mr IVERSEN (H-0157/94/rev.)

Subject: Interpretation of Article 100a(4)

On 30 January 1986 the Danish Foreign Ministry issued the following interpretation of Article 100a(4):

'It necessarily follows that even if the Council has adopted common rules a Member State can retain existing, more far-reaching rules and, with regard to the adoption and implementation of EC rules, can choose either to issue more stringent national rules or to apply the common rules initially but subsequently - in the light of developments - tighten them up by adopting national rules'.

Which Member States subscribe to the Danish Foreign Ministry's interpretation of Article 100a(4)?

10.02.1994

DA

22. Question by Mrs LLORCA VILAPLANA (H-0161/94)

Subject: Combatting leprosy

Private organizations are calling for donations to combat and eradicate leprosy, claiming that one donation of Ptas 3 000 is enough to purchase the medicines required to cure one of the world's 15 million sufferers.

Given that there are still persons suffering from leprosy in certain EU Member States, and that the Union supplies aid to third countries, could the specific goal of eradicating leprosy not be made the object of a coordinated effort which, in addition to being relatively inexpensive (according to the figures quoted above), would constitute a major improvement to the quality of life on earth?

08.02.1994

ES

23. Question by Mr SIMMONDS (H-0162/94)

Subject: Directive on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing

Would the Council explain why, in the recently adopted Directive on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing, a decision was taken to amend the Commission proposal on bleeding procedures in Annex D so that the requirement is now for only one carotid artery to be incised rather than two? As this goes against all scientific evidence and practical experience concerned with efficient bleeding would the Council not agree that the chances of an animal recovering consciousness after the stunning procedure are now greatly increased by this decision?

08.02.1994

EN

24. Question by Mr NICHOLSON (H-0166/94)

Subject: 1994/95 agriculture prices and beef premiums

Can the Council give an assurance that:

the 1994/95 agricultural price proposals will be in line with those agreed during the reform of the common agricultural policy and in this context, will beef premiums continue to be paid direct to beef producers?

16.02.1994

EN

25. Question by Mrs CRAWLEY (H-0174/94)

Subject: Race relations policy

What Member States have responded to the Danish Presidency's request for all Member States to prepare a résumé of their race-relations policies for combating racism? What was the content of their replies and when will the results be published or made known officially to Parliament and its Civil Liberties and Internal Affairs Committee?

16.02.1994

EN

26. Question by Mr BALFE (H-0184/94)

Subject: Human rights

In the light of the declaration on human rights adopted in Brussels on 11 December 1993, is the Council satisfied that voting arrangements within the Member States are adequate for all sections of the population to fairly claim to be represented in the national parliaments of the twelve members of the European Union?

17.02.1994

EN

27. Question by Mr PAISLEY (H-0191/94)

Subject: Animal health

For years Northern Ireland has enjoyed an animal health status which has been the envy of its counterparts in Europe. With the coming of the single market and the abolition of local frontiers, importers of livestock find it easier to bring the animals into the Province. Can Northern Ireland farmers be assured that enough is being done to prevent the importation of 'new' diseases into Northern Ireland?

21.02.1994

EN

28. Question by Mr LANE (H-0205/94)

Subject: Local businesses in rural and urban areas

Has the Council considered, in detail, the scope for job creation/maintenance provided by local shops which are kept in business in rural and outlying suburban areas as promoted by the Commission in its employment White Paper and will it call for a special initiative to develop this important employment option?

22.02.1994

EN

29. Question by Mr LALOR (H-0207/94)

Subject: Chinese crackdown on missionary activities

Will the Council call on the Chinese authorities to immediately withdraw the two new decrees it published in early February aimed at religious 'management' banning foreigners from setting up religious organizations, schools or offices, cultivating religious disciples among Chinese citizens and appointing religious clergy and will it also call on the Chinese authorities to halt its persecution of priests who have maintained their allegiance to the Vatican and will it call for the early release of 11 Tibetan nuns who, Amnesty International claim, have been sentenced to between two and seven years' jail for allegedly taking part in an anti-Chinese demonstration?

22.02.1994

EN

30. Question by Mr FITZSIMONS (H-0209/94)

Subject: Underground nuclear waste dump at Sellafield

Is the Council aware that NIREX, Britain's nuclear waste disposal company, plans to build an underground nuclear waste dump at Sellafield, that due to geological structures its location is far from safe, that it poses a serious pollution threat to the Irish Sea and will it call on the Commission to insist on a full and early public inquiry into this proposal?

22.02.1994

EN

31. Question by Mr FITZGERALD (H-0211/94)

Subject: Science and technology skills

As the Council is aware the White Paper on 'Growth, Competitiveness, Employment' has pointed to a real lack of skills in a number of areas related to the applications of science and technology.

Will the Council agree to convene a meeting of Ministers responsible for science, technology, employment and education with a view to outlining a strategy to be pursued by the Commission to eliminate this skills deficiency, particularly in Objective 1 regions?

22.02.1994

EN

32. Question by Mr KILLILEA (H-0213/94)

Subject: Programme to halt rural depopulation

Will the Council agree to call on the Commission to initiate a special programme aimed at halting the depopulation of rural areas which would include funding for local authorities and chambers of commerce to attract inward investment to rural areas suffering from depopulation?

22.02.1994

EN

33. Question by Mr BANDRES MOLET (H-0223/94)

Subject: General cooperation agreement with Cuba

Having regard to the framework agreement on cooperation and trade between the European Union and Vietnam,

Having regard to the European Parliament's resolution of 16 September 1993 (A3-0243/93) on the Melandri Report, which called on the US Congress to lift the trade embargo on Cuba,

Having regard to the political similarities between the Republic of Vietnam and Cuba,

Does the Council not think that the time has come to draw up a general agreement on economic and trade cooperation with Cuba?

24.02.1994

ES

34. Question by Mr STAMOULIS (H-0240/94)

Subject: Colorants in white cheeses and protection of public health

What view does the Council take of the use of colorants in white cheeses (for example, the additive E131 Patent Blue V) and how is it tackling the dangers this poses to consumer health? Can the Council assure consumers that all necessary measures are being taken to prevent the use of colorants and to protect unadulterated additive-free products of designated origin such as Greek feta cheese?

24.02.1994

GR

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION

35. Question by Mr WELSH (H-0164/94)

Subject: Bosnian refugees

Although they are safe from the immediate fighting in Bosnia, there are numerous Bosnian refugees in Slovenia and other parts of former Yugoslavia whose plight should be a matter of concern. Such refugees are being maintained in centres, cut off from family and friends and with little hope of repatriation or permanent settlement.

What help is being provided for Bosnian refugees outside the war zone and what steps if any are being taken to provide them with permanent homes?

15.02.1994

EN

36. Question by Mrs REDING (H-0143/94)

Subject: Implementation of the Directive on voting rights for citizens of
 the Union

The Directive governing the right of citizens of the Union to vote in European elections must be transposed into national law in accordance with clearly defined deadlines.

What will be the Commission's reaction if any Member State of the Union disregards these deadlines?

Is the Commission prepared to institute proceedings before the European Court of Justice if a Member State of the Union fails to transpose the Directive or does so incorrectly? Might such proceedings result in the European elections being invalidated in the Member State concerned? Would the European Parliament then be able to sit if the European elections were invalidated in a Member State?

01.02.1994

FR

37. Question by Mr TITLEY (H-0168/94)

Subject: Enforcement of the EEA Treaty

The European Economic Area Agreement came into effect on January 1 1991. Immediately Manchester Airport established a passport channel for all EEA nationals. In Helsinki Airport, however, there remains one channel for Nordic citizens and one for everybody else.

Can the Commission explain why Finland has failed to comply with the free movement of persons provisions in the EEA treaty? What measures is the Commission taking to ensure enforcement of the EEA treaty in Finland?

16.02.1994

EN

38. Question by Mr COONEY (H-0116/94)

Subject: Israel

In view of the recent statement by Mr Rabin, Prime Minister of Israel, to the Council of Europe that Israel did not need European money which should be directed to Palestinians, will the Commission now proceed to act accordingly?

28.01.1994

EN

39. Question by Mrs von ALEMANN (H-0144/94)

Subject: Supplies of pesticides to Albania and Eastern Europe

217 t of pesticides ordered by the former Communist government are stored in a railway train near the border between Albania and the Yugoslav Republic of Montenegro. Some 3600 t of pesticides are still being stored in Albania. They are no longer needed following the privatization of an ecologically based agricultural sector. A study of plant protectives in Albania carried out by the World Bank in 1993 concludes that 560 t should not be used under any circumstances.

Can the Council draw up an inventory of all such stores in Eastern Europe and a plan for disposal?

01.02.1994

DE

40. Question by Mr ELLES (H-0156/94)

Subject: Quarantine in the UK

In view of the move towards open frontiers in the European Community, one of the most difficult problems with which to deal is the matter of quarantine in the UK.

Should there be a move towards removing most quarantine restrictions, will the Commission indicate whether it is prepared to authorize legislation for compensation for those individuals most involved?

04.02.1994

EN

41. Question by Mr FALQUI (H-0113/94)

Subject: Compatibility with Community rules on competition of the privatization of the Nuovo Pignone company and the subsequent setting up of a joint venture

In Italy the Nuovo Pignone public company, which produces turbines and compressors for use in the electricity generating industry, is currently being privatized and a joint venture is to be set up.

The companies involved in the privatization are General Electric, ENI and the Dresser Industries - Ingersoll Rand Group which, besides being controlled by General Electric, is also Nuovo Pignone's major competitor in the production of reciprocating centrifugal compressors.

The effect of such an amalgamation would be to create a dominant position for the newly-established joint venture, thus significantly hampering effective competition in the industrial production sector concerned.

Does the Commission not consider that the above arrangement should be vetoed on the grounds that the new group would constitute a de facto cartel with an absolute monopoly on production in European and international markets, in contravention of Community rules on competition¹?

28.01.1994

IT

¹ Article 3(1)(b) of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 4064/89

42. Question by Mrs TAZDAĚT (H-0119/94)

Subject: Women in Development (WID)

How does the Commission evaluate its development projects? Is there a mid-term evaluation of projects and programmes of the European Community? Is the evaluation of development projects done by specialists on gender issues? How are the results of the evaluations discussed with and integrated into the policy of staff of the Commission in Brussels and in its delegations?

28.01.1994

FR

43. Question by Mr MELANDRI (H-0120/94)

Subject: Women in Development (WID)

Does the Commission have to fulfil any particular sectoral criteria for project design before submitting the project proposal to the EDF Committee?

28.01.1994

IT

44. Question by Mr WYNN (H-0121/94)

Subject: Women in Development (WID)

Can the Commission inform Parliament of the main developments, consequences and recommendations resulting from the Working Paper 'WID activities carried out by the Commission (women in development)' of March 1993 (SEC(93)464)?

28.01.1994

EN

45. Question by Mrs van PUTTEN (H-0122/94)

Subject: Women in Development (WID)

What are the results of the WID programming service set up to provide technical assistance by a high-level WID consultant to ACP delegations for the integration of the WID dimension and to screen EDF projects and programmes?

How many delegations have received assistance and what percentage of all EDF projects and programmes were screened?

28.01.1994

NL

46. Question by Mrs NAPOLETANO (H-0124/94)

Subject: Women in Development (WID)

In the context of the annual Women In Development (WID) training courses for staff responsible for project and programme operations, how many officials have already been trained on the integration of WID? Is this training obligatory for all staff members responsible for projects and programme operations in Brussels and in the delegations? Has the regular update after the training courses proven to be successful and sufficient for the former participants?

28.01.1994

IT

47. Question by Mrs ERNST de la GRAETE (H-0125/94)

Subject: Women in Development (WID)

As a member of the OECD, does the Commission comply with the DAC Women in Development (WID) Expert Group's requirements regarding statistical reporting on the implementation of WID policies by their institution?

28.01.1994

FR

48. Question by Mrs PERY (H-0127/94)

Subject: Women in Development (WID)

Is the Commission willing to inform Parliament on an annual basis of major developments, strategies and successes regarding the integration of its gender policy in all development projects and programmes (DG I and DG VIII) funded by the European Community?

28.01.1994

FR

49. Question by Mrs SIMONS (H-0128/94)

Subject: Women in Development (WID)

What action has been undertaken by the Commission to ensure that gender issues are taken into consideration for all development programmes and projects on a systematic basis (from appraisal till the evaluation of a project)?

28.01.1994

DE

50. Question by Mrs SANDBAEK (H-0129/94)

Subject: Women in Development (WID)

Is the integration of the Women in Development (WID) policy in projects and programmes included as a special item in the 'Logical Framework training courses and manuals'? If not, does the Commission intend to include it?

28.01.1994

DA

51. Question by Mr TELKÄMPER (H-0130/94)

Subject: Women in Development (WID)

Could the Commission explain why there is a need for separate manuals on the implementation of gender policy in its development projects by DG I ('Guide to an integrated participation of women and men in Development Cooperation ALA MED') and DG VIII ('The integration of Women in Development. Why, when and how to incorporate gender into Lomé IV projects and programmes')? Are the criteria and sectoral guidelines set out in both manuals identical? Could the Commission make both manuals available to Parliament?

28.01.1994

DE

52. Question by Mrs CASSANMAGNAGO CERRETTI (H-0131/94)

Subject: Women in Development (WID)

Does the Commission agree that there is a need for better (and earlier) social appraisal of development projects, e.g. before the financing proposal stage is concluded? What is the Commission doing to ensure that such an appraisal is carried out?

28.01.1994

IT

53. Question by Mrs DALY (H-0132/94)

Subject: Women in Development (WID)

What measures does the Commission take to ensure that all the officials act according to the formal Women In Development (WID) policy of the Commission as expressed in Lomé IV and in the Council Conclusions on 'Women and Development' (the most recent one dating from 25 May 1993), which is to ensure the full integration of women, both as agents and beneficiaries, into the mainstream of development actions?

28.01.1994

EN

54. Question by Mrs CAYET (H-0133/94)

Subject: Women In Development (WID)

What constraints, if any, has the Commission encountered in integrating the gender dimension into its development projects, and how does it intend to combat them?

28.01.1994

FR

55. Question by Mr VERHAGEN (H-0134/94)

Subject: Women in Development (WID)

Does the Commission share a common approach to the implementation of WID policy with the Member States of the European Union?

What efforts are being undertaken to improve coordination and cooperation in this respect (Article 130x)?

28.01.1994

NL

56. Question by Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK (H-0135/94)

Subject: Women in Development (WID)

Delegations of the European Union need to ensure that all development projects are compatible with the gender criteria and Women In Development (WID) policy of the European Union. How many officials working in the delegations of the European Union are WID-experts or have received WID training?

28.01.1994

NL

57. Question by Mr PONS GRAU (H-0136/94)

Subject: Women in Development (WID)

Does the Commission keep statistics on the implementation of its policy of full integration of women as agents and beneficiaries of development projects and can it give examples of the success of such a policy?

28.01.1994

ES

58. Question by Mrs RAWLINGS (H-0089/94)

Subject: Satellite transmission costs

Does the Commission refund, in part or in total, satellite transmission costs incurred by regional television companies when providing on-the-day coverage of EU events of interest to the regions, in particular occurring in Brussels?

27.01.1994

EN

59. Question by Mr van der WAAL (H-0112/94)

Subject: Reduction of 'abnormal births' in China

According to the Chinese press agency Xinhua, draft legislation designed to combat births of 'inferior quality' and to 'raise the level of the whole population' has been put before China's parliament. Abortion and sterilization are to be used to reduce the number of 'abnormal births'. If passed, the law will also prohibit marriages involving Chinese who have venereal diseases and/or mental abnormalities.

Does the Commission not agree that this would be a violation of human rights, including those of the unborn child, and can it say what action it will take to prevent this violation?

28.01.1994

NL

60. Question by Mr MAHER (H-0114/94)

Subject: Reducing red tape burden on small business

In view of the huge burden which red tape, emanating from both EC and implementing legislation at national level, places on business, especially small businesses, would the Commission consider following the example of the British Government and propose a deregulation bill which would highlight legislation that could be repealed and subject new legislation to a cost-benefit analysis?

28.01.1994

EN

61. Question by Mr PATTERSON (H-0117/94)

Subject: Intra-EC trade statistics

Is it obligatory under Community law for a firm with six full-time employees to complete a full Supplementary Declaration (Form C1501) for Intra-EC Trade Statistics?

A particular firm in my constituency supplying sweatshirts, T-shirts and similar sports garments, is obliged to break its invoices down for statistical purposes, both by type of garment separately and the textile contents of each item separately. The additional cost is greater than any savings from the abolition of frontier controls. If full completion of the Declaration is currently obligatory, what action will the Commission take to remedy the situation?

28.01.1994

EN

62. Question by Mr PASTY (H-0118/94)

Subject: Community harmonization of imports of ostrich and emu meat

While some Member States have abolished all controls on imports of ostrich and emu meat, which are released for free circulation in intra-Community trade, other Member States, by contrast, apply restrictive rules, with particular regard to health controls.

These differences are causing problems (chiefly the disadvantage created by unequal treatment) for importers in the latter group of Member States.

In the circumstances, does the Commission have plans to harmonize the arrangements for importing these products into the Community?

28.01.1994

FR

63. Question by Mr FORD (H-0137/94)

Subject: European Year of Racial Harmony

Following Parliament's agreement that 1995 should be designated European Year of Racial Harmony, will the Commission confirm that this is now the official theme for that year? If not, can an early decision be taken so that preparations can begin to make it the success it warrants?

31.01.1994

EN

64. Question by Mr CALVO ORTEGA (H-0138/94)

Subject: Trans-European network linking Oporto and Helsinki

The building of a trans-European network linking Oporto and Helsinki has always aroused very considerable interest. Moreover, if such a link were to run through Zamora Province it would reinforce the Spanish national trunk road 122 and the Portuguese IP4, thereby forming a route which would benefit the region of Castilla-León and the northern region of Portugal.

What is the Commission's view of such a public construction project? Could it be co-financed from the Cohesion Fund?

31.01.1994

ES

65. Question by Mrs IZQUIERDO ROJO (H-0139/94)

Subject: European representation for the Cohesion Fund

In view of the provisions of Article 14(2) and, in particular, of Article 14(3) of the Regulation establishing the Cohesion Fund, does the Commission not consider that it would be appropriate to adopt measures or recommendations going beyond the use of posters or symbols, to the effect that public events relating to projects financed by the Cohesion Fund should be attended by persons representing the European Institutions?

31.01.1994

ES

66. Question by Mr KOSTOPOULOS (H-0142/94)

Subject: Human rights in Turkey

In spite of the pledges made by the Turkish Government, 1993 was another year marked by widespread human rights violations. According to a report published recently in Ankara by the Turkish Human Rights Association, at least 676 persons were killed 'under suspicious circumstances' in Turkey in 1993 and 28 were reported missing. Given the fact that the European Union is particularly sensitive to flagrant violations of human rights, does the Commission intend to raise this matter with the Turkish authorities?

01.02.1994

EL

67. Question by Mr LANGER (H-0147/94)

Subject: Promoting fairness and solidarity in trade

At its part-session in January 1994 the European Parliament adopted a resolution on promoting fairness and solidarity in North-South trade for which Vice-President Marin, speaking on behalf of the Commission, expressed appreciation and enthusiasm. What steps does the Commission intend to take and what measures does it plan to introduce to this end?

02.02.1994

IT

68. Question by Lord INGLEWOOD (H-0148/94)

Subject: EC shipbuilding directive

Can the Commission confirm that it has allowed a relaxation of the 5th Shipbuilding Directive to Swan Hunters on the basis of that yard's vital contribution to the UK's naval capacity?

Would the Commission explain how that contribution can be distinguished from the contribution made by VSEL at Barrow-in-Furness, whose contribution is at least as significant, and why, therefore, that yard has been denied a similar relaxation?

02.02.1994

EN

69. Question by Mr DESSYLAS (H-0150/94)

Subject: Increase in the production levels for tobacco and cotton

Given that tobacco and cotton consumption in the European Union far outstrips production (production in the Member States meets only 25-30% and 15% of needs respectively), does the Commission intend, when it fixes the agricultural prices for the 1994-95 period, to increase the upper limits for guaranteed production at least up to current production levels in the European Union, and in particular to raise the ceiling for tobacco from 350 000 tonnes to 420 000 tonnes and the ceiling for cotton from 701 000 tonnes to 1 100 000 tonnes?

02.02.1994

GR

70. Question by Mr MORRIS (H-0152/94)

Subject: Driftnetting

Has France and/or any other member of the European Union formally requested permission for an exemption to the Fisheries Technical provision 345/92 of January 27 1992, which limits driftnets to one 2.5 km net per vessel?

Will the Commission also state if, and when, it intends to review the December resolution B3-1791/93 approved by Parliament calling for a total ban of driftnets outside the 12 mile zone?

In addition, how does the Commission plan to ensure enforcement of the 2.5 km limit on driftnets, particularly in the light of the clear evidence submitted to the European Union that Italy, France, the UK and Ireland are openly violating the law?

02.02.1994

EN

71. Question by Mr FALCONER (H-0153/94)

Subject: Petrochemical industry

The Commission will be aware of the proposal submitted by the petrochemical employers organization APPE, which was an attempt to get the Commission to subsidize the closure of certain petrochemical plants and operations in Europe.

The Commission will also be aware of the concern by UK and Norwegian unions that the industry in their respective countries could be marginalized, as oil companies seem to be concentrating their investments in the Benelux countries and Germany.

In view of these concerns will the Commission undertake to carry out an objective study of the industry which will take into account the concern of the social partners?

03.02.1994

EN

72. Question by Mr IVERSEN (H-0158/94)

Subject: Maintaining the Danish ban on beer cans

Is it to be taken from the Commission's answer to my question H-1317/93¹ that, under the packaging directive in its present form, Denmark may only maintain its ban on beer cans if the Danish Government invokes Article 100a(4) of the EC Treaty?

04.02.1994

DA

¹ Annex to the verbatim report of proceedings of 21.01.1994

73. Question by Mrs JEPSEN (H-0159/94)

Subject: Draft proposal for a regulation on supplementary patent protection for agrochemical products

According to information from sources such as COPA and COGECA, the Commission is drawing up a proposal for a regulation on supplementary patent protection for agrochemical products along the same lines as Regulation (EEC) No. 1768/92¹ concerning a supplementary patent protection for pharmaceutical products. It would appear, however, to have been established that the terms of competition in the agrochemical industry are essentially different from those in the pharmaceutical industry and that the introduction of a regulation on extending patent protection for agrochemical products cannot therefore be justified in the same way as Regulation (EEC) 1768/92. Is the Commission aware of this, and did it realise, when formulating its proposal, that the proposal may reduce competition in the agrochemical sector and hence lead to substantial price increases for plant protection products that will be detrimental to the EU's already hard-pressed agricultural sector as well as consumers interests?

07.02.1994

DA

74. Question by Mrs LLORCA VILAPLANA (H-0160/94)

Subject: Forest fires in California, Australia and Patagonia

In recent months, increasingly severe fires have devastated whole regions in three widely-separated countries. Despite the geographical distances involved, however, the disasters share certain suspiciously similar characteristics, possibly indicating links with some hypothetical organized destruction of extremely important regions.

Does the Commission intend to study or investigate these deeply disturbing forest fires?

08.02.1994

ES

¹ OJ No. L 182, 2.7.92, p. 1

75. Question by Mr BONDE (H-0163/94)

Subject: Transparency and Community law

In Sweden the public has access to all official records. If Sweden becomes a member of the EU there will be a conflict between the Swedish principle of free public access to records and the authorities in the EU who work behind closed doors. If a Union directive clashes with the Swedish principle of open government, will Sweden then be able to avoid implementing the directive, fully or in part, on that ground? Does the Swedish declaration that the principle of open government is not negotiable imply that Sweden will have a lasting and legally binding exemption from future directives for lack of transparency? If a Swedish official in a European Union of which Sweden is a Member makes public material from the Union secretariat, will he be able to rely on the protection of Swedish legislation? Will it make a difference if a Swedish official in the course of his duties in the European Union has access to and imparts confidential information? Will the Union's rules of confidentiality mean that it can require Sweden to carry out investigations and bring individuals to book for disclosing confidential Union documents?

08.02.1994

DA

76. Question by Mr NICHOLSON (H-0167/94)

Subject: Piguemeat producers

In view of the serious financial position of the producers of pigmeat throughout the European Union, has the Commission drawn up any positive proposals aimed at alleviating their plight? At the same time, will the Commission comment on the measures introduced by the French Government to assist their pigmeat producers and do these measures in fact contravene Community law?

16.02.1994

EN

77. Question by Mr PAGOROPOULOS (H-0169/94)

Subject: Pollution of the Aegean from mining activities on the Turkish coast

Since 1992 a Turkish Government decision has been pending on the authorization of gold mining activities using methods which would pose a threat to the environment and, in particular, the Aegean Sea on whose shores the mines would be located.

Since such a decision would run counter to all agreements and protocols initialled and ratified by Turkey on the protection of the Mediterranean Sea and would infringe both the letter and spirit of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 1763/92¹ concerning financial cooperation in respect of all Mediterranean non-member countries, what steps will the Commission take, as part of the new Mediterranean policy, to resolve this matter?

16.02.1994

GR

78. Question by Mr VALVERDE LOPEZ (H-0170/94)

Subject: Assessment and research programmes on solar energy

In every Commission publication and document, whenever alternative sources of energy such as biomass, solar or wind power, etc., are mentioned, a breakdown is given of the percentage of total energy production represented by these sources of energy at the present time and in the year 2050 the forecasts seem somewhat unambitious or unsuitable to meet requirements. Can the Commission say what studies it has commissioned to enable it to make these forecasts? What scientific or technical studies does the Commission have at its disposal concerning the feasibility of collecting solar energy using satellites? What percentage of funds from the fourth research programme will be allocated to research on solar energy?

16.02.1994

ES

¹ OJ L 181, 1.7.1992, p. 5

79. Question by Mrs CRAWLEY (H-0173/94)

Subject: Student loss of benefits on Euroform-funded course

Is the Commission aware that young trainees on a Euroform-funded Historic Building Restoration course are actively discouraged by the UK's social welfare system from making the most of their course? The South Birmingham College has set up European partnerships for this successful and important course. Students training on other courses on the TEC-administered Training for Work programme receive a training allowance and can travel in Europe as part of their course without loss of allowance. However, students on the Historic Building Restoration course remain 'unemployed' and receive no allowance but are in receipt of unemployment benefit. If they travel abroad (for two weeks on this course) they lose their entitlement. Does the Commission feel the students are disadvantaged by this and would the Commission comment with reference to the spirit of a unified Europe?

16.02.1994

EN

80. Question by Mr APOLINARIO (H-0175/94)

Subject: Payments of Community subsidies to tomato growers in the Ribatejo region of Portugal

The tomato growers in the Ribatejo region of Portugal have been waiting for two years to receive 500 million escudos in Community aid transferred to Portugal through the INGA (National Agricultural Guarantee Institute), the body which represents the EAGGF Guarantee Section.

In response to an earlier question, the Commission reported that INGA had assured it that it had proof of having paid the subsidies to the growers. However, it appears that the latter were required to sign receipts for sums higher than those actually received, whilst the processing company (ECRIL) kept 500 million escudos which should have been paid to the growers. In other words, the tomato growers, for whom the Community funds were intended, did not receive the 500 million escudos in question.

Is the Commission just going to accept this situation, or does it intend to take some action in this regard?

17.02.1994

PT

81. Question by Mr TSIMAS (H-0176/94)

Subject: Training programme for EUROPOL officials

The new situation regarding internal security in the European Union and the increased requirements for specialist personnel for EUROPOL's central or peripheral services will require a special training programme for such officials.

Does the Commission intend to deal with this urgent problem by launching a new Community initiative, or by organizing a specialized Community programme with financial support from the ESF?

17.02.1994

GR

82. Question by Mr ANASTASSOPOULOS (H-0180/94)

Subject: The reasons why the Commission does not put its own recommendations into practice

Can the Commission state what real importance it attaches to its recent statements on the need for greater transparency and better information for European citizens, given that it contradicts such statements by its own actions as can be seen from its reply to my earlier oral question? In that question, I asked for a breakdown by nationality of administrators' posts in the Commission's departments, ranging from heads of units to Directors-General. Instead of answering the question, the Commission's reply was evasive, unlike its approach in 1989 when it actually answered questions. What are the Commission's reasons for this new tactic, which constitutes a step backwards contrary to its recent statements, and when will it learn to respect the Members of the European Parliament, who have been elected by European citizens to exercise due control over the Commission?

17.02.1994

GR

83. Question inadmissible

¹ H-0066/94 - Annex to the Verbatim Report of Proceedings of the sittings of 09.02.1994.

84. Question by Mr PAPANAKIS (H-0182/94)

Subject: Community Support Framework (1989-1993)

Can the Commission state which major projects were originally provided for in Greece under the first Community Support Framework, which of these were actually implemented and whether the programmes and projects carried out at national level were implemented better than those at regional level?

17.02.1994

GR

85. Question by Mr BALFE (H-0185/94)

Subject: Employment vetting procedures

Does the Commission recognize the need to provide employers within the European Union with information on employment vetting procedures in other Member States? If so, what action does it intend to take?

17.02.1994

EN

86. Question by Mr CORNELISSEN (H-0186/94/rev.)

Subject: Standard of Eastern European lorries

Is the Commission aware that Eastern European lorries generally meet far lower environmental and safety standards than lorries from within the European Union, which is detrimental for the environment and safety on the roads, as well as causing unfair competition?

Is the Commission prepared to pursue policies aimed at ensuring that all lorries on roads within the European Union meet the same environmental and safety standards, irrespective of the country where they are registered, and concomitantly to determine what practical contribution it can make towards the realization of this aim?

17.02.1994

NL

87. Question by Mr BIRD (H-0188/94)

Subject: Allegations of threat to double-decker buses

Is the Commission aware that certain newspapers in the United Kingdom have recently carried stories that so-called Eurocrats will soon sound the death knell on double-decker buses?

Does the Commission have any plans to ban the double-decker bus?

If it has no such plans, would it like to comment on how these allegations have come to be reported so widely?

18.02.1994

EN

88. Question by Mr ONESTA (H-0192/94)

Subject: The French TGV Sud-Est link: potential hazards and environmental damage

France recently proposed a route for the TGV Sud-Est link, which is to form part of the European high-speed train network. At a number of points along the route, the project would appear to conflict with existing Community legislation on environmental protection and industrial hazards.

For example, the route runs through a total of 138 kilometres of land liable to flooding, including several kilometres through the flood plain of the river Durance, which only a short time ago was in spate, causing part of the recent flooding in the south of France.

In view of the above and of its reply to petition No. 704/90, in which it reaffirmed the precedence of Community law, is the Commission prepared to contribute towards the financing of further studies to find a new route with a lesser social and environmental impact?

21.02.1994

FR

89. Question by Mr RAFFIN (H-0193/94)

Subject: The French TGV Sud-Est link: potential environmental damage

France recently proposed a route for the TGV Sud-Est link, which is to form part of the European high-speed train network. At a number of points along the route, the project would appear to conflict with existing Community legislation on environmental protection and industrial hazards.

For example, between Valence and Marseille, the route runs through several areas covered by the provisions of Directive 79/409/EEC¹ (ZICOs - areas of Community interest, SPAs, etc.), which are inhabited by endangered species such as Bonelli's eagle which France has undertaken to protect within the framework of Action by the Community for the Environment.

In view of the above and of its reply to petition No. 704/90, in which it reaffirmed the precedence of Community law, does the Commission feel that the proposed TGV route is consistent with Community law and the action programmes entered upon by France?

21.02.1994

FR

90. Question by Mr BOISSIERE (H-0194/94)

Subject: The French TGV Sud-Est link: potential hazards

France recently proposed a route for the TGV Sud-Est link, which is to form part of the European high-speed train network. At a number of points along the route, the project would appear to conflict with existing Community legislation on environmental protection and industrial hazards.

For example, the section between Valence and Avignon encroaches upon the outer perimeter of the area covered by the 'Seveso' directive, in the vicinity of the Tricastin nuclear plant (Rhône valley).

In view of the above and of its reply to petition No. 704/90, in which it reaffirmed the precedence of Community law, does the Commission intend to bring pressure to bear on France to redraw the route in line with public safety requirements?

21.02.1994

FR

¹ OJ No. L 103, 25.4.1979, p.1

91. Question by Mr NIANIAS (H-0196/94/rev.)

Subject: Withholding of agreements with Turkey from the EP

On 30 November 1993, I asked the Commission (Q.E-3758/93) to supply Parliament with a copy of an agreement which was negotiated with Turkey and was signed on behalf of the Community on 29 June 1993. Having received the Commission's somewhat evasive answer, I believe that it is thanks to Mr Delors' belief in transparency, and only this, that I have finally been supplied with a copy of this agreement, which affects every Member State of the Community, and was being kept secret and highly confidential at the direct request of the Turkish Government.

Can the Commission tell me when it first started this practice of entering into secretive agreements with other countries and, at the request of these countries, keeps the details of these agreements from members of the Union?

I feel that this is a very serious matter and I would like the Commission to tell Parliament whether or not any other agreements have also been negotiated with the country of Turkey in a similar way, and whether the texts of these agreements have also been kept secret from Parliament?

21.02.1994

GR

92. Question by Mrs RUIZ-GIMÉNEZ AGUILAR (H-0199/94)

Subject: Equivalence in third countries of academic qualifications granted in a Member State

Spain has signed, with a number of Latin American countries, cultural conventions concerning the recognition and equivalence of academic qualifications. For instance, the cultural cooperation convention with Argentina signed on 23 March 1971 states: 'The parties agree to practise mutual recognition of academic qualifications of all types and at all levels, on the same bases as those applying to those officially granted and recognized by the other country'.

Given that in certain cases validation is now being refused on the grounds of the new Community rules, can the Commission state whether any Community rule exists to prevent Spain from implementing the above cultural conventions with third countries?

21.02.1994

ES

93. Question by Mrs GARCÍA ARIAS (H-0200/94)

Subject: Interpretation of Decision 3632/93/ECSC¹

How does the Commission interpret the objective, as stated in Article 2.1. of Commission Decision 3632/93/ECSC, of making, 'in the light of coal prices on international markets, further progress towards economic viability, with the aim of achieving degression of aids'? Does it consider it vital to achieve convergence in the short term (i.e. by the year 2002) with international coal prices, or, rather, that, in line with Parliament's interpretation, what is involved is in fact a policy for a 'reduction in production costs' (Article 3.2.) aimed at enabling coal production in the Community to continue beyond the year 2002?

21.02.1994

ES

94. Question by Mr SCHMID (H-0201/94)

Subject: Failure by the Federal Republic of Germany to transpose EU directives on health and safety at work

EEC Directives, Nos 89/391², 89/654³, 89/655⁴, 89/656⁵, 90/269⁶, 90/270⁷, 91/383⁸, 90/679⁹, and 92/57¹⁰ on health and safety at work in the Union ought to have been transposed into national law in some cases by 31 December 1992 and in others by 31 December 1993. The Federal Republic of Germany has not yet complied with this obligation.

What does the Commission intend to do about the Federal Republic's failure to transpose these directives?

22.02.1994

DE

¹ OJ No. L 329, 30.12.1993, p. 12

² OJ No L 183, 29.6.1989, p. 1

³ OJ No L 393, 30.12.1989, p. 1

⁴ OJ No L 393, 30.12.1989, p. 13

⁵ OJ No L 393, 30.12.1989, p. 18

⁶ OJ No L 156, 21.6.1990, p. 9

⁷ OJ No L 156, 21.6.1990, p. 14

⁸ OJ No L 206, 29.7.1991, p. 19

⁹ OJ No L 374, 31.12.1990, p. 1

¹⁰ OJ No. L 245, 26.8.1992, p.6

95. Question by Mr SIMEONI (H-0202/94)

Subject: Compatibility with the new CAP of projects for the industrial processing of animal faeces

The new CAP seeks to promote extensive arable and livestock farming, notably by means of agri-environmental measures, in order to maintain the farming population in areas threatened by the exodus from the countryside.

In the light of this new CAP, what is the Commission's view of projects for the industrial processing of animal faeces? In particular, what does it think about the plan of Morbihan Regional Council to build ten liquid manure plants, with 35% public funding? Is this public funding compatible with the new CAP?

22.02.1994

FR

96. Question withdrawn by the author

97. Question by Mr LANE (H-0204/94)

Subject: Supporting language competence in Ireland's education systems

In the Commission's Green paper on the European Dimension of Education the need to improve linguistic competence is clearly recognized, but will the Commission give its support to promoting language competence at primary level, particularly for national schools in Ireland and if so, how would it contribute to this objective?

22.02.1994

EN

98. Question by Mr LALOR (H-0206/94)

Subject: Exempting internal air services from VAT

In the light of the recommendations made by the 'Committee of Wise Men' for European civil aviation, what is the Commission's position with regard to the call for internal air services to be exempted from VAT and regarding the warning given by the European section of the Airports Council International about a liberalization of ground-handling services in airports and the need to ensure security and quality of services?

22.02.1994

EN

99. Question by Mr FITZSIMONS (H-0208/94)

Subject: New Horizon programme

Does the Commission envisage the possibility of providing special employment opportunities for the mentally handicapped who are among the most disadvantaged in society and in this regard does it intend to develop any appropriate policy for sheltered workshops under the New Horizon Community initiative?

22.02.1994

EN

100. Question by Mr FITZGERALD (H-0210/94)

Subject: Follow-up to European Year of the Elderly

The European Year of the Elderly, 1993, increased awareness among retired people across the European Union of European activities on their behalf. It also raised their expectations of future action.

Since the next EU programme for older people will start, at the earliest, in 1995, what concrete follow-up initiatives does the Commission plan for 1994 in order to keep up the momentum of European action for elderly people?

In particular, how does it propose to spend the 1994 budget of ECU 5.4 million?

22.02.1994

EN

101. Question by Mr KILLILEA (H-0212/94)

Subject: Youth for Europe programme

Under the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and the Council on a new 'Youth for Europe' programme, positive action for disadvantaged young people is envisaged taking into account difficulties experienced at regional and local levels due to cultural, social, economic, physical, mental or geographic reasons.

How does the Commission intend to take into account the special circumstances of young people from Objective 1 regions such as Ireland so that they can benefit from Action A on exchanges, Action B on linguistic training for leaders, Action C on pilot projects and Action D on exchanges with non-member countries as far afield as Latin America?

22.02.1994

EN

102. Question by Mr ANDREWS (H-0214/94)

Subject: New urban initiative for Dublin

In welcoming the Commission's decision to bring forward a Community urban initiative, what structures need to be established in Dublin to benefit from this new area of Community intervention?

22.02.1994

EN

103. Question by Mrs ISLER BEGUIN (H-0216/94)

Subject: Designation of special protection areas pursuant to Directive 79/409/EEC¹

Article 4 of Directive 79/409/EEC requires Member States to classify the most suitable territories in number and size as special protection areas for the conservation of wild bird species.

If a Member State were to operate a classification system without including among the special protection areas areas which, in view of their biological richness, amply meet the criteria for eligibility, what view would the Commission take and what means and procedures would it employ to secure a revision of the proposed maps?

22.02.1994

FR

¹ OJ No L 103, 25.4.1979, p. 1

104. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-0217/94)

Subject: Channel Tunnel - EC legislation

Since the tunnel rail link under the English Channel between the United Kingdom and France is governed by international Treaty for its construction and operation, can the Commission confirm that this enterprise is fully within the territorial scope of the European Union, particularly in regard to taxation, employment and health and safety Regulations and Directives?

22.02.1994

EN

105. Question by Mr GERAGHTY (H-0218/94)

Subject: Activities of retired Commissioners

Having regard to their investigations into AER LINGUS with regard to state aid and complaints of anti-competitive below-cost pricing, will the Commission outline the package covering compensation and restrictions on engaging in certain commercial activities which apply to resigning Commissioners? What exchanges took place between Commissioners or Commission officials with former Commissioner MacSharry - now Executive Chairman of RYANAIR - touching on the subject matter of either of those investigations and does the Commission not agree that the involvement of Mr MacSharry would have constituted an infringement of the code of conduct governing former staff of the Commission?

22.02.1994

EN

106. Question by Mrs Caroline JACKSON (H-0219/94)

Subject: Animal welfare and the European Veterinary Inspectorate

In the light of public concern that the existing European law restricting journeys for animals in transit to 24 hours is not being observed, can the Commission state whether the European Veterinary Inspectorate is already carrying out spot checks on the enforcement of the existing law, how many inspectors there are, and what plans there are to enlarge the inspectorate to ensure the even enforcement of whatever more stringent laws relating to animals in transit are agreed? How does the Commission answer the criticism that if the existing laws are not observed, there is no hope that new, more stringent ones, will be?

23.02.1994

EN

107. Question by Mrs ODDY (H-0221/94)

Subject: UK and Objective 4 Structural Funds

Is the Commission aware that the UK Government has issued a Written Reply by Mr Michael Forsyth to Mr Oliver Heald indicating that the UK Government does not intend to allocate any funds to the new Objective 4?

What view does the Commission take of the UK position?

23.02.1994

EN

108. Question by Mr BANDRES MOLET (H-0224/94)

Subject: Complaint against France in connection with the Bay of Chingudi (Sokoburu)

On 5 December 1990 the Association of Hunters and Fishermen of Bidassoa brought a complaint against France for failure to comply with Community law on the grounds of the deterioration of the wetland of special importance for birds of the Bay of Chingudi (Sokoburu). This area is in the border region of Spain and France at the mouth of the River Bidassoa.

The complaint was drawn up by the Federation of Groups to Defend Nature (CODA) and was entered in the Commission's official register of complaints under number 1119/90.

What response has the French Government made to the action taken by the Commission in its role of monitoring the application of Community law?

24.02.1994

ES

109. Question by Mr Alex SMITH (H-0225/94)

Subject: EU support for public information campaign on siting of nuclear waste repository near Sellafield

It has been reported in Europe Environment No. 423 of 6 January 1994 that the Commission's Research Directorate has agreed to co-sponsor, with BNFL, a project to promote support in the Cumbria region of North West England for the siting of a radioactive waste repository near Sellafield for the disposal of nuclear waste. The public information campaign is to be coordinated by the University of Surrey at Guildford. The Commission's Research Directorate will fund 50% of the project.

When was this decision reached, what other projects are funded under this public information programme, what criteria were used to select projects, what other projects were examined but not funded?

24.02.1994

EN

110. Question by Mr STAMOULIS (H-0227/94)

Subject: Discrimination against the use of the Greek language in telematics network programmes

The Commission is funding a large number of telematics networks for exchanges of data between various services in the Member States. However, a two-speed policy is consistently being pursued as regards the nine official languages of the European Union. For instance, in the case of the networks of the IDA (NSPP etc.) programme networks, the Greek language has been systematically excluded both as regards the text and information transmitted and as regards the user interfaces: this constitutes discrimination against Greek users. What measures does the Commission intend to take immediately to put an end to this unacceptable practice and to ensure equality of treatment for the public administration and language of each Member State?

24.02.1994

GR

111. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-0229/94)

Subject: Establishment of a 'Drachma Zone' in the Balkans

In a speech given on 4 February 1992 the Governor of the Bank of Greece unveiled a blueprint for establishing a 'Drachma Zone' in the Balkans.

Given that such a scheme directly concerns the Community in the light of the objective of EMU set out in the Maastricht Treaty and that if it is to succeed all the relevant parameters need to be diagnosed, studied and addressed in good time, will the Commission say whether it has considered the prospect of such a 'Drachma Zone' and the practical measures needed to implement it and, if not, does it intend to look into this matter in cooperation with the relevant Greek authorities?

24.02.1994

GR

112. Question by Mr RIBEIRO (H-0231/94)

Subject: Closure of the 'Lekkas', a textile undertaking funded under the IMPs

The Lekkas textile undertaking which has announced that it is dismissing all workers at its three plants, on the grounds that it is unable to pay wages and make redundancy payments, was receiving IMP funding (joint decision C-3317/IMP 105/Law 1682/1987/9.2.1992 of the ministers of Economic Affairs and Industry), under the terms of Law 1262/82; community aid accounted for 47% of the total investment. Given that both the investment agreement and Law 1252/82 specifically state that, should the undertaking cease operations before the expiry of a ten-year period from the date of publication, it shall be required to reimburse all or part of the aid, will the Commission say what measures it intends to take to ensure that this clause is implemented and can it provide information on irregularities by other undertakings covered by development legislation and co-funded by the Community?

24.02.1994

PT

113. Question by Mr POSADA GONZALEZ (H-0232/94)

Subject: Minority languages and linguistic engineering

How much money has the Commission invested in the research and development of linguistic engineering techniques in respect of Community languages, and what percentage has been applied to unofficial Community languages? Does the Commission believe that investing in linguistic engineering in respect of the minority languages of the European Union would make it possible to reduce costs sufficiently to allow documents to be translated into all the languages of the Union?

According to Mr Danzin, an expert engaged by the Commission, minority languages are in danger of disappearing, with the consequent loss of part of Europe's cultural heritage, unless they are mechanized within a reasonable period of time. What plans, if any, has the Commission for developing linguistic engineering techniques and mechanizing the unofficial languages of the EU?

24.02.1994

ES

114. Question by Mrs BJØRNVIG (H-0233/94)

Subject: Ozone-depleting substances

Why has the Commission protested against Denmark's more rapid phasing-out of substances that deplete the ozone layer?

If the Member States were not entitled to apply more stringent rules on environmental grounds, why did the Council choose to refer, in the regulation in question, to Articles 130s and 113 rather than to Articles 100a and 113?

24.02.1994

DA

115. Question by Mr ZAVVOS (H-0234/94)

Subject: Mutual guarantee systems

As part of the new Community policy on the funding of small and medium-sized undertakings (SMUs) the Commission has stressed the importance of developing mutual guarantee systems (Communication of the Commission COM(93) 523 final, of 10 November 1993). What specific measures does the Commission intend to take to support the development of these systems in Structural Fund Objective 1 regions and what exactly will be the role of the European Investment Fund in this sector?

24.02.1994

GR

116. Question by Mr GUTIERREZ DIAZ (H-0235/94)

Subject: Election campaign of the Commissioner for energy and transport

The Commissioner responsible for energy and transport, Abel Matutes, heads the Spanish People's Party's list of candidates for the forthcoming European elections on 12 June 1994.

The daily 'El País' notes (in its edition of 11 February 1994) that Mr Matutes 'will dedicate Thursday to Sunday to these pre-election activities and the three remaining days per week to his duties in Brussels'.

1. Does the Commission consider that this pre-election party work which the Commissioner in question intends to pursue for a period of five months is compatible with Article 157(2) of the Treaty?
2. Does the Commission consider that Mr Matutes' intention to limit his activities as Commissioner to Monday to Wednesday is compatible with the efficiency which Parliament is entitled to demand from the Commission?

24.02.1994

ES

117. Question by Mr GAWRONSKI (H-0236/94)

Subject: Application of the democracy clause in relations between the European Union and India

Last December the European Union signed a framework cooperation agreement with India. As with all 'third generation' agreements, this one includes a democracy clause.

However, according to the International Labour Organization, there are at present 15 million people in 'bonded labour', including 5 million children, who are mainly employed in agriculture, construction, the textile industry and the manufacture of carpets.

How does the Commission plan to apply the democracy clause as a means of encouraging the Indian authorities to respect human rights in the workplace and did the Indian Government give firm undertakings on this matter during the negotiations with the European Union?

24.02.1994

IT

118. Question by Mrs FONTAINE (H-0237/94)

Subject: Introduction of Community rules for a European business traineeship

Traineeships with companies in other countries have become very popular in the Community, particularly since the completion of the single market. However, policies on exchanging and placing trainees often encounter legal and administrative obstacles. In the light of research already carried out for the Commission, does it intend to draw up an appropriate legislative proposal to establish a Community legal and administrative framework laying down arrangements and rules for a European business traineeship?

24.02.1994

FR

119. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-0239/94)

Subject: Measures to safeguard ouzo internationally

The recent EC-USA agreement on the mutual protection and recognition of alcoholic beverages does not cover ouzo, one of the most traditional and internationally renowned Greek agricultural products, and this is causing great concern.

Does the Commission agree that its failure to include products in negotiations constitutes a violation of the principle of Community solidarity and Community preference, especially in the case of sectors for which the European Union is exclusively responsible such as agricultural policy and external trade, and that this particular case is an infringement of the EU regulations safeguarding ouzo and what measures does it intend to take to safeguard this traditional Greek product on the international market and, particularly, in the USA?

24.02.1994

EL

120. Question by Mrs McINTOSH (H-1029/93)

Subject: State aids to the European motor vehicle industry

Does the Commission agree that, in the provision of appropriations from the European Regional Development Fund, the review procedure applicable to such aid under Article 93(2) was not respected?

Would the Commission consider the need for a level playing field in the European motor vehicle industry and ensure that all manufacturers are competing fairly and by the same rules? In particular, does the Commission agree that, by respecting rules governing the transparency of decision-making and the consultation of all interested parties, the democratic process would be better respected?

05.10.1993

EN

121. Question by Mrs BRAUN-MOSER (H-1314/93)

Subject: Failure to transpose the package travel directive by the deadline
- Claim for compensation against the Federal Republic

In July 1993 German citizens taking part in package travel suffered damages as a result of the insolvency of German package travel operators because the package travel directive (90/314/EEC)¹ had not been transposed by the deadline, 1 January 1993. Has the Federal Republic failed to fulfil its obligations towards the European Community by not introducing insolvency protection pursuant to Article 7 of the package travel directive? What pressure can the Commission bring to bear on the Federal Republic to honour the claims for compensation?

21.12.1993

DE

122. Question by Mr HOWELL (H-0008/94)

Subject: CAP reform

The East German Länder planted 10% more acreage than was allowed under CAP reform. Why should farmers in other Member States now trust CAP reform? What assurances can the Commission give that last year's CAP reform will survive?

03.01.1994

EN

¹ OJ No. L 158, 23.6.1990, p. 59

