

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTION (0-73/75)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure by Mr BERTRAND, Mr JAHN, Mr HARZSCHEL, Mr KLEPSCH, Mr LUCKER, Mr MEMMEL and Mr SCHWORER on behalf of the Christian Democratic Group to the Council of the European Communities

Subject: Council implementation of the European Communities' November 1973 environment programme

Commission statements suggest that Council decisions on Commission proposals for implementing the Programme of Action of the European Communities on the Environment of 22 November 1973¹ are liable to be further delayed since the experts called by the Council are now to meet only twice a month instead of four times.

In view of this disturbing development, the Council is asked to answer the following questions:

¹ OJ No. C 112, 20 December 1973, p. 1

1. Why has the work of the Council experts been cut back although the Council would seem to have every reason to take its decisions on the environment speedily, since they are already overdue?
2. Does the Council recognize the urgent need to accelerate implementation of a Community environment policy, irrespective of the willingness of 'government experts' to deliver their opinions at least as fast as hitherto?
3. Is the Council now prepared to answer the question of principle repeatedly put by the European Parliament, as to why it continues to insist on calling in experts, although the Commission has already consulted experts - often the same ones - before finalizing its proposals? Is this attitude of the Council to be interpreted as lack of confidence in the competence and sense of responsibility of the Commission?
4. Can the Council state what timetable it has laid down for its decisions in the first half of 1976 on the individual Commission proposals, some of which have been before it for some time now, and to what extent its decisions will be delayed by the slowdown in the work of the Council experts?