

European Communities

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ORAL QUESTION (O-20/79)

with debate, pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure

by Sir David NICOLSON and Mr Basil de FERRANTI
on behalf of the European Democratic Group
to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject : Freedom of Trade within the Community

The Commission addressed a letter to the governments of the Member States on 6 November 1978, concerning the rising tide of restrictive and protectionist measures applied by the Member States and national public authorities. At that time the Commission was investigating over 400 cases of the barriers to the free movement of goods, which the Commission described as representing only the tip of the iceberg. Among the examples of restrictive measures quoted by the Commission in the letter were:

- (i) Documents (licences, certificates of origin, technical verifications) required for imports and exports.
- (ii) National rules laying down technical and quality conditions to which the import and sale of products on the national market are

subject.

- (iii) The fixing of maximum or minimum prices for certain products.
 - (iv) Checks at frontiers which are often excessive and without justification.
 - (v) "Preferential systems" in favour of national industry in the field of public contracts.
 - (vi) Charges having effect equivalent to customs duties and fees for checks.
1. Will the Commission state what has been the response of each of the 9 governments to its letter?
 2. Can the Commission confirm that it is capable of ensuring that the articles of the Treaty concerning the free movement of goods within the Community are being strictly applied?