

# European Communities

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## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTION (O-82/77)

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

by Mr KOFOED, Mr DURIEUX, Mr HOUDET, Mr BERKHOUWER  
and Mr DE CLERCQ on behalf of the Liberal and  
Democratic Group  
to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: State aid measures in the EFTA countries

There has recently been a sharp increase in the number of state aid measures in EFTA countries, this resulting in the distortion of the terms of competition between companies in the EEC and those in the EFTA countries. This is incompatible with the Community's agreements on free trade with the EFTA countries and conflicts with the basic conditions of a free trade agreement. In Sweden alone, state aid is expected to amount to as much as SKr 25,000 million per annum.

In view of these facts, the Commission is asked to answer the following questions:

1. Will the Commission take action over the large amount of state aid granted by EFTA countries, which is distorting competition and threatening Community firms (such as those manufacturing textiles and chipboard), the economy and employment, and will the Commission also take steps to ensure closer observance in future of the provisions on state aid contained in the agreements between the EEC and EFTA?
  
2. If the Commission intends to try to find a general solution to the problem, what means would it consider applicable if state aids in EFTA countries continue to produce distortions of competition?