

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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ORAL QUESTION (O-108/77)

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

by Mr EVANS, Mr ELLIS, Lord BRUCE, Lord MURRAY OF GRAVESEND, Mr PRICE and Mr MITCHELL

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject : Employment Subsidies

All the institutions of the Community have for some time recognised that the reduction of unemployment should in 1978 be the prime aim of economic activity at national, Community and world level. In spite of this the figures in the Community budget for the Regional and Social Funds remain totally inadequate in the face of the immense unemployment problem which all member states are facing.

In these circumstances does the Commission accept that as well as creating new employment, Governments are bound to take action to protect employment in industries particularly hit by the current economic crisis?

Furthermore, given that protectionism is unacceptable as a policy option at national level is not the subsidisation of employment inevitably an absolute, if unsatisfactory, necessity?

PE 52.405

How many Community countries now operate job subsidies?
What forms do these subsidies take?

It is well known that complaints have been made to the Commission concerning the British Temporary Employment Subsidy. Can the Commission assure Parliament that no action will be taken in the Court with regard to any national subsidy prior to the consideration of the whole problem of job subsidies by the Commission and the Council?

Will the Commission proceed, with the preparation of Community guidelines with regard to job subsidies, which can be considered by the Council and Parliament as a matter of urgency?