

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1978 - 1979

26 June 1978

DOCUMENT 184/78

ORAL QUESTION No. 0-17/78

with debate pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure by Mr NYBORG on behalf of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs to the Council of the European Communities

Subject: Realization of the customs union and the internal market

In the light of the statement by the Heads of State and Government at their April 1978 meeting in Copenhagen, to the effect that further progress must be made in removing obstacles to the free movement of goods within the Community:

1. What is the Council's reaction to the numerous examples quoted in the report by the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs on the development of the customs union and the internal market (Doc. 557/77) showing that the removal of tariff and quantitative barriers to internal trade has been nullified by technical and administrative barriers to trade, e.g., lorries importing milk powder into Italy are forced to wait at the frontier customs posts for up to a week while the Italian

authorities analyse the nitrate content, and another example, before membership of the EEC, Danish poultry producers could export to the Federal Republic of Germany simply on production of a general Danish certificate of origin, whereas, since membership, the goods have had to be inspected by the West German veterinary authorities, at specific public slaughterhouses, few in number, and only at certain times?

2. Why are important proposals from the Commission to improve the operation of the customs union and the internal market blocked in the Council; e.g. the Commission proposal on the transition to the free circulation of goods, submitted to the Council in December 1973?
3. Why - more than twenty years after the establishment of the customs union - is there still no essential difference between the formalities at the Community's external and internal borders?
4. How does the Council explain the fact that persons residing or working in more than one Member State are subject to continual incomprehensible formalities and inconvenience; e.g., having to pay motor vehicle tax in more than one Member State?
5. Does the Council agree that only very few branches of industry are in a position to reap the full technological and economic advantages to which the creation of the common market should have given rise and that, because of the persistence of administrative and technical barriers, many important sectors of the economy are actually deprived of much of the advantages they should enjoy in competition with Japanese and US manufacturers, for example?
6. Does the Council regard the state of the customs union and the common internal market, twenty years after their establishment, as satisfactory?
7. What can be done, in the Council's view, to speed up the Community's decision-making process in this field; does the Council regard this as one of the areas where, in accordance with the Paris Communiqué of December 1974 by the Heads of State and Government, it would be appropriate to make greater use of the provisions of the EEC Treaty whereby the powers of implementation and management arising out of Community rules may be conferred on the Commission?