

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1984-1985

9 April 1984

DOCUMENT 1-141/84

ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME

on 10 and 11 April 1984

1. Question by Mr von WOGAU (H-603/83) (x)

Subject: Charging of customs duties by Belgium on Community gift consignments

The Belgian authorities are still demanding payment of value added tax and customs charges on gift consignments (e.g. a consignment of wine worth Bfrs 900). The Belgian recipient of a gift worth Bfrs 900 had to pay a total of Bfrs 726 in customs charges on 26 October 1983: Bfrs 303 in value added tax, Bfrs 118 in import duty, Bfrs 10 in advance charges and Bfrs 295 in costs for customs formalities.

Is the Commission aware of this practice by the Belgian authorities; if so, does it regard the practice as being compatible with the EEC Treaty and the relevant customs directives on gift consignments, and what action does the Commission propose to take to eliminate this practice, which is contrary to the Treaty?

19.12.1983

2. Question by Mr MOORHOUSE (H-625/83) (x)

Subject : Natural Gas

When is it expected the first deliveries of Natural Gas through the new soviet pipeline will be made to member states and what are the latest estimates of the dependence of individual countries - and the cost - of the Gas?

10.1.84

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

3. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-644/83) (x)

Subject: Creation of a European card for war victims

With the Commission incessantly proclaiming its intention of making Europe into a Europe for its citizens, can it explain why it refuses to create a European card for war victims, for people with a minimum 50% disability?

As producing such a card, which would have no financial repercussions, would give tangible form to the official gratitude which all the Member States owe to war victims, both military and civilian, is the Commission prepared to go back on its answer of 1981¹ and thereby match deeds to words?

¹ OJ No. C 284/81

18.1.1984

4. Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-668/83) (x)

Subject : Sugar

The Commission has stated that the development of sugar beet production has not been hindered by the existence of a quota system. In view of the trend in sugar consumption what proposals does it have to reduce to imbalance between supply and demand ?

25.01.1984

5. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-677/83) (x)

Subject : Income and expenditure in connection with road tolls

Can the Commission state whether studies exist that show that expenditure connected with the administration and control of the collection of road tolls, the increased accident rate and the maintenance of roads that run parallel to toll motorways offsets or exceeds the income from road tolls, a relic of the past that still exists in some Member States?

30.1.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

6. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-741/83)* (xx)

Subject : Telephone charges on the Community internal market

Will the Commission say in which parts of the internal Community market it is currently the practice to reduce telephone charges during the night and on holidays?

To what extent do reduced telephone charges also apply to so-called transfrontier telephone calls?

Does the Commission consider it desirable in the interests of intensifying communication within the Community that reduced night and holiday tariffs should also be introduced for 'transfrontier telephone calls'?

What does the Commission intend to do to make progress in the interests of the citizens of this Community and when?

*Former oral question without debate (0-154/83), converted into a question for question time.

2.2.1984

7. Question by Mr DAVERN (H-702/83) (xx)

Subject: Exports of illegal British Lamb

Is the Commission aware that 'a mini collapse' in Irish sheep prices has resulted from the illegal export of British lamb labelled as 'spiced lamb' to French, German and Belgian markets and what action does it propose to take to resolve this matter?

8.2.1984

(xx) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

8. Question by Mr GAUTHIER (H-719/83) (x)

Subject: Wind energy

Does the Commission not think and will it propose that energy strategy should include a genuine Community industrial plan for wind energy, with active support for wind research, particularly through the development of large-scale wind power stations that would allow the industrial exploitation of wind energy in the years to come?

14.2.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

9. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-724/83) (x)

Subject: Commission statement on Cyprus

On 21 December 1983, the Commission made the following statement:
'The Commission confirms that it will diligently take the necessary measures to follow up the Cypriot Government's communication of 28 November 1983 with regard to the new certificates, labels and signatures needed to establish the origin of products coming from Cyprus.

From the date to be specified in the Commission's communication to the customs authorities of the Member States, only goods accompanied by Republic of Cyprus certificates will be able to benefit from the preferential system of the association agreement.

The Commission confirms that the implementation of the provision provided for under paragraph 2 will bring the gentleman's agreement of 27 July 1977 to an end. The Commission will continue to provide full cooperation for measures aimed at preventing any possible deflection of trade.

It is up to the Member States, within the framework of Coreper or political cooperation, to assess the political situation and take the necessary measures.

The Commission is prepared to take part in this discussion, but this is an area where it has no power of initiative.

Moreover, the Commission has announced that these measures are to be implemented on 1 March 1984.'

Can the Commission state whether this is an official and therefore binding statement? If not, what concrete measures does it intend to take to put an end to the irregular practice of importing products from the occupied northern part of Cyprus which illegally calls itself a 'Turkish-Cypriot state', a fact which the Council and the European Parliament have condemned?

15.1.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

10. Question by Mr VANDEWILLE

Subject : Modification of Regulation No. 543/69¹ on the harmonization of certain social legislation relating to road transport

For what specific reasons has the proposal which the Commission promised to make by 1982 to amend Regulation No. 543/69¹ not yet been submitted to the Council?

16.02.1984

¹ OJ No. L 77, 29.03.1969, p. 49

11. Question by Mrs NEBOUT (H-743/83) (x)

Subject : Fuel oil substitutes

Can the Commission give any details of the development of a new fuel consisting of 80% water, 0.5 to 1% coal, and 20% a chemical additive, which could be used as a substitute for heavy and light fuel oil in industry?

16.2.1984

12. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-752/83) (x)

Subject: Gas tariffs in USA vis-a-vis those in the Community

To what extent do current US Federal controls of gas prices still place large industrial consumers in the Community at a competitive disadvantage relative to US firms?

20.2.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76.

13. Question by Miss DE VALERA (H-766/83) (x)

Subject : Medical cards and Irish students

Is the Commission aware that the Coalition Government in Ireland has now deprived Irish third level students of their rights to free medical cards and that students studying in all other EEC Member States are entitled to such cards and does it therefore agree that this action seriously discriminates against Irish students ?

27.02.1984

14. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-549/83)

Subject : Preparations for an ECU clearing system between European and American banks

What is the Commission doing to assist the development of the ECU clearing system between European and American banks ? As this system is now being worked out, can the Commission ensure that banks of all the European countries will be able to join the system and that the ECU will thereby be able to acquire the status of a currency ?

28.11.1983

15. Question by Mrs LE ROUX (H-602/83)

Subject : Fisheries conference

The FAO has decided to hold a World Fisheries Conference in 1984. Does the Commission propose to take part in this Conference and what preparations does it plan to make for it?

15.12.1983

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

16. Question by Mr HÄNSCH (H-721/83)*

Subject : List of priority regions based on youth
unemployment applicable from 1 January 1983,
OJ No. C 194 of 21 July 1983, p. 3

1. At the Conference on Regional Development in North West Europe in November 1983 the Commission representative publicly stated that North Rhine-Westphalia in the Federal Republic was one of the Community regions particularly badly affected by the decline in traditional industries and its labour market problems were therefore comparable to those of less developed, peripheral regions and would need appropriate assistance in the future. Can the Commission explain why, in spite of this correct analysis, the list of priority regions based on youth unemployment does not include any areas of North Rhine-Westphalia?
2. Is the Commission aware that in the area covered by the Essen labour exchange, for example, there were 2000 young people under 20 registered as unemployed at the end of 1983 and the number unregistered is thought to be equally high?
3. Can the Commission state the criteria governing this selection of priority regions based on youth unemployment?

* Former oral question without debate (0-134/83), converted into a question for question time.

5.1.1984

17. Question by Mr GONTIKAS (H-639/83)

Subject: The Greek government's policy of enacting provisions on the nationalisation and 'socialisation' of undertakings in defiance of Community regulations.

The November/December 1983 issue of the influential Greek financial periodical, the 'Industrial Review', expressed reservations with regard to the Greek government's continued policy of nationalisation (covert or otherwise); it criticized in particular the Government's strategy of manipulating the financial system so as to render loss-making undertakings viable, with the ultimate aim of eliminating the private sector and private initiative and paving the way for a PASOK one-party state.

Would the Commission state whether the Greek Government has kept it informed of these restrictions imposed on the free movement of Community capital to and from Greece, and what measures it intends taking to prevent these anti-Community financial provisions being put into effect?

16.1.84

18. Question by Mr SIMMONDS (H-27/84)*

Subject: Transport of Horses Intended for Slaughter

Will the Commission please make a statement on what action has been taken on the Herklotz Report on The Transport of Horses Intended for Slaughter ?

16.1.1984

(*) Former oral question without debate (0-140/83), converted into a question for question time.

19. Question by Sir James SOCTT-HOPKINS (H-653/83)

Subject: Common electricity grid

What proposals does the European Commission have in mind to make to facilitate the creation of a common electricity grid throughout the Ten? Would not such a Community grid afford the best chance of establishing a common pricing policy for electrical power throughout the Community?

20.1.1984

20. Question by Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK (H-782/83) (x)

Subject : European shoe industry

President Reagan and the US Trade Commission clearly intend to close the American market to imports of shoes manufactured abroad. The restricting of access to the US market would have disastrous consequences for the European shoe industry.

What steps has the Commission taken to prevent this happening and what results has it achieved?

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-153/83),
converted into a question for question time

27.1.1984

21. Question by Mr DENIS (H-698/83)

Subject: The future of the Kodak Europe group

In view of the fact that certain multinational undertakings, such as Kodak, intend to pull out of a large number of production operations and research activities in Europe, thereby adding to unemployment and to the loss of skills by the workforce and increasing Europe's economic and industrial dependence on the United States, does the Commission not think that there is an urgent need to strengthen certain provisions of its proposal on procedures for informing and consulting the employees of undertakings with complex structures (amended 'Vredeling' proposal) so as to lay down a formal legal requirement for consultations between representatives of the parent companies and their subsidiaries in which the representatives of employees of undertakings located in Europe can also participate?

6.2.1984

22. Question by Mr C. JACKSON (H-700/83)

Subject: Import of fresh strawberries from ACP States

On what grounds does the Commission defend tariff discrimination in favour of Israel, which pays a duty of 5.6% on its exports of off-season strawberries, in comparison to the 14% duty payable by ACP States?

7.2.1984

23. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-706/83)

Subject: Aid for young farmers

What action does the Commission intend to take to make good the losses suffered by young farmers as a result of the suspension of the structural directives, in particular the starting-up aid for young farmers?

14.2.1984

24. Question by Mrs WEBER (H-716/83)

Subject: Drinking water directive

Can the Commission say which Member States have implemented the Directive relating to the quality of water intended for human consumption (80/778/EEC) and what steps they are taking to incorporate this directive in national legislation which should have been done by 15 July 1982 but is not yet law, for example, in the Federal Republic of Germany?

16.2.1984

25. Question by Ms QUIN (H-729/83)

Subject: Future employment prospects for North-East England

Given the dramatic decline in the basic industries of the North East of England (in a region which has the highest level of unemployment in mainland Britain) and the virtual absence of new industry, what in the Commission's view will provide employment for the people of North-East England in the future and how will the Commission help to create such new employment?

17.2.1984

26. Question by Mr. HARRIS (H-764/83)

Subject : FEOGA grants on fishing boats in the United Kingdom

Why is there a hold up in the payment of FEOGA grants on fishing boats in the United Kingdom and what steps are being taken to end the serious delays in payments ?

24.02.1984

27. Question by Mr. PURVIS (H-765/83)

Subject : Euro-Arab Dialogue

What steps is the Commission taking to follow-up the meeting of OAPEC and European Industry representatives in Rome, 18-20 January 1984, on the economic interdependence of Arab and European Community countries, with its emphasis on studying and reporting the following : evaluation of the perspectives for regional integration among Arab countries and improvement of the data base ?

24.02.1984

28. Question by Mrs BOSERUP (H-768/83)

Subject : Special responsibility for cultural affairs

Page 7 of the Danish version of the January 1984 Directory of the Commission of the European Communities lists cultural affairs as one of the special responsibilities of the Members of the Commission. According to page 10, Mr Robert Gregoire is head of the administrative unit Cultural Questions.

Can the Commission give further details of what is done in this area, state which provision of the Treaty has been used as the basis for creating a Cultural Questions unit, and, if possible, provide a job description for the post?

27.2.1984

29. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-770/83)

Subject: On the creation of a common market in television and radio programmes

A few days ago the Commission circulated a 500-page discussion document on the creation of a common market in television and radio programmes. The Commission's proposals include harmonizing legislation relating to television and radio matter, increasing advertising time, supra-national control of inter-state exchanges and the issuing of a directive by the Council requiring the adoption of rules governing the mass radio and television media in all the Member States. Can the Commission state what basis it had in law for formulating such proposals, since there is no such provision in the Treaties of Rome, and by what right it tampers with the sovereign right of each Member State to shape its own policy on state-controlled mass media, without supra-national interference?

28.2.1984

30. Question by Mr SEELER (H-778/83)

Subject : The EEC-Pakistan Cooperation Agreement

Will the Commission report on the outcome of the meeting, on 25 February 1984, of the Joint Commission set up under the EEC-Pakistan Cooperation Agreement?

2.3.1984

31. Question by Mr ADAM (H-783/83)

Subject: Tobacco taxation

What progress has the Commission made in persuading the Italian Government to respect the ruling of the Court of Justice to apply the directives on tobacco tax harmonisation?

2.3.1984

32. Question by Sir Fred WARNER (H-42/84) (x)

Subject: Property of Community citizens in Greece

Since pursuant to Article 169 of the EEC Treaty, the Commission has decided to proceed against Greece in respect of its legislation on ownership of property in Greek frontier areas, can the Commission say what is the legal basis upon which it has delivered a reasoned opinion to the Greek Government?

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-170/83), converted into a question for question time

6.3.1984

33. Question by Mr EYRAUD (H-787/83)

Subject: CAP

In order to release the Community from its impasse by rationalizing the CAP, the Commission has asked the Council¹ to authorize the opening of negotiations within the framework of GATT with a view to the partial suspension of tariff concessions on by-products of the maize industry: maize gluten, residues from brewing, maize seed oil cakes.

Why did the Commission not raise at the same time the question of other substitute products for cereals and soya?

7.3.1984

¹Commission doc: 'Commission programme for 1984'

34. Question by Mrs EWING (H-11/84)

Subject: Road Equivalent Tariffs

In view of the Parliament's repeated demands for pilot projects on Road Equivalent Tariffs and in view of the Commission's failure to act on these to date, will the Commission state whether it has any intention of financing such programmes in the foreseeable future?

9.3.1984

35. Question by Mr BONDE (H-790/83)

Subject: Danish agriculture

In 1983, Danish real earnings from agriculture were only 43.3% of 1973 earnings i.e. before Denmark came under EEC agricultural arrangements.

Would the Commission explain how its proposals for new agricultural prices will affect Danish agricultural earnings?

12.3.84

36. Question by Mr KYRKOS (H-7/84)

Subject: Amendments to social insurance legislation during a period of crisis

Is the Commission aware of the effects that amendments and alterations to social insurance legislation in the different Member States during a period of crisis can have on immigrants? What steps has the Commission taken in response to the Belgian Government's bill, which has distressed immigrants in Belgium and incited them to action?

13.3.1984

37. Question by Sir Jack STEWART-CLARK (H-8/84)

Subject : Suggestion for a European Pensioners' Identity Card

There are in all Member States certain concessions granted to people of pensionable age. These often take the form of cheaper travel and reduced admission prices to places of entertainment for example.

Similar concessions are offered to students and, as proof of their status, every student from the country concerned can show an International Student Identity Card and thus take advantage of the reductions offered.

Pensioners, as far as I am aware, do not have such a convenient and internationally recognised proof of their entitlement and cannot, therefore, take advantage of concessions offered when travelling outside their own country. The problem is even greater for pensioners resident in a different country from the one which pays them a pension.

Does the Commission not think that some form of European Identity Card for Pensioners would be an initiative well worth taking? It would help a large number of individuals financially, with the minimum of bureaucracy and with no cost save that of printing the cards. Such an initiative would also show the European Community in a sympathetic light as a body seen to care for those citizens within it who need help most.

13.3.1984

38. Question by Mr GEROKOSTOPOULOS (H-9/84)

Subject: Regulation (EEC) No. 1196/81¹ on the development of
bee-keeping

The above regulation expires on 30 June 1984. Since the aims of this regulation have still not been achieved and many Community bee-keeping organizations consider it a matter of vital importance that it be extended, can the Commission state what its intentions are with regard to extending the regulation and what measures it has taken or intends to take in this respect?

¹OJ L 122, 6.5.1981, p. 1

13.3.1984

39. Question by Miss HOOPER (H-14/84)

Subject : Application procedure for research and development projects

Many Community funded research projects which are open to applications from research and university institutes in the Member States are announced to the public too late, in many instances, for potential applications to be made, due to the elongated application procedure which requires 20 copies in two languages; in addition, the time for presentation of the application is usually very close to the time of the announcement.

Can the Commission state whether or not it is satisfied with this state of affairs, and whether it would consider easing the application times for research projects?

15.3.1984

40. Question by Mr BALFE (H-15/84)

Subject : Projects in the London Borough of Southwark

Can the Commission state how many projects and to what value they have aided in the London Borough of Southwark (Lambeth, Lewisham and Greenwich). What prospects can the Commission offer for further aid in the foreseeable future?

15.3.1984

41. Question by Mr DELOROZOY (H-18/84)

Subject: Commission response to the action brought by the
Bethlehem Steel company

At the beginning of February, the American company BETHLEHEM STEEL applied, under the safeguards clause of the Trade Act, for an injunction which calls into question all imports of steel into the United States, including those covered, as from 1982, by a quantitative limitation agreement between the EEC and the American Government - which the Community has observed to the letter. The current legal proceedings contravene this agreement, since it was officially specified that an action of this type would entitle the Community to terminate it. Has the Commission warned the American Government of the serious consequences which would follow from any encroachment on the American market shares guaranteed to EEC producers under the 1982 agreement, and has it enquired whether steps would be taken to protect the rights of the EEC producers, who are in no way responsible for this situation?

15.3.1984

42. Question by Mr CURRY (H-19/84)

Subject : Compulsory use of materials - Accession of Spain

Under Royal Decree 369/1982 of 12 February 1982, the Spanish tobacco industry is required to incorporate a certain percentage of Spanish tobacco in the manufacture of tobacco goods. Does the Commission believe that the compulsory use of materials is in conflict with the decisions of the European Court of Justice in the "milk powder cases" (Numbers 114/76, 116/76 and 119-120/76)⁽¹⁾?

Are there any other laws operating in Spain that compel the use of materials of Spanish origin which would have to be rescinded to enable Spanish law to be in conformity with the Treaty of Rome ?

16.03.1984

- (1) O.J. Nr C 306 of 28.12.76, p.7
- O.J. Nr C 18 of 25.1.77, p.8
- O.J. Nr C 18 of 25.1.77, p.10
- O.J. Nr C 18 of 25.1.77, p.11

43. Question by Mr FERNANDEZ (H-22/84)

Subject: Exports of wheat

Under pressure from the Americans, the Commission voluntarily restricted the volume of sales of wheat grains (other than food aid) to third countries in the 1982-1983 marketing year to 12.4 million tonnes. This decision penalized the producers and generated additional storage costs for the Community budget. Has the Commission lifted this 'voluntary restraint' in the current marketing year?

16.03.1984

44. Question by Mr LÜCKER (H-25/84)

Subject: Negotiations on Spanish accession in the fruit and
vegetables sector

Can the Commission confirm press reports according to which the negotiating basis for arrangements in the fruit and vegetables sector on Spain's accession to the Community provides for a transitional period of ten years in all, during which the Commission would set up a Community monitoring system to supervise trade with Spain which would enable it to seal its frontiers within 24 hours if requested to do so by a Member State and, if so, on what grounds can the Commission justify this unilateral measure which excludes any involvement of its partner?

16.3.1984

45. Question by Mr HUME (H-26/84)

Subject: Integrated operation for the Northwest of Ireland
frontier region

Will the Commission make a statement about the proposal by the Foyle-Donegal-Strabane Coordinating group to make a feasibility study of an integrated operation for the Northwest of Ireland frontier region, and what Communications have taken place between the Commission and the Irish and British governments in respect of this proposal?

20.3.1984

46. Question by Mr FRÜH (H-28/84)

Subject: Negotiations on Spanish accession in the fruit and vegetables sector

Can the Commission confirm the press reports according to which the negotiating basis for arrangements in the fruit and vegetables sector on Spain's accession to the Community provides for a ten-year transitional period, including an initial four-year period during which imports from Spain would be subject to less favourable conditions of access to the Community market than non-Community Mediterranean countries' exports, and if so, on what grounds can the Commission justify this position?

21.3.1984

47. Question by Mrs DUPORT (H-30/84)

Subject : New rules for the European Social Fund

Can the Commission give an assurance that the new rules for the European Social fund abolish the previous deplorable practice of applying weighting when projects were already under way, and will the application of point 6.4 of the Commission guidelines for the management of the European Social fund in the financial years 1984 to 1986 which appeared in the Official Journal of 10 January 1984¹ not entail such weighting?

21.3.1984

¹ OJ No. C 5, 10 January 1984, p. 2

48. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-29/84)

Subject : Collaboration between US National Aeronautics and Space
administration and the European Space Agency

What steps is the Commission taking to assist ESA to respond to
the invitation by the Director of NASA, following his tour of
European capitals, to collaborate in manned space stations and
in accordance with Parliament's resolution in the report by
Mr. Turcat on European Space Policy ?

22.03.1984

49. Question by Sir Peter VANNECK (H-32/84)

Subject : Afghan Uranium Production - IAEA Inspections

Press Reports indicate that Afghanistan became a producer of uranium
during 1983. Given that Afghanistan agreed safeguards with the
International Atomic Energy Agency, 20th February 1978, what
plans has the Agency to inspect Afghan uranium production facilities ?

22.03.1984

50. Question by Mr PROTOPAPADAKIS (H-41/84)

Subject: Outcome of the latest Community summit meetings

In view of the fact that the events which prevented a successful conclusion
to the latest Community summit meetings enable the anti-European movement to
present the Community as an organization in the process of disintegration,
does not the Commission take the view that it would be appropriate and a more
accurate reflection of the real situation to project not only the negative
aspects but also the optimistic view of these events as a crisis of development
rather than of disintegration, which is evidenced by the fact that the antagonistic
Member States are seeking to improve their positions within the Community,
i.e. the forces in operation are centripetal in relation to the Community and
not centrifugal, disintegrative ones?

26.3.1984

51. Question by Mr BORD (H-43/84)

Subject: Restrictions on the free movement of persons

Bearing in mind the provisions of the Charter of the International Labour Organization, the applicability of Article 48 of the EEC Treaty and Article 85 of the Treaty which provides for free competition, what measures does the Commission intend to take in order to counter the provisions laid down in some European countries with the aim of limiting the free movement of professional footballers within the EEC? More particularly, is the Commission considering bringing a case before the European Court of Justice?

26.3.1984

52. Question by Mr EISMA (H-45/84)

Subject: European economic incentive policy

Is the Commission aware of the D'66's plan for a European economic incentive policy and what view does it take of the setting-up of a temporary committee for the inventorization of European projects composed of independent experts, like the Wagner Committee in the Netherlands, which would be responsible for making an inventory of European projects eligible for Community support, as advocated in the plan, and does the Commission intend to submit proposals to the Council for a European economic incentive policy?

28.3.1984

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

53. Question by Mrs GAIOTTI DE BIASE (H-16/84)* (xx)

Subject: Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Culture during the first half of 1984

At the informal meeting of the Ministers of Culture of the Member States of the European Community at Athens on 28 November 1983, it was agreed to proceed with meetings between Ministers of Culture, either within the context of the Council or at the level of representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting in Council.

The French Minister of Culture, who will be President-in-Office of the Council for the first half of 1984, is reported to have agreed to call a ministerial meeting during the first half of 1984.

In the light of the above, the French Presidency is asked to reply to the following questions:

1. Does the French Presidency envisage, for the first half of 1984, a formal meeting of the Council or of the representatives of the Governments of the Member States meeting in Council with a view to discussing culture-related topics?
2. Will such meetings take place regularly every year?
3. In the light of the deliberations at Athens on 28 November 1983, what topics does the French Presidency intend to include on the agenda of the meeting envisaged for the first half of 1984?
4. Will, therefore, the European Parliament, and its Committee on Youth, Culture, Education, Information and Sport in particular, be kept informed of the preparations for, and the results of, such meetings?

13.12.1983

(*) Former oral question with debate (O-123/83), converted into a question for question time.

(xx) First position subject to President's decisions

54. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-397/83) (x)

Subject: Milk production quotas and the CAP

Does the Council consider that milk production quotas would be a blow struck against the CAP?

23.09.1983

55. Question by Mr ESTGEN (H-658/83)(x)

Subject: Memorandum from the Luxembourg Government

What arrangements has the Presidency made for the consideration of the memorandum which the President of the Luxembourg Government submitted to the members of the European Council in Athens on 6 December 1983?

23.01.84

56. Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-669/83) (x)

Subject : Unit Trusts

Could the Council state what developments there have been since it replied to my question on this subject in December 1981 ?

25.01.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

57. Question by Mr von WOGAU (H-670/83) (x)

Subject : Council meetings on the internal market

It has been reported that, following the successful Council meetings on the internal market held in 1983, there are no plans to hold any further Council meetings entirely devoted to this difficult subject, which is crucial to European integration.

When does the Council intend to hold its next meeting devoted, like the Council meeting of 26 November 1983, entirely to the special problems of the internal market?

25.01.1984

58. Question by Mr NYBORG (H-676/83) (x)

Subject: The Council's willingness to adopt decisions with a view to the creation of the internal Community market

Last year both the West German and Greek Presidencies organized several meetings of the Ministers responsible for the common internal market.

What Council meetings of this nature are planned for the first half of 1984?

30.1.84

59. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-689/83) (x)

Subject: Appointment of the Belgian judge to the Court of Justice

Can the Council say why the appointment of the Belgian judge to the Court of Justice has not yet been made and what reasons there are for this delay?

31.1.84

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

60. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-321/83) (x)

Subject: Personal checks at internal Community frontiers

What is the Council's view of the Member States' contention that a number of arrests in sensitive areas (e.g. internal security, drugs, immigration policy, weapons, etc.) argues against the gradual abolition of personal checks at internal Community frontiers? Does the Council have statistics from the Member States, or its own data, which can be tested and weighed, for example, against the requisite manpower costs in each case and what are the results of such enquiries in comparison with data from the USA or the Nordic Passport Union?

9.8.1983

61. Question by Mr VAN MINNEN (H-570/83) (x)

Subject: Reduction of personal checks at frontiers

How does the Council regard the noticeable increase in personal checks at the Dutch-Belgian frontier, which clearly conflicts with Council decisions aimed at reducing checks in connexion with the introduction of the European passport?

5.12.1983

62. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-588/83) (x)

Subject: Representation of the Council in Parliament

In view of the need for closer relations with the Council and of Parliament's heavy work-load until May 1984, will the Council now agree to be represented at ministerial level on an additional day during each part-session?

12.12.1983

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

63. Question by Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-655/83) (x)

Subject : USA imposition on stainless steel

Would the Council of Ministers state what progress has been made in recent talks between representatives of the EC and the USA regarding the USA's imposition of restrictions on the importing of special and stainless steels from the Community ?

19.01.1984

64. Question by Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK (H-781/83)* (x)

Subject : Supervision and control of the transfrontier shipment of hazardous wastes within the European Community

Can the Council say whether there is any truth in reports that it is under pressure from a group of large insurance companies to prevent the above Regulation on the transfrontier shipment of toxic and hazardous wastes from including provisions to the effect that liability lies with the producers?

27.1.1984

* Former oral question without debate (O-152/83), converted into a question for question time.

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

65. Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-710/83) (x)

Subject: A European Space Community

On Wednesday, 8 February 1984, the newspaper 'Information' quoted a report by the press agency AFP stating that the President of the Council, while on his tour of the Community's capitals at the start of his presidency, has been calling for the creation of a 'European Space Community'. There would be a manned 'European space station' to monitor, provide warning of and counter 'any threat', and this would represent a 'great step towards self-reliance in defence'.

Defence matters are expressly excluded from the responsibilities of the Community's institutions.

How does the French Presidency propose to establish a European Space Community able to send up a space station to strengthen European defence? What article in the Treaty of Rome entitles the President of the Council of the European Communities to put forward such proposals? And how does the President think he can persuade his colleagues on the Council - including the Danish Prime Minister - to accept such plans?

13.12.1984

66. Question by Mr VANDEWIELE (H-740/83) (x)

Subject : Construction of a permanent cross-Channel link ,

What are the Council's intentions with regard to the construction of a permanent cross-Channel link, for which it allocated an appropriation of 500,000 ECU out of the Community budget in December 1982 for a financial feasibility study?

16.02.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

67. Question by Mrs SCHLEICHER (H-744/83) (x)

Subject : The so-called 'directives to restrict the use of asbestos'

On 23 April 1982 the European Parliament gave its opinion on the Commission proposal for a directive on the use of asbestos. The Commission's original proposal laid down rules for the use of blue and white asbestos.

Going on from this, the European Parliament, acting on my proposal as rapporteur, called by a large majority for an unambiguous symbol to be put on all products containing asbestos. The Commission took up this call in an amended proposal for a directive.

The Council of Ministers was not able to reach agreement on this proposal as a whole.

The Official Journal of the European Communities of 29 September 1983 contained a 'skeleton directive' making it obligatory for all asbestos products to be identified by a symbol and including the rules governing blue asbestos. There are still no rules for the use of white asbestos, despite the fact that the European Parliament has also made very specific proposals on them.

What is the present state of progress in the Council's deliberations, when is a regulation likely to be adopted, and how will the European Parliament's recommendations be taken into consideration in the deliberations in the Council of Ministers?

16.02.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

68. Question by Mr PAPANTONIOU (H-749/83) (x)

Subject : Issuing of an order by the Council to the Commission to begin negotiations on the establishment of an EEC-Cyprus customs union

Although the forthcoming visit to Cyprus by a Commission delegation for an exchange of views with the Cyprus Government on the EEC-Cyprus customs union is an encouraging sign, the fact remains that the Community has not fulfilled the treaty obligation it undertook in this matter (Association Agreement, Article 2(3) and Council Decision on Association of 24.11.1980, paragraph 3). Since Cyprus's exports to the Community represent very small quantities and sums compared to the Community's overall imports of such products, and have no effect on Community production, either because they relate to products of which there is a shortage in the Community (e.g. citrus fruit) or because of the season of the year in which they are carried out (e.g. early potatoes, table grapes), can the Council say when the exploratory talks will be completed and when it will issue an order to the Commission so that negotiations on the establishment of a customs union can at last begin?

16.2.1984

69. Question by Ms QUIN (H-727/83) (x)

Subject: The shipbuilding industry in the EEC

When did the Council last discuss shipbuilding and what were the results of its discussions?

17.2.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

70. Question by Mrs LE ROUX (H-733/83)(x)

Subject: Consultation of the European Parliament.

In accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EEC) No. 858/81, the Council is currently considering the operation of the import arrangements for New Zealand butter for the period 1984-1988 on the basis of a proposal from the Commission.

Although the Council's discussions have already been in progress for more than three months, the European Parliament has still not been consulted. Is the Council ever going to consult the European Parliament on this important issue?

17.2.1984

71. Question by Mr WURTZ (H-734/83)(x)

Subject: American offensive in the agricultural markets

In its answer to my Oral Question (H-361/83)¹, the Council declared its willingness to continue its action by examining all possible avenues open to it, particularly as regards the subsidized sales of dairy products to Egypt.

Can the Council say what measures have been taken to curb this American offensive and what results have been obtained?

17.2.1984

¹ Debates, OJ No. 1-304, p. 177 (Ne)

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

72. Question by Mr MAFFRE-BAUGE (H-735/83) (x)

Subject: Taxation of wine

On 12 July 1983, the Court of Justice handed down a judgement (Case 170/78) finding the United Kingdom guilty of a breach of the Treaty establishing the EEC and noting in particular that: 'the effect of the United Kingdom tax system is to stamp wine with the hallmarks of a luxury product, which, in view of the tax burden which it bears, can scarcely constitute in the eyes of the consumer a genuine alternative to the typical domestically produced beverage'.

Does the Council intend to take account of this judgement by harmonizing the excise duties on alcohol, particularly those on wine and beer?

17.2.1984

73. Question by Mrs POIRIER (H-736/83) (x)

Subject: Import of cereals substitutes

The Commission has finally proposed to the Council that consultations and negotiations be opened within GATT with a view to stabilizing imports of the by-products of the maize industry, in particular corn gluten feed.

Does the Council intend to empower the Commission to request the complete and definitive unbinding of the duty-free rating currently applied?

17.2.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

74. Question by Mr KALOYANNIS (H-753/83) (x)

Subject : ERDF (non-quota section) assistance for the Greek economy

Can the Council state whether the reason why the Greek textile industry, the ready-made clothing industry and the iron and steel industry are ineligible for assistance from the Community's Regional Development Fund (non-quota section) to help cope with the consequences of Community enlargement - assistance estimated to be of the order of two thousand million drachmas - is that the relevant data requested by the Commission as of November 1982 were not submitted in time by the Greek Government? If this in fact was the case, is there still some way, and time, to rectify this error, so that this blow need not be sustained by the disadvantaged Greek economy and the blameless Greek people?

20.02.1984

75. Question by Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU (H-756/83) (x)

Subject : Measures and guarantees to ensure equality and impartiality during the forthcoming elections to the European Parliament

In view of the forthcoming elections to the European Parliament in June 1984, what steps does the Council propose to take to ensure that in the various Member States there is equality and impartiality in the handling of government and opposition political parties by the State information media (television and radio) with regard to unrestricted communication with the people, and to give full guarantees as regards the conduct of the voting to citizens of EEC Member States who live or happen to be in another EEC Member State on the day of the elections?

21.02.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

76. Question by Mr Maurice MARTIN (H-760/83) (x)

Subject: American wine imports into the Community

The Commission has recently drawn up a proposal for a regulation on the marketing or delivery for direct human consumption of certain imported wines which have been the subject of wine-making practices not laid down in Regulation (EEC) 337/79.

In its explanatory memorandum, the Commission states that it did not deem it necessary to consult the bodies representing the various professional groups and consumers. Does the Council intend to consult the European Parliament on this important proposal for a regulation?

22.2.1984

77. Question by Miss HOOPER (H-761/83/rev.) (x)

Subject : Teaching of religion on the Greek Island of Syra

It appears that more than 300 children of Greek Catholic parents on the Greek Island of Syra (Cyclades) are not permitted to receive instruction in the Catholic faith in their schools even though the Greek law, 4397/16/24.9.1929, requires a state salaried teacher to be appointed for this purpose. They have unsuccessfully petitioned the Greek Government to this end.

Given that freedom of religion, including the religious formation of children as well as a frequently stated commitment to freedom of education, obtains in the European Community, will the Council make representations to the Greek Government to remedy this injustice ?

23.2.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

78. Question by Mr LAGAKOS (H-773/83)(x)

Subject: Part-session in Strasbourg from 13-17 February
(shortage of Greek officials)

During the part-session of Parliament from 13-17 February 1984, publication of the Greek edition of the daily bulletin 'Today's Sitting' had to be interrupted owing to 'a shortage of editorial staff' in the Greek section of Parliament's Publications and Briefings Division.

The same thing has happened in the past in departments of other Community institutions, such as the Council's interpretation service, and it was particularly noticeable during the Greek Presidency, when the requirements were greater.

Does not the Council think that the balance should be restored and that recruitment policy in all the Community institutions should be so designed as to take account of actual service requirements and fair distribution of posts by nationality?

28.2.1984

79. Question by Mr TYRRELL (H-785/83)(x)

Subject : Construction by the Council of a building in
Brussels

On 20-21 January the Council agreed to construct a new building for itself in Brussels, the Council becoming the owner of the site and building on completion of the work. What implications, if any, does this decision to purchase, rather than rent, have for establishing the seat of the Institutions?

7.3.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

80. Question by Mr EYRAUD (H-786/83)(x)

Subject: CAP

In order to break the deadlock within the Community by rationalizing the CAP, the Commission has asked the Council¹ for authorization to open negotiations within GATT for the partial suspension of tariff concessions in the by-products of the maize industry: corn gluten, draff and maize germ cake.

Why has the Council refused to give the Commission the necessary authorization?

7.3.1984

¹ Commission Programme for 1984

81. Question by Mr FORTH (H-4/84)(x)

Subject: Detention of prisoners in ACP countries

In light of public concern regarding the detention of prisoners in ACP countries, and particularly Guinea, for prolonged periods of time without trial and without contact with their families, what means are available or are contemplated to address this problem, and will it be covered in the negotiations of Lomé III?

13.3.1984

(x) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

82. Question by Mr C. JACKSON (H-701/83)

Subject: Imports of fresh strawberries from ACP States

Can the Council of Ministers explain on what grounds certain Member States defend tariff discrimination in favour of Israel, which pays a duty of 5.6% on its exports of off-season strawberries, in comparison to the 14% payable by ACP producers? Why has the Council of Ministers not agreed to the reduction or removal of this tariff which is the single most important factor limiting the growth of strawberry exports from countries such as Kenya and Zambia?

7.2.1984

83. Question by Mrs EWING (H-12/84)

Subject: Fishery matters between the Community and Lome Countries

Would the Council inform the Parliament of the state of preparation for improved relations in fishery matters between the Community and the countries of the Lome Convention?

9.3.1984

84. Question by Mrs SQUARCIALUPI (H-21/84)

Subject: Action to combat drug abuse

At the meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers held on 12-13 March, a Member State - Italy, to be precise - put forward specific proposals for measures to combat drug abuse, basing itself in part on the European Parliament resolutions of 10 March 1980 and 11 May 1982.

Can the Council outline the content of these proposals and indicate the action it intends to take on them, bearing in mind the extreme urgency and gravity of the drug problem in our society, especially among young people?

16.03.1984

85. Question by Mr BONDE (H-39/84)

Subject: Food aid

Would the Council provide details of requests for food aid not granted between 1980 and the present time, stating the quantities and values for each request, stocks of the goods requested held in the various Community-financed stores and, finally, the reason for refusal in each case, mentioning which decisions were taken under the voting rules?

26.3.1984

86. Question by Mr EISMA (H-46/84)

Subject: European economic incentive policy

During the debate on economic recovery on 27 March 1984, I advocated a European investment programme of 15,000 million ECU a year on average as worked out in the D'66's European economic incentive policy.

Has the Council already deliberated on such a plan and does it intend to consider a programme along the above lines, and to what extent are the existing policy instruments being used to pursue an incentive policy?

28.3.1984

QUESTIONS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE TEN MEMBER STATES OF THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES MEETING IN POLITICAL COOPERATION

87. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-629/83) (X)

Subject: Policy of the Ten towards the situation in Afghanistan

Have the ten Foreign Ministers been able to reconsider the European Parliament's June 1982 resolution calling for recognition of the Afghan resistance as a legitimate national liberation force, and do they in the same spirit intend to express their support for the efforts made by the Pakistani Government in its indirect negotiations with the Kabul Government under the auspices of the UN, to obtain successively: the complete withdrawal of the Soviet armed forces and civil and military advisers; self-determination for the Afghan people without any external interference; the internationally guaranteed definition of Afghanistan as a non-aligned state; the voluntary return of the refugees?

12.1.1984

88. Question by Mr PAPAEFSSIRATIOU (H-672/83) (X)

Subject: Creation of nuclear-free zone in Balkans

Does the Greek PASOK Government's initiative for the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Balkans fit into the framework of political cooperation between the EEC Member States, and what is the Foreign Ministers' view of this matter?

26.1.84

(X) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

69. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-685/83) (X)

Subject: Effective condemnation of Denktash's pseudo-State

Following Denktash's illegal declaration of a so-called Turkish-Cypriot State, the Ten did no more than deliver a verbal condemnation and failed to take concrete measures to discourage effectively this action by Denktash. On the contrary, products from the occupied northern sector of Cyprus continue to enter the Community freely and none of the previously existing trade arrangements have been suspended. Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation state what concrete sanctions they intend to take to demonstrate their effective condemnation of Denktash's pseudo-State and their support for Resolution 541 of the UN Security Council?

30 January 1984

(X) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

90. Question by Mr KALLIAS (H-714/83) * (XX)

Subject: Persecution of Greeks in Albania

Whereas, although it has - quite rightly - concerned itself with the situation in extremely remote parts of the world, the European Parliament has not systematically discussed the situation in Albania, which is in Europe, nor has the Community taken any action in this respect.

Whereas, moreover, although the problem of the freedom of Greek Northern Epirus, which is still under Albanian subjugation, falls outside both the scope of debates in the European Parliament and the purview of the Community institutions, the Albanian regime's treatment of the Greek population in Northern Epirus should be a matter for consideration by the Foreign Ministers.

Have they taken or do they intend to take action

1. to enable the hundreds of thousands of inhabitants of Northern Epirus to practise their religious faith freely and to secure the opening of all Christian places of worship?
2. to enable the Greek schools to function?
3. to enable the inhabitants of Northern Epirus to communicate freely with their relatives resident in Greece?
4. to secure the release of the thousands of political detainees interned in prisons or concentration camps who are tortured because of their ethnic origin, their religious faith and their ideological convictions?

12.12.1983

* Former oral question without debate (O-122/83), converted into a question for question time.

(XX) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of

91. Question by Mr PÖTTERING (H-725/83)* (XX)

Subject : Sentences imposed on civil rights activists in the
Soviet Union

According to reports in the press, several civil rights activists have again been sentenced in the Soviet Union. The Catholic priest Sigitas Tamkevicius from Lithuania has been sentenced to six years' imprisonment and four years internal exile for 'anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda'. The Latvian Baptists, Janis Rozkalns and Janis Veveris have received five years in a labour camp plus three years' internal exile and four years in a labour camp, respectively. They were accused of Latvian nationalism. Tatiana Trusova, a teacher, has been sentenced to 18 months in a labour camp. Her husband, Victor Grinev, is currently serving a six-year sentence for 'slandering the Soviet state'. Finally, civil rights activists Sergei Khodorovich and Vladimir Albrecht have each been sentenced to three years in a labour camp for slandering the Soviet state.

Is the President of the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation aware of these cases and do these amount to violations of the Final Act of the Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe? Are the Foreign Ministers prepared to take action on behalf of the persons concerned?

13.01.1984

* Former oral question without debate (O-137/83) converted into a question for question time.

(XX) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

PE 89.216

92. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-762/83)* (XX)

Subject: Progress to be made towards greater integration between European political cooperation and the Council of the Community

1. Political cooperation, which originated in discussions between governments, has now developed into full-scale coordination of the foreign policies of the Member States of the Community on many topical issues and within the United Nations.

This development has necessitated, in the interests of consistency, effectiveness and rationalization, a certain involvement of the institutions created by the Treaties in the political activities of the Ten.

For example:

- the involvement of the Commission in the work of political cooperation,
- the debates of the European Parliament and the dialogue between Parliament and the presidency of the Council on political cooperation,
- the discussion of aspects of political cooperation at meetings held on the fringes of or complementing Council meetings.

* Former oral question without debate (O-139/83), converted into a question for question time.

(XX) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

PE 89.216

2. In other words, rapprochement already exists. It would be logical to progress towards integration, since certain problems cannot be understood properly unless they are considered in all their ramifications as is the case of the Euro-Arab dialogue, the Middle East, North-South and East-West relations, and the situation in Latin America, Turkey, Cyprus, Ethiopia, etc. This gradual integration should not, however, be used as a pretext to replace existing Community procedures by looser forms of inter-governmental consultation.

3. This situation ought to help make political cooperation more effective:
 - by giving it, in the context of discussions between Member States, the importance it ought to have in relation to other activities deriving from the Treaties,
 - by reducing the excessive role played by the Presidency and thus ensuring greater continuity in political cooperation,
 - by rationalizing communication procedures within the Community.

4. Would the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation consider, to this end,
 - providing political cooperation with a nucleus of permanent staff (attached to the General Secretariat of the Council) which would summarize the conclusions of the groups and the Political Committee for subsequent discussion and adoption by the Ten,
 - holding meetings of working groups and the Political Committee at the headquarters of the Council rather than in the capital city of whichever country holds the presidency,
 - extending the method of the 'troika' to all meetings and discussions held in the context of political cooperation.

- making it a general rule to devote part of all Council meetings of Foreign Ministers to political cooperation.
- involving the representative of the Commission (when there is a delegation of that institution on the spot) in the discussions held by the Ambassadors of the Ten in third countries,
- submitting to the European Council dossiers summarizing the wide implications of political cooperation and issues arising from Community action?

16.1.1984

PE 89.216

93. Question by Mr HABSBURG (H-640/83) (X)

Subject: Situation of the ethnic Germans living in the People's
Republic of Poland

Are the Foreign Ministers aware that of the approximately one million Germans living in the People's Republic of Poland, some 200,000 wish to emigrate to the Federal Republic of Germany and when they have made requests to this effect have, in countless cases, been subjected to severe pressure from the Polish authorities; do they know that a systematic policy of eradicating the German language is being carried out in Poland and are they prepared, given the special responsibility of the European Community for developments in Poland, not least as a result of the massive economic aid from the Community, to make representations to the government in Warsaw to change this policy which conflicts with human rights?

17.1.1984

94. Question by Sir Peter VANNECK (H-661/83) (X)

Subject: Emergency arrangements to ensure telecommunications
in the Community

Have Member States made contingency arrangements to ensure telecommunications links within the European Community in the event of an emergency, for example in the event of Soviet deployment of satellite jammers?

20.01.1984

(X) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question
Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

PE 89.216

95. Question by Mr PLASKOVITIS (H-707/83) (X)

Subject: Proposals concerning Poland by the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany

According to the Greek and international press, the Foreign Minister of the Federal Republic of Germany submitted proposals concerning Poland, which were then refined upon by a Council working party in Paris.

What do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation know of these proposals and what can they reveal to Parliament of their contents and the position the Ten are likely to adopt?

10.2.1984

96. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-748/83) (X)

Subject : Use of space for military purposes by the USA

The USA, in violation of UN Resolution 37/83 on preventing the arms race in space, is going ahead with the production of anti-satellite weapons, while tests of anti-satellite missiles have already begun, thus transferring the escalating arms race into space.

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation say how they view these actions by the USA, particularly after the worldwide outcry at arms escalation to date with the development and deployment of nuclear weapons, and why they have not reacted to prevent the transformation of space into a test range for new forms of armaments, seeing that Europe itself would be the first victim of any nuclear clash?

16.2.1984

(X) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

PE 89.216

97. Question by Mr ADAMOU (H-769/83) (X)

Subject: Recent statements by Mr Mitterrand

In recent statements in The Hague, Mr Mitterrand, the President of the French Republic, the country which also holds the presidency of the EEC, maintained that the EEC must develop joint space programmes of a clearly military character.

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation say whether these statements also reflect the official position of the Council and come within the scope of the Treaties, and whether they propose to place this subject on the agenda of their forthcoming meetings in political cooperation?

28.2.1984

98. Question by Mr CARDIA (H-789/83)

Subject: Military initiatives by Morocco (X)

Following the recent reports of further serious offensives launched on the territory of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic by the Moroccan armed forces, the ultimate objective of which is to divide the territory of the Western Sahara, and which heighten tension among the neighbouring countries, and in view of the successive resolutions passed by the OAU and the recent UN resolution calling for direct negotiations between Morocco and the Polisario Front as a prerequisite for a ceasefire and the holding of a free referendum to enable the Saharan people to exercise their right to self-determination, do the Ministers intend to condemn Morocco's military initiatives on the grounds that these threaten to engulf the entire region in conflict, in addition to the sufferings inflicted on the local population, and what action do they intend to take through the appropriate channels to promote the resumption of the negotiating process along the lines laid down by the above-mentioned international organizations with a view to guaranteeing the right of the Saharan people to a homeland and helping to restore peace and full cooperation between the Maghreb states and peoples in the Mediterranean area?

8.3.1984

(X) Priority by reason of being carried over from preceding Question Time pursuant to the President's decision of 14.12.76

99. Question by Mrs VAN HEMELDONCK (H-34/84) (x)

Subject: Fate of the Zairian opposition

The thirteen former Members of the Zairian Parliament exiled by the Mobutu regime to remote villages in November 1983 are currently cut off from the outside world. The other members and supporters of the banned opposition party 'Union pour la Democratie et le Progres social' (UDPS) have been the victims of persecution. The entire opposition has recently been subjected to increased repression.

Representatives of the Belgian League for Human Rights and the National Centre for Development Cooperation have condemned the political reluctance of the Belgian Government to do anything to protect human rights in Zaire.

What representations will the Ministers make to the Zairian authorities to ascertain the fate of the exiled politicians and to demand that the Zairian Government respect human rights?

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-165/83),
converted into a question for question time

28.2.1984

PE 89.216

100. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-24/84)

Subject: Treatment of Syrian Jewry

In its 1983 Report Amnesty International expressed its concern about the violation of human rights in Syria, yet on December 28th, 1983, Mrs Lilian ABADI, a young Jewish mother with her two small children was brutally murdered. Will the Foreign Ministers make representations to the Syrian Government to bring the perpetrators of this crime to justice, and to remove the dangers and restrictions to which Syrian Jews are subjected, particularly the prevention of their emigration (the right to which is governed by Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of which Syria is a signatory)?

16.03.1984

101. Question by Mr TYRRELL (H-37/84)

Subject : Freedom of religious practice and belief in the
Soviet Union

Are the Foreign Ministers prepared to pursue vigorously with the Soviet authorities the numerous abuses of its own constitution and undertakings in CSCE in their persecution of religious believers, recent examples being : Fathers TAMKEVICIUS and S. VARINSKAS in Lithuania, and in Moscow, Mr Vladimir ALBREKHT (former secretary of Amnesty International), Ms. Sofya BELYAK, Mr Arkady IVANOV, Mr Stephan KOSTYUK, and Father Alexander PIVOVAROV?

23.3.1984

102. Question by Lord BETHELL (H-40/84)

Subject : Former soviet soldiers in the hands of the
Afghan Resistance

What discussions have the Foreign Ministers or their representatives had about the problem of former soviet soldiers in the hands of the Afghan Resistance; are the ten Member States ready in principle, in view of the danger that those men may soon die or be killed, to offer them asylum?

26.3.1984

