

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

# Working Documents

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1 March 1979

DOCUMENT 658/78

ORAL QUESTION (0-138/78)

with debate pursuant to Rule 47 of the Rules of Procedure by Mrs KROUWEL-VLAM, Mr W. MÜLLER, Mr BREGEGERE, Lord KENNET and Mr EDWARDS

on behalf of the Socialist Group

to the Commission of the European Communities

Subject: Health protection

Between 1966 and 1975 the consumption of medicines increased by 156% in France and by 135% in Italy. This trend is not confined to these two countries and is causing concern among the medical profession throughout the Community.

The over-prescribing of medicines places a burden on the national health services and excessive or unreasonable self-medication is a threat to public health.

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1. What measures does the Commission intend to take to halt excessive consumption and wastage of medicines?
2. Does the Commission not feel there is an urgent need to launch a preventive informational and educational public health campaign among consumers?
3. Since the Council has not adopted the directives of June 1976 on the advertizing of proprietary medicines, does the Commission intend to submit a new proposal for a directive? If so, how will it differ from the first proposal?
4. Is the Commission prepared to take account in any new directive of the requests which Parliament is currently drafting in an own-initiative report on self-midication?