

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

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ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME

on 11 and 12 October 1983

1. Question by Mr EISMA (H-222/83)^(x)

Subject: Part-time working in the European institutions

According to the answer to my written questions 1422/82 and 1423/82¹, only about 1.8% of staff are working part-time in the Community institutions.

The Council has moreover rejected a proposal to introduce 75%-time working.

Given the consensus that the redistribution of work should be encouraged, not least by promoting part-time work, does the Council agree with me that it is setting a bad example and what steps is it considering in order to improve matters?

10.6.1983

(1) OJ C 29, 3.2.83, p. 14

2. Question by Mr NORMANTON (H-235/83)^(x)

Subject : Energy Investment in the Developing countries

Does the Council intend to give the Commission new instructions in order to fulfil the Community's commitment, at the Williamsburg Summit, to give special attention to the flow of resources for energy production in the developing countries ?

16.6.1983

(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 Jack STEWART-CLARK (H-267/83) (x)

Subject: Public Holidays

A recent Commission survey of public holidays in the Member States shows the highest number to be 14 and the lowest only 8 days holiday per year. Staff in the Community institutions however receive no less than 22 public holidays every year.

Can the Council explain how the figure of 22 is established?

4.7.83

4. Question by Mr LALOR (H-323/83) (x)

Subject : The problems of smaller economies within the EEC

What action has the German Presidency initiated in relation to giving special attention to the problems of smaller economies such as Ireland which the Presidency stated recently it intended to take?

9.8.1983

5. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-164/83)

Subject: Patent Convention

Will the Council give a progress report on ratification of the Patent Convention and state when it thinks this convention can actually be brought into force?

19.5.1983

(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 ISRAEL (H-286/83)

Subject : Teaching of human rights in the Community

Since consideration of a resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 11 March 1982 on 'a Community programme in the field of education' figured on the agenda of the most recent meeting of the Council of Ministers of Education, which took place in Luxembourg on 2 June 1983, does the Council agree that it would be logical for it to turn its attention now to the question of the teaching of human rights in the European Community, particularly in view of the report adopted by the European Parliament on 18 October 1982?

Is not the teaching of human rights, particularly in military academies, police colleges and civil service training establishments of sufficient importance to warrant action by the Council?

19.5.1983

7. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-219/83)

Subject: Relaxation of controls at internal Community borders

Would the Council explain how it and its officials are discussing with the national delegations the Commission's proposal for a Council resolution to relax controls at internal Community borders without having information on the legal bases and the procedures currently involved in carrying out checks, which were the subject of my Written Question No. 2292/82¹? Has the Council availed itself in this matter of Article 152 of the EEC Treaty (request for specific studies) vis-à-vis the Commission and when may the results be expected?

10.6.1983

¹ OJ No. C 136, 24.5.83, p.19

8. Question by Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU (H-273/83)

Subject: Immediate implementation of the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes

What specific steps does the Council of Ministers propose to take in the immediate future to put into effect the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes proposed by the Commission, the implementation of which would be a particularly timely move for the development of the most backward and disadvantaged regions of the Community?

4.7.1983

9. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-289/83)

Subject : Mediterranean Monk Seal

In the light of the Parliament's resolutions on this subject and the action taken by the Council on the Harp and Hooded seal, what action has been taken to reverse the deteriorating position of the Mediterranean Monk Seal ?

5. 7.1983

10. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-292/83)

Subject : Responsibility to Parliament of COREPER

The President-in-Office reminded Parliament on 5 July that COREPER was an organ of the Council and was responsible to it.

Will he now seek the agreement of the Council to publish Press Releases, similar to those of the Council but containing more detail, to inform the European Parliament and the public of the course of discussions in COREPER and of the decisions taken by it ?

7. 7.1983

11. Question by Dame Shelagh ROBERTS (H-356/83)

Subject : Discrimination against black British day trippers
by the French immigration authorities

Is the Council aware that the French immigration authorities have recently refused entry to France of black British day trippers engaged on a "no passport" excursion from the United Kingdom to France;

will the Council agree that in addition to being an example of offensive discrimination this action is an infringement of the rights of Community citizens to travel freely within the Community, and what action does the Council propose to take?

6.9.1983

12. Question by Mr MAFFRE-BAUGE (H-360/83)

Subject: American wine imports to the EEC

On 26 July the Commission signed an agreement on wine with the United States in the form of an exchange of letters. This agreement will allow American wine, produced without regard to the quality standards imposed in the EEC, to enter into unfair competition with Community wines. This is a hard blow to wine growers in the southern part of the Community who for years have been pursuing a policy based on quality.

Did the Council authorize the Commission to sign this agreement?

12.9.1983

13. Question by Mr WURTZ (H-361/83)

Subject: The American export offensive on agricultural markets

In its statement of June 1982, the European Council considered that 'it was a matter of the utmost importance:

- (a) vigorously to defend the legitimate interests of the Community in the appropriate fora, notably in GATT;
- (b) to ensure that the Community acts as swiftly and effectively as its trade partners in matters of commercial policy'.

Since this statement was published, the United States have launched a huge export offensive aimed at taking over the Community's traditional markets.

This began with the sale of one million tonnes of flour to Egypt. The Commission's pledges to limit cereal exports have proved totally ineffective, since they have not prevented the United States from following up this deal by selling considerable quantities of subsidized dairy products to Egypt (18,000 tonnes of butter and 10,000 tonnes of cheese) and supplying Morocco with 200,000 tonnes of wheat.

Further to its statement of June 1982, does the Council not consider it necessary to encourage the Commission to take a firmer line in negotiations with the United States to thwart this offensive?

12.9.1983

14. Question by Mr GAUTIER (H-373/83)

Subject: Council meetings

When will the Presidency finally produce definite results from the series of Council meetings that has already begun on outstanding matters relating to the completion of the internal market?

14.9.1983

15. Question by Mr ANTONIOZZI (H-382/83)

Subject: Promotion of the bergamot orange

A meeting of the Committee for the promotion of the bergamot orange was held in Rome, under the auspices of the Reggio Calabria regional Chamber of Commerce, at the headquarters of the Union of Italian Chambers of Commerce.

That being so, I wish to ask what measures and initiatives the Council intends to take in support of such an important and typical Mediterranean product, for which a special international committee has been set up?

15. 9.1983

16. Question by Mrs EWING (H-389/83)

Subject : Meeting of the Council of Fisheries Ministers

Will the President-in-Office comment on the outcome of the last meeting of the Council of Fisheries Ministers ?

20. 9.1983

17. Question by Mr IRMER (H-394/83)

Subject: Provision of information to Parliament by the Council

Is the Council willing, in accordance with the Solemn Declaration of the European Council in Stuttgart, to provide unofficial, confidential information to the appropriate committees of the European Parliament on the negotiating brief for the follow-up convention to Lomé II to take account of Parliament's resolution of 16 September 1983?

23.9.1983

18. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-398/83)

Subject : Meetings by the Council

When did the Council last discuss in the course of one of its meetings whether any of its sessions, or parts thereof, should be held in public ?

26. 9.1983

19. Question by Mrs PANTAZI (H-403/83)

Subject: Information technologies and vocational training policies

On 17 May 1983 Parliament adopted a resolution in favour of the draft resolution of the Council concerning vocational training policies in the European Communities in the 1980s and of the communication from the Commission on vocational training and new information technologies: new Community initiatives during the period 1983-1987.

Parliament believes that vocational training policy must be an integral part of a general policy to combat unemployment, and stresses the need for the Social and Regional Development Funds to be used to finance training programmes.

Can the Council say what action has been taken on these matters?

26.9.1983

20. Question by Mr ADAMOU (H-407/83)

Subject: Persecution of migrant workers - xenophobia - racism

The recent local government elections in Dreux, France, and the latest measures on migrant workers taken by the West German Government show that, against the background of the deep economic crisis, a climate of persecution of migrant workers, xenophobia and racism is developing.

How exactly does the Council assess the situation, and what specific steps does it intend to take ?

28.9.1983

21. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-410/83)

Subject: The Greek fishing fleet

At the recent meeting of the Council of Ministers responsible for fisheries it was proposed that vessels whose replacement or modernization is to be financed should be more than 12 metres in length, while old vessels which are to be decommissioned or withdrawn should be more than 18 metres in length. However, the application of such a scheme will virtually exclude the Greek fishing fleet, since, most Greek vessels being under 12 metres long, no funds will be available for their replacement. What immediate steps does the Council propose to take to ensure that the Council decisions on the replacement and modernization of fishing fleets will also apply to Greece's fishing fleet in 1983 and 1984, seeing that the finance in question was provided in 1982 and that the immediate needs of Greek fishermen cannot be met by recourse to the Mediterranean Programmes?

28.9.1983

22. Question by Mr EPIDEMIDIS (H-412/83)

Subject: 'Berufsverbot' in the FRG

The Council has repeatedly expressed its desire to defend human rights. What steps could it take in the case of Professor Claus Lipps of Baden-Württemberg in the FRG, who in 1982 was dismissed for the second time on the grounds of his membership of the German Communist Party?

28.9.1983

23. Question by Mr COLLINS (H-421/83)

Subject : Lead in petrol

Can Council confirm that the question of "Lead in petrol" will be on the Environment Council's agenda to be held on 28 November 1983 in Brussels as indicated during the latest Council meeting on 16/17 June 1983 in Luxemburg ?

The pressrelease of the same date on this subject reads as follows : "The Council will examine an interim report as its next meeting with a view to preparing for the examination of the proposals which the Commission will be presenting around 15 April 1984.

29. '9.1983

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

24. Question by Mrs EWING (H-178/83)^(x)

Subject : Release of five Cuban citizens , together with their lawyers

Could the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation bring pressure to bear on Cuban Authorities to release from prison five Cuban citizens, together with their lawyers, who sought to establish a free trade union ?

27.5.1983

25. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-254/83)^(x)

Subject : Parliaments resolution on the Iran-Iraq war

Following Parliament's urgent resolution of 19 May 1983 (1) urging the Community to offer its good offices in mediation for a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war, what decision has been made by the EEC Foreign Ministers as to such a political initiative and what, if any, action has been taken ?

23.6.1983

(1) PV 15 of 19.5.1983 - PE 84.774

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

26. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-287/83) (X)

Subject: Withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan

Have the Ministers of the Ten been informed of the tenor of the indirect negotiations currently being conducted by Pakistan and representatives of the Government in Kabul; do they consider that they should encourage this diplomatic initiative by Pakistan, the aim of which is to achieve the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan; and do they not consider that the time has now come to recognize the Afghan resistance as a legitimate national liberation movement, as requested by the European Parliament (in its resolution of June 1982)?

5.7.1985

27. Question by Mr LAGAKOS (H-320/83) (X)

Subject: The situation in Central America

In view of the positions adopted by the Ten on Central America, as expressed in the conclusions of the European Council summit in Stuttgart, what view do the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation take of the recent decision by the President of the United States of America to set up a special commission on Central America headed by the former Secretary of State, Dr Kissinger?

What view do they take of the stance adopted by countries such as Honduras towards Nicaragua, given the dangers inherent in the area, and how do they intend to support the initiative of the Contadora group of countries which was favourably received by the Stuttgart summit?

9.8.1983

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

28. Question by Mrs DURY (H-352/83) (x)

Subject: Acquisition and possession of firearms by private individuals

What stage has been reached in the work by the Ministers of the Interior and of Justice meeting in political cooperation as the 'Trevi Group' on harmonizing the legislation on the acquisition and possession of firearms by private individuals and on standardizing and imposing joint control over arms exports from one State to another?

30.8.1983

29. Question by Mr HABSBERG (H-262/83)

Subject: Afghanistan

Having regard to the continued Soviet genocide in Afghanistan and the unwillingness of the USSR to agree to a solution of the problem which respects the right of self-determination, as well as the dangers to international peace which arise from this fact, would the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation be prepared to propose a joint conference with the Foreign Ministers of the States belonging to the Islamic Conference with the aim of finding a political solution to the Afghanistan problem?

29. 6.1983

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

30. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-339/83)

Subject : European Companies in South Africa

A report has been published in a British newspaper, The Observer, stating that the following companies in South Africa are breaking the E.E.C. Code of Conduct, by paying wages below even the E.E.C.'s rather modest minimum recommendations.

British Electric Traction.

Quinton Hazell (Of which the British Prime Minister's husband is a director).

Dunlop.

GKN.

Lonhro.

Low & Bonar.

Turner & Newall.

Wimpey.

Does the Council of Ministers propose to take any action to remedy this disgraceful state of affairs?

17.8.1983

31. Question by Mr ADAMOU (H-341/83)

Subject : Heinous policy of the Evren junta

Two Turkish prisoners, Mehmet Demirtzan and Hasan Tzan, who were on hunger strike have died from exhaustion and continual torture in the prisons of Istanbul. Thousands of others are continuing the hunger strike, which began on 8 July in the prisons of Istanbul and spread to prisons in Tsanakale, Malatya, Diyanbakir and the Black Sea, demanding an end to torture and better living conditions. What measures do the Foreign Ministers intend to take to put an end to the torture of prisoners and save the lives of the hunger strikers in Turkey, having particular regard to the steadily growing movement throughout Europe in support of the hunger strikers and condemning the Turkish junta of Evren which suppresses all basic human rights?

19.8.1983

32. Question by Mr KYRKOS (H-351/83)

Subject: The proposal of the Greek Government to postpone for six months the stationing of Cruise and Pershing Missiles in Europe

The Greek Government has proposed that the stationing of Cruise and Pershing Missiles should be postponed for six months in order to allow more time for the negotiations in Geneva.

The hasty rejection of this proposal by certain governments shows not only the extent to which the cold war line laid down by the American leadership but also may cause the peoples of the Community to harbour grave doubts with regard to the attitudes of their leaders at the very time when crucial issues are under discussion with a view to European integration.

Can the Ministers meeting in political cooperation say whether they will take advantage of the proposal by the Greek Government and postpone the stationing of Cruise and Pershing Missiles for six months in order to allow more time for the negotiations in Geneva?

29.8.1983

33. Question by Lord O'HAGAN (H-370/83)

Subject: European Political Cooperation

Will the Greek Presidency now describe the ways in which it has made European Political Cooperation more effective?

14.9.1983

34. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-372/83)

Subject: The tragic death in Berlin of Kemal ALTUN, a Turkish national

What conclusions as regards the European judicial area do the Ministers meeting in political cooperation draw from this tragic suicide, and do they intend to review on behalf of the Ten the automatic extradition agreements with the Turkish dictatorship?

14.9.1983

35. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-385/83)

Subject : Piracy off Lagos

Do the Foreign Ministers believe that their protests to the Government of Nigeria on assaults on shipping by pirates off Lagos will have any beneficial effect ?

15. 9.1983

36. Question by Sir Peter VANNECK (H-393/83)

Subject : Protection of the Community's oil supplies from the
Middle East

In view of the importance to economic and social life in all Member States of oil supplies from the Middle East, has the time come for member states to share the burden in finance, material and men of protecting sea lanes for oil tankers bringing oil to Ireland, Denmark, Britain, Netherlands, Germany, France, Luxembourg, Italy and Greece, only two member states bearing this burden in 1983 through the deployment of naval vessels in the Straits of Hormuz ?

22.9.1983

37. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-411/83)

Subject: Pressures on the Greek Government to determine its foreign policy

Can the Ministers meeting in political cooperation say to what degree 'political cooperation' is based on the principle of unanimity and whether it is possible only when there is unanimity of opinion among the Ten; and if it is so because there are such vehement reactions to the Greek stand-points on the Boeing affair from the partners in 'political cooperation' themselves?

28.9.1983

38. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-413/83)

Subject: Unacceptable acts of war by the USA in Lebanon

Since the beginning of the second half of September American forces have been intervening directly in the civil war in Lebanon. These actions by the USA go clearly beyond the bounds and the original aims of the multinational force, which was set up to prevent clashes between Israeli and Arab forces, constitute foreign intervention in Lebanon's internal affairs, hit other countries in the region, such as Syria, and generate risks of a more widespread flare-up in the region. The USA's unacceptable acts of war have met with direct and indirect criticism from the governments of EEC Member States such as France, Italy, Greece and others.

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation say what specific measures they are going to take to condemn and discourage American military intervention in Lebanon, which is clearly outside the framework of the EEC's Middle East policy, and to secure the immediate withdrawal of the multinational force, as called for by the National Salvation Front of Lebanon?

28.9.1983

39. Question by Mr PÖTTERING (H-417/83)

Subject: Agreement on judicial cooperation between Greece and the GDR

Can the President of the Council state what steps are being taken by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation to ensure that fugitives from the GDR attempting to flee to the West via Greece are not extradited to the GDR on the basis of the agreement on judicial cooperation concluded between Greece and the GDR?

28.9.1983

40. Question by Lord BETHELL (H-419/83)

Subject : Release of Jermak Lukjanow

What action have the Foreign Ministers taken as a result of the European Parliament resolution of September 15 about Jermak Lukjanow, a Belgian citizen presently under sentence of death in the Soviet Union ?

28.9.1983

41 Question by Mr COUSTE (H-165/83)(x)

Subject: Obstacles to passage across frontiers

Has the Commission noted, in recent weeks, a growing number of obstacles to passage of both goods and persons across frontiers, and what is its response to this deteriorating situation?

19.5.1983

42. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-290/83) (x)

Subject : U.S. Unitary Tax

In view of the continuing use by many States of the USA of imposing taxation of companies on their world wide profits (ie the unitary tax system) and the recent confirmation by the Supreme Court of the USA of this practice what action does the Commission now propose to take to alleviate this double taxation of a number of European operations ?

6. 7.1983

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

43. Question by Miss QUIN (H-300/83) (x)

Subject : Shipbuilding

When will the Commission introduce a Directive, to supersede the 5th Shipbuilding Directive, in order to provide effective measures for European shipbuilding to survive the present crisis as was requested by the European Parliament in its debate on shipbuilding at the February part-session of the European Parliament?

8.7.1983

44. Question by Mr SIMMONDS (H-301/83) (x)

Subject : Electricity and gas prices in the Community

In the light of the report in Usine Nouvelle, n. 13, of 31st March 1983, that the aluminium producer, Pechiney-Ugine-Kuhlmann, is being supplied with electricity at a special low price, to what extent is competition among many industrial energy consumers distorted by the lack of transparency in electricity and gas prices?

11.7.1983

45. Question by Mrs PRUVOT (H-305/83) (x)

Subject: Change in Community wines policy

Can the Commission provide details concerning the arguments advanced by the United States in negotiations with the Community to justify the export of wines which do not conform to European standards?

15.7.1983

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

46. Question by Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU (H-306/83) (x)

Subject: Increase in Yugoslav transit dues

In May this year the Yugoslav Government decided to triple the transit dues on lorries in transit through its territory.

What steps has the Commission taken or does it propose to take in response to that country's decision, which has a considerable negative impact on the transport of agricultural and other products from Greece to the EEC Member-States and vice versa, bearing in mind that Yugoslavia is linked to the European Community by a special agreement?

18. 7.1983

47. Question by Mrs NIELSEN (H-310/83) (x)

Subject : Harmonization of postal charges within the Community

What does the Commission propose to do to harmonize postal charges within the Community, and does not the Commission consider that the present discriminatory treatment has a distorting effect on competition and is incompatible with the plans for an internal market?

There are significant variations in the rules in force for letters weighing over 20g and postal packets, depending on whether they are being sent to addresses in Denmark or to the other countries in the Community.

20. 7.1983

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

49. Question by Mr GEROKOSTOPOULOS (H-280/83) *

Subject: Greek edition of the comparative CEDEFOP study
of vocational training systems in Community
Member States

The European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (CEDEFOP) published a comparative study in 1982 entitled 'Description of the Vocational Training Systems in Member States of the European Community'. The preface to this book, which sets out guidelines for a common form of European vocational training, states that the study is to be published in a Greek edition including the relevant information on Greece which was not included in the original edition. Apparently the announcement made in the preface has not so far been put into effect.

Can the Commission say:

1. Why the said CEDEFOP study has not been published in a Greek translation to be circulated in Greece for the information of interested parties;
2. If, in the meantime, Greece's positions on vocational training and the guidelines for a common European policy on that subject have yet been communicated, and, if so, what the Greek positions are?

26.5.1983

* Former oral question without debate (0-37/83) converted into a question for question time.

50. Question by Mr. WEDEKIND (H-366/83) *

Subject: Fair taxation of spirits

The different tax systems and tax rates in the European Community continue to cause distortions of competition; this is particularly evident in the taxation of alcoholic beverages. A comparison of taxes on alcohol in the Community shows that wine is taxed prohibitively in a number of Member States.

- Does the Commission not consider, therefore, that in certain Member States the method of calculating tax on wine is intended purely and simply a means of protecting the home market and a protectionist measure to keep out alternative products in this sector?
- What steps does the Commission intend to take to remove this barrier to trade, or what efforts have already been made by the Commission on this issue?
- Does the Commission not consider that the equal taxation of alcoholic beverages in the Member States of the Community, which would prevent individual types of beverages being favoured or disadvantaged, would help to reduce over-production in the wine sector?

10. 6.1983

* Former oral question without debate (0-46/83), converted into a question for question time.

51. Question by Mr KAZAZIS (H-238/83)

Subject: Deletion of Article 772 from the Preliminary Draft General Budget for 1984 relating to Community measures for certain crisis-hit industrial sectors

On the initiative of the European Parliament, the Commission set up Article 772 ('Community measures for certain crisis-hit industrial sectors') and wrote a token entry into the 1983 budget. In the present economic state of recession and loss of competitiveness at international level in which many sectors of the Community find themselves, and to make a stand against the difficulties arising from international competition, the rise in the price of energy and the application of new technologies, the Commission should have respected the unanimous wish of the European Parliament and activated that article when implementing the 1983 budget. Instead, the Commission arbitrarily deleted Article 772 from the 1983 preliminary draft budget. Can the Commission tell us why it was deleted (has European industry recovered its competitiveness in the meanwhile)? And does the Commission intend to rectify this mistake?

16.6.1983

52. Question by Mr de FERRANTI (H-245/83)

Subject : Abolition of Excise Duties

If the Commission is still pursuing its objective of abolishing excise duties on articles which produce comparatively little revenue, as stated in its Written Question No 280/82 (1) in June 1982, what progress has been made and what action is proposed to harmonise or abolish excise duties on matches and lighters in the four countries where they are levied ?

20. 6.1983

(1) O.J. No C 188 of 22.7.1982, p.18

53. Question by Mrs HAMMERICH (H-247/83)

Subject: The Scandinavian Passport Union

Will the Commission give Danish voters an assurance that the Scandinavian Passport Union will continue unrestricted and unchanged?

21. 6.1983

54. Question by Mr Gérard FUCHS (H-270/83)

Subject: Coordination of development policy between EEC and Member States

Can the Commission state precisely what information it receives from Member States as to their participation in development projects or programmes?

4.7.1983

55. Question by Mr BORD (H-284/83)

Subject: Member States and the European Monetary System

Could the Commission outline the consequences for the Community of the withdrawal of one of the Member States from the European Monetary System?

5.7.1983

56. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-285/83)

Subject: Teaching of human rights in the Community

Will President Thorn, as the Member of the Commission responsible for cultural affairs and education, attempt to persuade his colleagues of the desirability of drawing up proposals for submission to the Council on the basis of the report adopted by the European Parliament on 18 October 1982 on the teaching of human rights in the European Community?

Is the teaching of human rights, particularly in civil service, military and police colleges, not considered sufficiently important to justify action by the Commission?

5.7.1983

57. Question by Sir James SCOTT-HOPKINS (H-296/83)

Subject : Unfair trading practices

Would the Commission state the average length of time taken from the making of complaints of unfair trading practices to decisions being reached by DG.4 in 1980, 1981, 1982 and the longest and shortest time taken in those years.

7. 7.1983

58. Question by Mr HABSBURG (H-312/83/rev.)

Subject : Distortions in East-West trade

Further to the written reply given by the Commission to my Question No. H-203/83¹ on 6 July 1983, I should appreciate a reply to the following question:

What are the special provisions applying to imports from countries with a centralized planned economy and a foreign trade monopoly to which the Commission's reply refers, and does the commission really believe that they offset the distorting effect on competition of the current policies pursued by the Communist state-trading countries or afford our economy adequate protection?

21.7.1983

¹Verbatim Report of proceedings of the European Parliament, 6.7.1983, p. 199 - professional edition

59. Question by Mr GERONIMI (H-329/83)

Subject: Pilot project for an operating subsidy for fares
on ferries to Corsica

Following the adoption of the Harris report on the peripheral maritime regions and islands, will the Commission be putting forward appropriate proposals for a pilot project for operating subsidies for fares on ferries to Corsica?

9.8.1983

60. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-330/83)

Subject : Sunday Trading Laws

In which member nations of the Community, is Sunday trading forbidden or severely restricted by law; will the Commission consider harmonising legislation to prevent this type of restriction to free trade and customer choice?

9.8.1983

61. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-331/83)

Subject : Beer

Will the Commission confirm that, in its contacts with the German Government over health and consumer policies (Question H-170/83) (1), it is insisting that the German Government accepts the same rules for exports of beer from Germany as for imports into Germany, the same rules for wine as for beer and also for the prior treatment of water used in making beer; will it indicate the German Government's reaction to this ?

10.8.1983

(1) Verbatim report of proceedings of the European Parliament of 8.6.1983, Provisional edition

62. Question by Mr LOMAS (H-338/83)

Subject : European Companies in South Africa

A report has been published in a British newspaper, The Observer, stating that the following companies in South Africa are breaking the E.E.C. Code of Conduct, by paying wages below even the E.E.C.'s rather modest minimum recommendations.

British Electric Traction.

Quinton Hazell (Of which the British Prime Minister's husband is a director).

Dunlop.

GKN.

Lonhro.

Low & Bonar.

Turner & Newall.

Wimpey.

Does the Commission propose to take any action to remedy this disgraceful state of affairs?

17.8.1983

63. Question by Mr COLLINS (H-350/83)

Subject : Lead in petrol and the enlargement of the EEC

The current levels for lead in petrol in Spain are 0.65 g/l (98 RON), 0.48 (90 RON) and 0.635 in Portugal. These levels are higher than the 0.40 maximum permitted level in the 1978 directive on lead in petrol.

Has the Commission received requests from the Spanish and Portuguese authorities for any exemptions or periods of adaptation to the directive and if so, what is the outcome of the discussions?

29.8.1983

64. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-355/83)

Subject : Guidelines for adaptation of the CAP

If the Commission intends to apply guarantee thresholds product by product indiscriminately throughout the Community, will it be taking account of regional distortions...by providing for exemptions in its proposals for regions where small farms predominate? If so, for which products and on what terms could Wallonia enjoy special status?

6.9.1983

65. Question by Mrs LE ROUX (H-358/83)

Subject: Sale of American dairy products to Egypt

Despite the concessions made by the Commission in its discussions with the United States, the latter have followed up the 'flour' deal by selling substantial quantities of dairy products to Egypt on terms incompatible with the rules of GATT.

Can the Commission state the exact conditions under which this sale took place and on the counter-measures envisaged?

12.9.1983

66. Question by Mr MARTIN (H-359/83)

Subject: The price of wine destined for preventive distillation

The aim of preventive distillation, as provided for in the Community regulations on wine, is to deal with surpluses from the previous season and eliminate poor quality wine from the new season. Since it is optional and open to all wine growers without quota restrictions, it can only be effective if prices are sufficiently attractive. Preventive distillation was relatively ineffective in 1982 because the prices offered were too low compared with market prices.

The European Commission has refused to learn from experience and has fixed prices for the 1983/84 season at an absurdly low level, namely lower than last year's level.

Preventive distillation will thus be unable to fulfil its role properly, and eliminate poor quality wines right at the beginning of the season. These wines will subsequently adversely affect the market and this may lead to distillation during the season which will weigh heavily on the Community budget.

To rectify this state of affairs and begin the 1983/84 season under the best possible conditions, will the Commission reverse its decision and raise preventive distillation prices to 75% of the guide price?

12.9.1983

67. Question by Mr EISMA (H-362/83)

Subject: Lead in petrol

At its meeting of 16 and 17 June 1983 the Council of Environment Ministers asked the Commission to draw up an interim report for the next Environment Council in November by way of preparation for the decision on the lead content of petrol to be taken in April 1984.

Is the Commission prepared to forward this interim report to Parliament at an early date, so that it can be discussed by Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection, in the presence of a Commission representative, before the forthcoming Environment Council?

12.9.1983

68. Question by Mr PURVIS (H-363/83)

Subject: Imported polyethylene material

During 1982 Commission External Trade statistics show that Benelux imported 1984 tonnes of polyethylene material of less than 3 metres in length and bags from Taiwan against an agreed quota of 48 tonnes. Allowing for temporary imports for processing and re-export, the figure is still 816 tonnes or 1700 per cent of the agreed quota. What action is the Commission taking to rectify these excesses which are damaging to EEC producers?

13.9.1983

69. Question by Mr AIGNER (H-369/83)

Subject: Nicaragua

Will the Commission inform the European Parliament who is the consignee for food aid to Nicaragua, the amount of the aid, and who is checking the use made of it?

13.9.1983

70. Question by Mrs SCHLEICHER (H-371/83)

Subject: Oil pollution of the North Sea

In March the European Parliament, by large majorities, adopted two resolutions expressing its great concern at the constantly increasing oil pollution of the North Sea and the related death of birds. It requested the Commission inter alia to introduce certain immediate measures and to arrange jointly with the European Parliament a hearing on the island of Heligoland at the earliest opportunity with all the institutions and parties concerned by this problem.

What action has the Commission taken in response to Parliament's resolutions, and has it yet started work on the arrangements for a hearing on the island of Heligoland?

14.9.1983

71. Question by Mr KIRK (H-377/83)

Subject: French import measures

In July 1983 the Commission requested the French Government to desist from the action it had taken to limit inter alia imports of chest freezers from other Member States.

Does the Commission intend to bring this specific case and other similar cases before the Court of Justice of the European Community as a matter of urgency, if the French Government does not immediately comply with this request?

15.9.1983

72. Question by Mr ANTONIOZZI (H-381/83)

Subject: Promotion of the bergamot orange

A meeting of the Committee for the promotion of the bergamot orange was held in Rome, under the auspices of the Reggio Calabria regional Chamber of Commerce, at the headquarters of the Union of Italian Chambers of Commerce.

That being so, I wish to ask what measures and initiatives the Commission intends to take in support of such an important and typical Mediterranean product, for which a special international committee has been set up?

15. 9.1983

73. Question by Mr. CLINTON (H-386/83)

Subject : Enforcement of fisheries regulations

Does the Commission intend to publish statistics of infringements of Community fishing regulations in Community waters by
a) Community fishing vessels and b) third country fishing vessels
and can the Commission please say when these statistics will be available ?

16. 9.1983

74. Question by Mr ADAM (H-387/83)

Subject : Trade with Japan

Will the Commission state when they intend to publish the report, undertaken on behalf of the Commission by the Tokyo office of the PA Consulting Group, on trade with Japan ?

19. 9.1983

75. Question by Mrs EWING (H-388/83)

Subject : Fishery negotiations with Spain

Will the Commission comment on recent progress made in fishery negotiations with Spain ?

20. 9.1983

76. Question by Mr von WOGAU (H-391/83)

Subject : Abuse of stickers and product labels for protectionist purposes

Is the Commission aware that there is currently an increasing tendency for various Member States of the Community to require stickers and product labels to use the national language in addition to the prescribed EEC product symbols and does the Commission share the view that this practice contravenes the rules on free trading laid down by the EEC Treaty unless it is absolutely necessary on safety grounds?

20.9.1983

77.

Question by Mr KEY (H-399/83)

Subject: Blackbird pâté made by the G. Alessandri Company in Corsica

Is the Commission aware that the G. Alessandri Company, of Bastia, Corsica, is manufacturing and selling blackbird pâté, does not the Commission consider this to be a clear breach of Article 6(1) of the Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409) and what action does the Commission intend to take to put a stop to this breach of the Directive, and over what time period?

26. 9.1983

78.

Question by Mrs DUPORT (H-401/83)

Subject: Imports of American wines

Faced with increasing wine production, the United States is seeking to export to European countries.

Domestically it authorizes products and practices which can be hazardous to health, for example, wines subjected to a process of ionization, which are prohibited in the Community countries.

Consultations between the United States and the Commission have just culminated in an exchange of letters, with the endorsement of the Member States, on 26 July 1983. The Commission envisages certain exceptions to Community provisions to allow imports of certain American wines.

Can the Commission say why such exceptions are being made for the United States, which is, incidentally, quite rigid about the products it will import; and has it consulted European consumers' associations and wine growers' unions?

26. 9.1983

79.

Question by Mrs PANTAZI (H-402/83)

Subject: Social security schemes for workers moving within the Community

On 16 May 1983 Parliament adopted a resolution in favour of the proposal to amend Regulations 1408/71 and 574/72 on the application of social security schemes to employed persons, the self-employed and their families moving within the Community.

Can the Commission say what progress has so far been made on the above matter?

26.9.1983

80.

Question by Mr ADAMO (H-406/83)

Subject: Risk of liquidation of Arta poultry-farming cooperative

The poultry-farming cooperative in Arta, the second largest cooperative of its type in Greece, has decided to cut its production and its blue-collar staff by 50% from 1.7.1983 as a move to stave off its complete liquidation. The cause, as it is formulated in the decision by the Cooperative's board of directors, is 'the heedless and unrestricted importation of poultry products' since Greece's accession to the EEC and 'the complete indifference of the State as to the fate of poultry-farming'.

What steps does the Commission propose to take to assist the Arta poultry-farming cooperative and, more generally, to deal with the problems faced by the poultry-farming sector in Greece, which is in danger of being wiped out by competition from Community poultry products?

28.9.1983

81. Question by Mr KYRKOS (H-409/83)

Subject: Economic counter-measures against Greece

Does the Commission propose to comment on or deny the rumours that there are plans to take economic counter-measures against Greece because of the special nature of its stand on certain international problems, and can an assurance be given by the Commission that no form of action will be taken to postpone, by the use of procedural or other pretexts, the furtherance of Greek demands which have already been agreed to?

28.9.1983

82. Question by Mr. PATTISON (H-416/83)

Subject : Significance of Rosslare Harbour to Regional and
Economic Development in Ireland

In view of the key position of Rosslare Harbour on the south-east corner of Ireland, for incoming and outgoing seaborne traffic, both commercial and tourist, and given its proximity to Dublin, its position at the end of the Belfast-Dublin-Rosslare main traffic route and its potential to contribute to the regional and economic development of Ireland, does the Commission agree that it is essential that this harbour be developed and further expanded, and will it state what Community assistance is available, either under Community transport policies or port development policies.

28. 9.1983

83. Question by Mrs NIKOLAOU (H-423/83)

Subject : Problem of financing the Proposal for a Council Regulation extending the common measure provided for in Regulation (EEC) No. 1975/82 on the acceleration of agricultural development in certain regions of Greece

The extension of Regulation (EEC) No. 1975/82 to additional regions of Greece satisfies a small part of the demands made in the Greek Memorandum. How does the Commission consider that the proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) (COM(83) 468 final, 22.7.83) extending the common measure provided for in Regulation (EEC) No. 1875/82 can be financed and then implemented when the necessary appropriations have not been earmarked in Article 329, item 3290, either of the Preliminary Draft or of the Draft General Budget 1984, and when it is not included in the 5-year endowment (Doc. Council 8506/14.7.83); and should consideration not be given to extending the Regulation to cover the cattle-breeding sector, with appropriations in keeping with its importance?

29.9.1983

84. Question by Mr KALOYANNIS (H-424/83)

Subject: Greece's participation in EEC development programmes for ACP countries.

As is known, Greece also pays a share of 1,000 million drachma per annum towards the costs of EEC development programmes for the ACP countries.

Can the Commission state why no Greek experts have to date been entrusted with the preparation of any kind of programme and on what criteria those who do prepare such programmes are chosen by the EEC Member States?

29.9.1983

85. Question by Lord BETHELL (H-426/83)

Subject : Discrimination against black British travellers
by the French immigration authorities

Is the Commission aware that in recent weeks many black British citizens have been refused entry to France, the majority while travelling on no-passport-excursion identity cards, but some while travelling on full British passports? Does it agree that this recent change of policy by the French Government amounts to racial discrimination as well as a clear violation of Community law? What steps is the Commission taking to enforce the law in this matter and to make sure that all Community citizens, irrespective of racial origin, are free to travel between member states?

30. 9.1983

86. Question by Mr BONDE (H-427/83)

Subject : Transport prices for cars to Denmark

Would the Commission kindly refrain from interfering in the matter of import prices for cars to Denmark?

30.9.1983

