

European Communities

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1982-1983

13 December 1982

DOCUMENT 1-1000/82

ORAL QUESTIONS

pursuant to Rule 44 of the Rules of Procedure

for QUESTION TIME on 14 and 15 December 1982

QUESTIONS TO THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

1. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-797/81)

Subject: European Space Policy

Will the Commission detail to Parliament the action it has taken on the motion for resolution contained in the report by Mr Turcat on European Space Policy?¹

2. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-401/82)

Subject: Four new Japans

In view of the industrial development in Asia of four new Japans - South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan - which are currently preparing for a transition from labour-intensive industries to high technology, has the Commission implemented the measures needed to ensure that Europe has a concerted plan to respond to competition from these countries?

3. Question by Mr DAVERN (H-412/82)

Subject: Deplorable state of farm incomes in County Kerry in Ireland

Is the Commission aware that only 15% of farmers in the County Kerry region of Ireland are generating a satisfactory income level, that 65% are not generating sufficient income to reach viability and that a further 12% are borderline cases and that such an intolerable situation is totally contrary to the aims of the Treaty and that the Community should take immediately steps to improve the incomes situation for all farmers?

¹ Doc. 1-326/81

4. Question by Mr MAHER (H-422/82)

Subject: Breakdown of C.A.P. finance

What proportion of the finance used in the C.A.P. for the support of European Agriculture is going directly to farmers in the Member States and what proportion is being used under other headings, including administration, at European level and at the level of the Member States?

5. Question by Mr LALOR (H-429/82)

Subject: Radioactive discharges in the Irish Sea

Is the Commission aware that the Irish Sea is now believed to contain the highest concentration of radioactive discharges of any area of similar size in the World and responsibility does it accept for this situation in view of the standards created under the Euratom Treaty?

6. Question by Mr LAGAKOS (H-441/82)

Subject : Criteria and methods employed by the Commission in filling high-level posts

As Commission figures show (Supplementary and Amending Preliminary Draft Budget - No. 1-1982-Administrative Appropriations), disproportionately fewer A1, A2, A3, A4, A5 and A6 posts are allocated to Greeks than to nationals of other Member States.

Can the Commission state what methods and criteria are employed in allocating the above-mentioned posts according to nationality and subject area and what is its policy for recruiting Greek officials for the Joint Research Centre, given that out of a total staff of 2,219 there is only one official of Greek nationality?

7. Question by Lord DOURO (H-446/82)

Subject : New Regulations concerning duty free goods sold to
intra-community travellers

In view of the large part of the worldwide Duty Free market held by manufactured goods from the EEC, is the Commission not concerned that the new Regulations concerning duty to be charged on third country products sold in Duty Free Shops, could produce retaliatory action by other countries or groups of countries which would be very damaging to EEC manufacturers?

8. Question by Mr PETERSEN (H-454/82)

Subject: Nuclear power stations

Is the Commission aware that the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in the United States has compiled a report for the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission which concludes that the risk of serious accidents in American nuclear power stations is one major accident per 1,000 reactor years and not, as officially accepted up to now, one major accident per 20,000 reactor years?

How does the Commission judge the relevance of this report to nuclear power policy in the Community, and is the Commission prepared to allow an independent research body, perhaps the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, to conduct a similar examination of the risks associated with nuclear power stations in the Community?

9. Question by Mrs SCRIVENER (H-459/82)

Subject: Vocational training for young people

The Commission is proposing a five-year action programme to enable young people to receive better vocational training before their first job. Has the Commission made specific provision for the organization of practical training schemes operated in a Member State other than that to which the participants belong, with a view to promoting not only the acquisition of greater technical skills but also the opportunity of mastering a foreign language and developing a sense of European identity?

10. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-464/82)

Subject: Aid to the Afghan refugees in Pakistan

In the chapter headed 'Afghan refugees in Pakistan' of its communication to the Council of 4 June 1982 (COM(82) 354 final), the Commission takes the view that it would be appropriate to supply the Afghan refugees with emergency aid of 10 million ECU. In its resolution on the situation in Afghanistan, adopted at the June 1982 part-session, the European Parliament called on the Commission to step up its aid to the Afghan refugees. Does the Commission consider that the action referred to in the abovementioned document fully complies with Parliament's request?

11. Question by Mr DENIAU (H-468/82)

Subject: Development of food aid policy

Does the Commission consider that food aid should be increased or, on the contrary, discouraged, and has it any plans for a programme of substitute measures?

12. Question by Mr PESMAZOGLU (H-487/82)

Subject: Unemployment benefit in Greece

Is the Commission aware that unemployment benefit in Greece is exceptionally low and is payable for an unacceptably short period of time, and what measures does it intend taking to reduce these serious inequalities between the States of the Community?

13. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-507/82)

Subject: Border controls

What progress has been made with work on the draft resolution on the relaxation of border controls at internal Community frontiers which the Commission recently submitted to the Council? When is this work likely to be concluded?

14. Question by Mr HOPPER (H-416/82) (x)

Subject : Regional growth throughout the Community

What is the Commission's opinion about the impact of the development of Stansted airport on the development of regional airports such as Manchester in the United Kingdom, on the Commission's desire to liberalise regulation of inter-regional services and on the Commission's own aspirations to promote regional growth throughout the Community?

15. Question by Mr GONTIKAS (H-134/82)

Subject: Discrimination against Greek citizens visiting the UK

Is the Commission aware that an inadmissible form of discrimination continues to exist in respect of Greek citizens visiting the UK where passport control is concerned?

Does not the Commission believe that one and a half years is time enough in which to apprise British officialdom that Greece is an official member of the EEC and what measures does the Commission intend to take?

(x) Former oral question without debate (0-68/82), converted into a question for question time

16. Question by Mr PRAG (H-387/82)

Subject : The addressing of mail

Requirements and standards for the addressing of mail vary widely between the Member States. Paradoxically, the adoption of post-codes by Member States, by requiring standardization on differing bases, appears to have increased rather than decreased the disparities in the methods now required or recommended. A uniform addressing method throughout the Community would help sorting offices and postmen, speed up postal deliveries, and increase business efficiency in all the Member States.

Will the Commission, therefore, put forward proposals for a uniform postal addressing method using the simplest and most effective elements of the formulae already developed by Member States?

17. Question by Mr COUSTE (H-389/82)

Subject: Future of the European monetary system

In view of the numerous monetary adjustments made in recent months within the European monetary system and the diverse reactions of European currencies to dollar fluctuations, does the Commission think that the European monetary system is functioning optimally? Should it not be strengthened and made more effective?

18. Question by Mr PRANCHERE (H-394/82)

Subject: Reduction of the increase in agricultural production costs

Farmers in countries with a high rate of inflation are facing substantial increases in their production costs. The European Parliament took this unfavourable situation into account in its resolution on agricultural prices for 1982-1983 which called on the Commission 'to propose supplementary measures enabling the increase in production costs to be reduced in countries with a high rate of inflation'. Will the Commission propose measures corresponding to this objective?

19. Question by Mr KIRK (H-452/82)

Subject: Violation of Articles 30-36 of the EEC Treaty

Whereas the EEC countries in general have regulations governing which colouring substances are permitted in foodstuffs, only Greece has regulations on the quantity of colouring substances and the percentage of water in caviar substitute. These regulations are impossible to comply with in the production of lumpfish caviar, the result being that this product - which is sold in all other EEC countries - is barred from the Greek market as long as the regulations are observed.

Does the Commission agree that these regulations are contrary to Articles 30-36 of the EEC Treaty and, if so, will it take steps to ensure that the Greek Government removes this barrier to trade?

20. Question by Mr Basil de FERRANTI (H-457/82)

Subject : Improving the quality of television broadcasts
transmitted via satellites

Television pictures will soon be transmitted from satellites directly to the home in all European countries. In view of the importance of picture quality to the viewer and the benefits that a common standard would bring, would the Commission now state its view on the Multiplex Analogue Component (MAC) system which has greater potential for future improvements than PAL and SECAM and which is currently being considered by the European Broadcasting Union and is the Commission preparing a proposal to the Council to ensure both better quality and standardisation?

21. Question by Mr ADAM (H-474/82)

Subject : Tobacco Taxation

What steps are the Commission taking to ensure that in all Member States the specific element of tobacco taxation, as a percentage of total taxation, is not less than 5% and can the Commission give an estimate of the date at which this minimum figure is expected to be reached?

22. Question by Mr MARSHALL (H-484/82)

Subject : Italian tobacco

What steps is the Commission taking to ensure that the Italian tobacco market becomes truly competitive; can it state the extent to which Italy has harmonised tobacco taxation?

23. Question by Mr McCARTIN (H-495/82)

Subject : Regional Fund

How does the Commission ensure that a proportionally greater level of funds for the Regional Funds reaches those areas within each Member State suffering from relatively greater disadvantage?

24. Question by Mr DE GUCHT (H-504/82)

Subject: Belgian T-zones

Is the Commission aware of the plans of the Belgian Government - and possibly the Dutch Government as well - to establish a number of 'T-zones' in which goods may be manufactured exempt from the tax rates obtaining in those countries and from the normally applicable business establishment procedures and if so, does it intend to give its approval to these projects?

25. Question by Mr BONACCINI (H-506/82)

Subject: The civil electronics industry

The civil electronics industry in Italy has for some time now been in a state of crisis, witness the closure of factories, mass redundancies, production cuts and the pruning of company organizational structures. Because of their multinational status, enterprises such as AEG-Telefunken, Grundig and Philips have been particularly hard hit. Is the Commission watching this situation, how does it view it, what is its attitude to the activities of the multinationals and what anti-crisis measures and contingency plans does it intend to propose?

26. Question by Mr MOORHOUSE (H-511/82)

Subject : Transport policy

In the light of Parliament's action against the Council under Article 175, does the Commission regard transport as a priority area for the allocation of staff and other resources?

27. Question by Mrs EWING (H-518/82)

Subject : The CFP and flags of convenience

In view of the fact that more than 60 Spanish fishing vessels have gained access to fishing grounds and quotas in Irish and UK waters by registering in those countries, will the Commission state what measures are envisaged in the proposed C.F.P. to prevent vessels from other countries (including vessels from other Member States) from gaining access to national and regional fishing grounds and quotas by flying flags of convenience?

28. Question by Mr CECOVINI (H-525/82)

Subject: GATT Summit in Geneva

Can the Commission indicate what prospects lie before the GATT summit meeting which opens in Geneva at the end of the month and, in particular, what strategy it is proposed to adopt vis-à-vis the US proposal that a distinction be made, in terms of the aid granted, between the most backward Third World countries and those which have made some economic progress in recent years?

29. Question by Mr ALAVANOS(H-524/82)

Subject: Protective measures in respect of textile imports

In 1981, the first year of Greece's membership of the EEC, there was a tremendous rise in textile imports entering Greece, chiefly from the EEC and countries with special preferential agreements with the Community, which has had a critical impact on the textile industry in Greece. (Cotton fabrics: 1980 imports totalled 2,820 tonnes and in 1981 rose to 4,662; yarns totalled 501 tonnes in 1980, increasing to 1,993 in 1981; knitted goods totalled 760 tonnes in 1980, rising to 4,174 in 1981).

Since textiles is one of the traditional sectors of the Greek economy, employing thousands of workers and providing a source of income for thousands of cotton-growers, what measures does the Commission propose to take and is it at least considering the possibility of taking 'protective measures' to restrict textile imports entering Greece, seeing that the situation will get still worse as a result of the new multifibre arrangement within GATT?

30. Question by Mrs BOSERUP (H-535/82)

Subject: The Commission's participation in EPC

Can the Commission explain what specific implications the statement that 'in future the Commission will be fully involved in political cooperation at all levels' (Commission of the European Communities: Fifteenth General Report on the Activities of the European Communities in 1981, p. 286) has had in terms of Commission participation in EPC?

Subject: Greek wheat exports

The premiums which the EEC gives in respect of wheat exports to third countries do not benefit Greece at all since the Greek export period commences in September, whereas the premiums are given in November/December and therefore benefit only the big wheat-exporting countries of the EEC.

Thus, this year, given the low level of world prices, not a single kilo of wheat has been exported from Greece, in contrast with 1981 (September) when 300,000 tonnes had been exported. Furthermore, violating yet again the principle of Community preference, the EEC imports 800,000 tonnes of durum wheat from third countries every year, yet does not take a single kilo from Greece.

What immediate measures does the Commission propose to take in respect of Greek wheat exports since disaster threatens, also having regard to the lack of storage facilities?

32. Question by Mr ADAMOY (H-544/82)

Subject: Shortage of storage facilities

The storage problem for this year's crop of maize is even more acute than in any previous year. This is due to the fact that the storage facilities available to the Union of Agricultural Cooperatives and the Government have an approximate capacity of 1,100,000 tonnes, 80% of which, however, is occupied by common and durum wheat from the 1981/1982 crops. Therefore the storage space available today represents a capacity of 80 to 100 thousand tonnes, whereas this year's production of maize is estimated to exceed 1,400,000 tonnes.

What measures does the Commission propose to take to prevent the fruits of Greek farmers' labour being destroyed and so that the Greek State suffers no prejudice?

33. Question by Sir PETER VANNECK (H-546/82)

Subject: Common Customs Tariff on Aeronautical Products (1)

Are military aircraft manufactured in the Community placed at a competitive disadvantage, relative to similar aircraft of US design or manufacture, in those member states which invoke Article 223 of the EEC Treaty as a straightforward entitlement to import products originating in the United States of America intended for use in the construction, maintenance and repair of military aircraft?

34. Question by Mr. CLINTON (H-549/82)

Subject: Egg and poultry meat supplies

As the Commission is aware, there is a surplus production of eggs in the Community and export of surpluses in inter-Community trade may lead to dumping and serious consequences for producers.

In order to overcome the problem would the Commission consider introducing provisions requiring exporters (in inter-Community trade) to sell at a price not below the cost of production in the importing Member State and will the Commission consider introducing similar measures for poultry meat where a similar problem exists?

(1) Council regulation (EEC)1535/82; O.J. L 175 of 21.6.1982 p. 1

35. Question by Mr BOURNIAS (H-550/82)

Subject: Centre of Friendship amongst the Peoples and the Promotion of Studies on the Resistance against Fascism at Anoyia, Crete

In his recent letter to the President of the Commission, Mr G. THORN, and to other leading figures in the Community and the Greek Government, the mayor of Anoyia on the island of Crete requests implementation of the resolution adopted by the European Parliament last May to the effect that a Centre of Friendship amongst the Peoples and the Promotion of Studies on the Resistance against Fascism be established at Anoyia, Crete.

As this request from the heroic village of Anoyia, Crete, merits our wholehearted support, how does the Commission intend to deal with the above matter, which will reflect honour on the European Community?

36. Question by Mr MOUCHEL (H-555/82)

Subject: Renegotiation of textile agreements

Exactly what stage has been reached in the current renegotiation under the MFA of multiannual bilateral textile agreements between the Community and low-cost supplier countries, what are the countries with which negotiations have not yet been completed, and what difficulties has the Commission encountered in the negotiations?

37. Question by Mr PAULHAN (H-557/82)

Subject: Selling price of French cigarettes in Germany

Is the Commission aware that a packet of the French cigarettes 'Gauloises filtre longues' which sells for FF 4.90 in France costs DM 3.80 in Germany, three times the French price net of tax? Does it feel that this practice is commensurate with the economic objective of a single internal market in the Community, and is it in a position to react to this form of masked protectionism by a Member State?

38. Question by Mrs ANGLADE (H-558/82)

Subject: 'Acid raid' pollution

Is the Commission aware of a report by the US Congress on pollution by sulphur dioxide, apparently originating in coal-fired power stations and ore processing plants, which can be fatal for man and a very serious threat to the environment? Has it already taken up this problem and made suitable proposals?

39. Question by Mr BETTIZA (H-559/82)

Subject: Implementation of the agreement between the Community and Yugoslavia

The restrictions recently imposed by the Yugoslav Government, introducing an expatriation tax on Yugoslavs going abroad, conflict with the Italian/Yugoslav agreements governing minor frontier traffic and the movement of persons which were signed in Udine on 31 October 1962 and renewed at the beginning of this year.

Since this agreement was included as Annex IV to the EEC-Yugoslavia Cooperation Agreement, what does the Commission intend to do to reduce the economic difficulties of the regions concerned and persons living in the frontier regions, many of whom own property on the other side of the border and who cannot visit it more than five times a year?

40. Question by Mr JUNOT (H-560/82)

Subject: Change in the place of origin of officials of the Commission

Why, after more than four years, has the Commission still not responded to the applications made by some of its officials for their place of origin to be changed pursuant to the administrative rules it issued in April 1978, and can it assure Parliament that it will quickly settle the problem in accordance with the Staff Regulations and be seen to act like a fully responsible institution?

41. Question by Mr. MORELAND (H-561/82)

Subject: Football

Recent reports have indicated that Commissioner Richards has been taking an interest in the membership of football clubs on behalf of the Commission.

What role does the Commission believe the Community can play to improve the state of European football?

42. Question by Mr CURRY (H-562/82)

Subject: Wheat

What steps does the Commission intend to take to ensure that the rules and standards governing the acceptance of wheat into intervention are applied uniformly across the Community?

43. Question by Mr SHERLOCK (H-564/82)

Subject: Co-operation with USA on nuclear reactor safety

Does the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission freely exchange technical information on nuclear safety, maintenance and operational procedures with member states possessing pressurised water reactors?

44. Question by Lord BETHELL (H-567/82)

Subject : Landing cards

In view of the welcome decision of the British Government to abolish landing cards for Community citizens entering the United Kingdom by air, would the Commission urge the French Government also to abolish landing cards for Community citizens flying into France?

45. Question By Mrs CASTLE (H-569/82)

Subject: VAT

To what extent are member states free to decide the products to which VAT should be applied and are they free to exempt VAT from food?

46. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-571/82)

Subject: Television interview with Mr Davignon - steel

In a television interview on Sunday, 21 November, Mr Davignon stated that three Members of the Commission, Mr Ortoli, Mr Andriessen and himself, were dealing with the steel problem.

Does not the Commission consider it odd that Mr Richard is not also one of the Members involved, since the social implications are a matter of urgency for regions in difficulty such as Wallonia?

47. Question by Mr RYAN (H-572/82)

Subject: Economic, monetary and budgetary policies in Ireland

Having regard to the fact that Ireland in the period since mid-1977 pursued economic, monetary and budgetary policies which departed from the guidelines laid down by the Council, did the Commission send any recommendations to the State concerned pursuant to Article 11 of the Council Decision of 18 February 1974 and if so with what consequences and if not, why not?

48. Question by Mr HABSBERG (H-576/82)

Subject: Unequal treatment of 'Liberation movements'

Is the Commission aware that the Angolan 'UNITA' is a far more authentic 'Liberation movement' than 'SWAPO', which is controlled and financed by the Soviet Union, and how can the Commission justify supporting the latter while deliberately ignoring the former?

49. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-577/82)

Subject : Merseyside County and the Merseyside Special Development Area

With regard to Merseyside County and the Merseyside Special Development Area, what criteria are used to determine the proportion of ERDF grants for industrial investment that is devoted to small and medium-sized businesses and to new factories and is the Commission satisfied that this proportion is suitable in relation to the area's needs ?

50. Question by Mr GOPPEL (H-580/82)

Subject: Lomé-III negotiations

Does the Commission not agree that to admit to the negotiations on the Lomé-III Convention a country such as Angola which has no respect for human rights and whose government is only able to remain in power by allowing its territory to be occupied by Cuban mercenaries is incompatible with the principles of the Community?

51. Question by Mr Van ROMPUY (H-585/82)

Subject: Belgian textiles scheme

What is the position with regard to the Commission's negotiations with the Belgian Government on the extension of the Belgian textiles scheme after 31 December 1982, and how have such delays arisen in the consideration of the textiles question by the Commission?

52. Question by Mr BOCKLET (H-586/82)

Subject: Information seminar on a uniform electoral system

Is it true that an information seminar with experts on electoral law has been held at the instigation and/or with the participation of the Commission on the European Parliament's proposal for a uniform electoral system, and on what grounds did the Commission not see fit to invite the European Parliament, the rapporteur on the draft electoral law, in particular, or any other members concerned with this subject?

53. Question by Mr KAZAZIS (H-588/82)

Subject: Franco-Soviet agreement

Could the Commission inform the House of the terms of the Franco-Soviet agreement (signed by Mrs CRESSON, the French Minister of Agriculture) providing for exports of cereals and sugar to the Soviet Union and can it assure us that the terms of this agreement are not contrary to the Common Agricultural Policy or the rules on cargo-sharing laid down by UNCTAD, of which France is a member?

Question by Mr VAN AERSSSEN (H-590/82)

Subject: Advantages of Britain's membership of the EEC

The President of the Commission, Mr Thorn, recently made a clear statement stressing the following five advantages for the United Kingdom of membership of the Community:

- The Community takes 43% of Britain's exports and its rate of growth is higher than that of any of Britain's other trading partners. Membership of the Community has attracted substantial direct investment to the United Kingdom. The Community has facilitated the task of industrial conversion in the United Kingdom. 2.5 m jobs in the United Kingdom are dependent on the Common Market. British agriculture now covers three-quarters of total domestic consumption of temperate zone food crops.

What steps has the Commission taken so far to bring these facts home to the British public at large?

QUESTIONS TO THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

55. Question by Mrs EWING (H-280/82)

Subject: Siting of the European Economic and Social Policy Research Institute

What progress has the Council made in setting up the European Economic and Social Policy Research Institute since my oral question of 8 July 1980¹; why has a decision not yet been reached; and will the Council establish this Institute in central Scotland, where economic and employment problems are serious, and which enjoys good international air links with other Member States?

56. Question by Mr MARTIN (H-447/82)

Subject: Taxes on wine

Does the Council intend to harmonize excise duties on wine as it has frequently been asked to do by the European Parliament, most recently in the resolution on the market in wine it adopted in July 1982?

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57. Question by Mr KALOYANNIS (H-448/82)

Subject: Failure to use the Community merchant marine for the transportation of material for the construction of the Russian gas pipeline

I have received information that all the various material originating in the Member States of the Community and destined for the construction of the Russian gas pipeline is being transported in Russian vessels. Can the Council confirm whether this is true? If so, why did it not take care to prevent this state of affairs and what action does it intend taking to ensure that from now on these materials are shipped by Community vessels since the Community merchant marine has for some time been going through a serious crisis which is adding considerably to the number of unemployed in the Community and is increasing the number of Community ships laid up? As the Greek fleet accounts for 26% of the Community's merchant marine, the prejudice it suffers is particularly great.

58. Question by Mr HUTTON (H-472/82)

Subject : Reform of conciliation procedure

Following Parliament's proposals of July 1981 and those of the Commission of December 1981 for reform of the conciliation procedure, what progress has the Council made in this matter since its discussions in May and June 1982; and will the Council agree to reforms by the end of the current Presidency?

59. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-477/82)

Subject : Imports of Ceramics Products from China

Has the Council received from the Commission proposals for the quota levels for imports of ceramic products from China; what levels are proposed; and what action does the Council propose to take?

60. Question by Mr PESMAZOGLOU (H-485/82)

Subject: Democratic government and accession to the EEC

Public figures of a country which is negotiating accession to the EEC, in commenting on recent events, said that they felt uneasy about the stability of democracy in their country.

Does not the Council agree that a reminder should have been given that only states which are democratically governed can become and remain members of the European Communities?

A declaration of this kind would significantly strengthen democracy in Europe and underline the solidarity of the Member States in these negotiations.

61. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-492/82)

Subject: European Parliament or European Assembly

In its answers to the European Parliament and in its correspondence, the Council generally uses the term 'Assemblée' (Assembly) in French.

Does the Council not think that even when it is using the language of Molière the name given to the body which was set up under Article 1 of Section 1 of the Treaties revising the Treaties establishing the European Communities and Acts relating to the Communities should be that sanctioned by usage and enshrined in the Lomé Conventions as adopted by the individual parliaments of the ten countries?

62. Question by Mr PAPAEFSTRATIOU (H-499/82)

Subject: Recent appointment of Greek members of the Economic and Social Committee

Pursuant to Articles 193, 194 and 195 of the Treaty of Rome, the Council of Ministers of the European Communities shall appoint, every four years, the members of the Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities from a list of nominees of the main productive classes who are designated by the appropriate organizations and proposed in turn by the Governments.

During the recent procedure for the appointment of Greek members of the ESC, did the Council of Ministers take adequate steps to ascertain whether the nominees were truly representative since, according to my information, the groups representing the productive classes in the ESC are questioning whether certain of the members appointed are representative, because certain of the nominees designated as the legitimate representatives of their classes are different from those which the Greek Government, strangely enough, proposed to the Council?

63. Question by Mr ROGALLA (H-503/82)

Subject: Frontier checks

Has the Council already begun work on the Commission's proposal for a decision on reducing and facilitating checks at the Community's internal frontiers in view of the generally accepted urgency of the matter, which the Council has itself confirmed, and is it prepared, if necessary to do so as soon as possible, at least as regards the technical details even if the European Parliament's opinion is still in preparation?

64. Question by Mr PRANCHERE (H-505/82)

Subject: Long-term multiannual agricultural supply agreements

Talks have been opened between the Community and certain countries (Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt) on the conclusion of long-term agreements on agricultural products. In the absence of a Council decision, these countries are liable to turn to other exporting countries prepared to conclude multiannual contracts.

Is the Council aware of this situation and will it now implement long-term multiannual supply contracts in agricultural products in common with such major exporting countries as Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States?

65. Question by Mr RADOUX (H-395/82)

Subject: Forthcoming 'Jumbo' Council

Having regard to the importance of the forthcoming 'Jumbo' Council from the point of view of its impact on public opinion in the present economic and social situation, would the Council assure Parliament that the agenda for this meeting next November will include specific items on the current monetary, economic and social state of affairs, and that arrangements have been made to ensure that governments are represented there at the most appropriate level?

66. Question by Mr LALOR (H-440/82)

Subject: E.E. C. rebate to Ireland

As a result of the Community's budget deal with Britain, will the Council confirm that the E.E.C. is to make a rebate of approximately £ 2 1/2 million to Ireland and that such a rebate is to be used for roads, factories or energy projects?

67. Question by Mr REMILLY (H-466/82)

Subject: Aid to Nicaragua

The Committee for aid to the non-associated developing countries recently approved a food aid project worth 18 million ECU for Nicaragua, intended mainly to provide backing for cooperatives and to assist agrarian reform. Does the Council consider that Community support for a project of this type is timely and in keeping with the political impartiality which the Community should exercise towards a country in crisis?

68. Question by Mr Christopher JACKSON (H-528/82)

Subject : Strategic Survey of EC Trade with COMECON countries

In its resolution of 11th October on the subject of trade between the European Community and COMECON countries, the European Parliament called for the Commission, in cooperation with Member States, to carry out a strategic survey of trade in terms of trade between the European Community and COMECON countries.

Particularly having regard to the recent discussions with the United States on the subject of such trade, does the Council feel that such a survey would be worthwhile and would they be willing to cooperate in it?

69. Question by Mr BOYES (H-526/82)

Subject : Redundancies due to the introduction of new technology

Many people are being made redundant due to the introduction of new technology. Has the Council instructed the Commission to prepare any proposals for special redundancy payments for workers made redundant as a result of the introduction of new technology into their work places?

70. Question by Mr FLANAGAN (H-529/82)

Subject : Rapid exchange of information on dangers arising from the use of consumer products

Now that the Council has received the opinion of the European Parliament on the proposal for a Council decision introducing a Community system for the rapid exchange of information on dangers arising from the use of consumer products, when will it adopt a decision on this important issue?

71. Question by Mr CRONIN (H-530/82)

Subject : Regional Fund Revision

Can the Council indicate which of the amendments adopted by the European Parliament in the context of the revision of the European Regional Development Fund have been adopted by the Commission and consequently recommended by the Commission for adoption?

72. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-538/82)

Subject: The Greek Memorandum

According to the views of those directly concerned - the Greek workers - both their immediate problems, which have been exacerbated by EEC entry, and more generally the problem of the economic development of the country are impossible to solve under the terms of the Rome Treaties and Greece's Treaty of Accession.

Can the Council state whether the Council, the Rome Treaties and the Treaty of Accession define the scope of negotiations with Greece on the basis of the Papandreou Government's memorandum or whether substantial exceptions will have to be made over and above the various special 'safety' clause provided for under the EEC Treaty and Greece's Treaty of Accession?

73. Question by Mr ALAVANOS (H-542/82)

Subject: The Greek memorandum and the principles of competition

Although the proposals put forward by the Papandreu Government in its memorandum cannot provide complete solutions to the problems created for the Greek workers and the national economy, talks with the EEC to date have centred purely and simply on a quantitative increase in the resources received from the various Funds or certain arrangements for Mediterranean produce in view of Spain and Portugal's accession.

How does the Council envisage the problems of departure from the principles of competition (protection of industry, export aids, exemption from production quotas, etc.)

74. Question by Mr ADAMOU (H-543/82)

Subject: Measures to protect the Greek economy

While the proposals for the 'Memorandum' have been under discussion for many months, one year after the change of government the serious negative consequences of entry into the EEC have persisted: dismantling of tariff barriers, a great increase in Greek imports from the EEC, a rise in unemployment, closure of small and medium-sized undertakings in the face of competition from the EEC, low prices for agricultural produce, etc.

How will the Council react to the Greek Government taking immediate practical measures to protect the national economy and the Greek workers until negotiations with the EEC are concluded?

75. Question by Mr Konrad SCHÖN (H-545/82)

Subject: Intensified border controls at internal Community borders

On 12 November 1982, a day after the arrest of two leading German terrorists, checks on persons entering and leaving the country were intensified at German frontier points. As a result, drivers could expect to have to wait for over two hours. Mile-long tailbacks stretched back into the towns, inconveniencing, and even endangering, ordinary citizens.

Does the Council share the German authorities' patent belief that terrorists wishing to cross the border from one Member State to another spend hours in traffic jams obediently awaiting their turn at customs control?

76. Question by Sir PETER VANNECK (H-547/82)

Subject: Common Customs Tariff on aeronautical products (1)

Will the Council explain why certain Member states and not others invoke Article 223 of the EEC Treaty as an entitlement to import duty free products for military aircraft?

77. Question by Mr. BALFE (H-553/82)

Subject: Accession of the Communities to the European Convention on Human rights and fundamental freedoms

Would the Council welcome the accession of the Communities to the European Convention on Human rights and fundamental freedoms?

(1) Council Regulation (EEC)1535/82; OJ L 175 of 21.6.82 p.1

78. Question by Lord BETHELL (H-568/82)

Subject : Landing cards

In view of the welcome decision of the British Government to abolish landing cards for Community citizens entering the United Kingdom by air, would the Council urge the French Government also to abolish landing cards for Community citizens flying into France?

79. Question by Mr RYAN (H-573/82)

Subject: Medium-term economic policy programme

When did the Council last adopt a medium-term economic policy programme in accordance with Article 6 of the Council Decision of 18 February 1974 and what action, if any, has been taken or will be taken against the Government of any Member State in breach of its express declaration to act in accordance with the guidelines laid down?

80. Question by Mr PEARCE (H-578/82)

Subject : Permits for road transport

Does the Council not consider that its decision to reject the Commission's proposals for 1982 for the issue of permits for road transport (1) was utterly contrary to the intentions of the Treaty of Rome permitting free trade between the Member States, and what reason can it give for not altering its position ?

(1) O.J. Nr C 269, 21.10.1981, page 4

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

81. Question by Mrs EWING (H-294/82)

Subject: Disunity between Nine on apartheid

In view of the fact that out of 12 key votes on apartheid at the UN in 1979 and 1980, the Nine voted together only once, were split in two directions on seven occasions, and in three directions on four occasions, what new steps are the Foreign Ministers planning to take to put an end to this disunity ?

82. Question by Mr MORELAND (H-476/82)

Subject : Canada

Do the Foreign Ministers attach considerable value to the maintenance of good relations between Canada and the European Community?

83. Question by Mr AIGNER (H-479/82)

Subject: Namibia

Are the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation aware of the fact that reports that a considerable proportion of the Community's money for Namibia is reaching the Soviet-controlled SWAPO are justifiably arousing public concern in the EEC?

84. Question by Mr SELIGMAN (H-510/82)
Subject: Ethiopian political prisoners

Can the Ministers say what can be done to hasten the release of the 1,200 Ethiopian political prisoners - men, women and children who were related to the former Emperor Haile Selassie - who have been held for nine years in Addis Abbaba without trial?

85. Question by Mr ISRAEL (H-428/82)

Subject: Speech by the President of the French Republic to the Council of Europe

Have the Foreign Ministers pointed out to the French Minister for Foreign Relations the great importance which the European Parliament, being composed of the directly elected representatives of the peoples of Europe, would have attached to hearing the President of the French Republic expound his views on the international protection of human rights?

86. Question by Mr GALLAND (H-400/82)

Subject: Employment of prisoners in the construction of the trans-Siberian gas pipeline

As in August it was learned in Europe that the workers employed in the construction of the trans-Siberian gas pipeline were common law prisoners and political detainees, have the Foreign Ministers decided, as the French Government has, to inquire into this matter?

1. Question by Mr HABSBURG (H-583/82)

Subject: National minorities

All reports indicate a steady worsening in the situation of national minorities - such as Germans and Hungarians - as a result of the policies of the Ceauscescu Government. Would the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation be prepared to use their influence to secure better treatment for these minorities, including the right to emigrate to the country of their choice?

2. Question by Mrs LIZIN (H-527/82)

Subject: Discovery of mass graves in Argentina

Have the Foreign Ministers considered making a specific request to the Argentinian Government, in connection with the appalling discoveries of mass graves in several Argentinian towns, that a committee of inquiry be set up to establish where responsibility lies?

3. Question by Mr KYRKOS (H-534/82)

Subject: NATO activities overshadowing relations between Greece and the EEC

The Greek Government cancelled the NATO exercises planned to take place in Greece because NATO headquarters in Naples refused to include Limnos in the exercise zone as requested by the Greek Government. The extraordinary meeting of the NATO Defence Planning Committee in Brussels on 8.11.82 also upheld this decision.

This decision by NATO was received in Greece as the clearest of indications that it contests Greece's sovereign rights in the Aegean and, more particularly, on Limnos.

The problem not only has aspects concerning relations between Greece and NATO - to which the Greek people remain firmly opposed - it could also cast its shadow over relations between states within the EEC. In view of this, can the Foreign Ministers state their opinion on this provocative contestation of Greece's sovereign rights?

90. Question by Mrs BOSERUP (H-536/82)

Subject: Foreign Ministers' cooperation with the Commission within the EPC framework

The Commission states in its 15th General Report that 'in future the Commission will be fully involved in political cooperation at all levels'. (Commission of the European Communities: 15th General Report on the Activities of the European Communities 1981, p. 286).

Does the Foreign Minister agree with his predecessor, Kjeld Olesen, that this implies only that the Commission holds a permanent observer post in EPC co-operation or is the Foreign Minister of the opinion that this implies that the Commission takes part on an equal footing with the ten participating countries?

91. Question by Mr EPHREMIDIS (H-539/82)

Subject: The position of the Ten on the Poland issue

According to information in the press, the EEC sent a message to the Greek Government by telegram asking it to reconsider its views on the Polish issue and to bring them into line with the draft resolution of the EEC Foreign Ministers condemning the recent events in Poland.

Can the Foreign Ministers inform us whether such pressure was exerted on the Greek Government, whether the final EEC positions on Poland are endorsed by the Greek Government and, if not, how these came to be expressed as the overall position of the EEC?

92. Question by Mr. BALFE (H-554/82)

Subject: Plastic bullets

Are the Foreign Ministers aware of any European countries other than the United Kingdom where plastic bullets are in use?

93. Question by Mr. RYAN (H-574/82)

Subject: Northern Ireland

Having regard to the damage to the image of Europe in the world arising from the irresolution of the conflicts in Northern Ireland and the consequent unacceptability to non-European countries of European advice as to how they should manage their own affairs, do the Ministers now accept that the European Community should adopt a more active role in bringing a satisfactory solution to the Northern Ireland dilemma?

94. Question by Mr BERKHOUWER (H-581/82)

Subject: French arms supplies to Argentina

Are the Ministers aware of the fact that for some time now France has again been delivering arms to the totalitarian regime in Argentina including the notorious Exocet missile used to sink two British ships during the Falklands war and do they not think it deplorable that, as a result of France's decision to resume arms supplies, the united front hitherto maintained by the 10 in the matter of delivery of weapons to Argentina has been broken unilaterally and without consultation by one of the Member States?

