IV

(Informaciones)

INFORMACIÓN PROCEDENTE DE LAS INSTITUCIONES, ÓRGANOS Y ORGANISMOS DE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA

PARLAMENTO EUROPEO

PREGUNTAS ESCRITAS FORMULADAS CON SOLICITUD DE RESPUESTA ESCRITA

Preguntas escritas formuladas por los diputados al Parlamento Europeo y las respuestas de una de las instituciones de la Unión Europea

(2013/C 73 E/01)

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(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000229/12
alla Commissione
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(24 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Finanziamenti per braccialetto elettronico

Le celle di sicurezza nelle carceri italiane sono troppo poche e non rispettano la dignità dei carcerati. Il nuovo decreto «svuota carceri» prevede un transito nelle camere di sicurezza di circa 21mila detenuti, quelli in attesa di un processo per direttissima perché colti in flagranza di reato.

Oggi i detenuti nelle carceri italiane sono oltre 67mila. Essi costano allo Stato 400 euro al giorno, quasi 10 miliardi di euro all'anno. E dei detenuti il 28 % è in attesa di giudizio.

Per migliorare la situazione nelle carceri, ovvero per diminuire il numero dei carcerati, si è ricorso all'uso del braccialetto elettronico. Ma la convenzione con la società che gestisce i braccialetti elettronici è scaduta alla fine del 2011 e non è stata rinnovata per gli alti costi del servizio, che ammontano a 11 milioni di euro.

Alla luce dei fatti sopraesposti, s'interroga dunque la Commissione per sapere:

1. se è a conoscenza della situazione di sovraffollamento delle carceri italiane, e se può fornire informazioni comparative aggiornate sulla situazione delle carceri europee;

2. se è possibile accedere ai finanziamenti del Programma di Stoccolma 2010-2014 (per uno spazio europeo di libertà, sicurezza e giustizia) disponibili per la costruzioni delle carceri anche al fine di finanziare a livello europeo i braccialetti elettronici per ridurre il sovraffollamento delle carceri.

Risposta data da Viviane Reding a nome della Commissione
(15 febbraio 2012)

La Commissione europea è al corrente del problema del sovraffollamento delle carceri italiane e di altri paesi dell'UE. Dati comparativi relativi alla situazione delle prigioni in tutta l'UE sono disponibili nel Libro verde della Commissione «Rafforzare la fiducia reciproca nello spazio giudiziario europeo — Libro verde sull'applicazione della normativa dell'UE sulla giustizia penale nel settore della detenzione» del giugno 2011. Tali dati possono essere consultati sul seguente sito:
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/criminal/opinion/110614_en.htm

Riguardo ai finanziamenti dell'UE nel settore della giustizia penale, il programma di sostegno alla giustizia penale offre contributi finanziari a favore di progetti di dimensione europea promossi e gestiti dalla Commissione, progetti transnazionali e nazionali realizzati da organizzazioni nei paesi dell'UE nonché attività di ONG o di altri enti che perseguono un obiettivo di interesse europeo generale. Condizioni di ammissibilità e ulteriori informazioni sono reperibili sul seguente sito:
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants/programmes/criminal/index_en.htm

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(English version)

Question for written answer E-000229/12
to the Commission
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(24 January 2012)

Subject: Funds for electronic tagging devices

There are too few security cells in Italian jails and the conditions in those cells are not consistent with the principle of prisoners' dignity. Under the new decree intended to relieve the pressure on prisons, 21 000 prisoners — those awaiting a fast-track trial because they were arrested while committing a crime — are to go through security cells.

Italy's jails currently hold 67 000 prisoners. Each prisoner costs the State EUR 400 a day, equivalent to almost EUR 10 billion per year. And 28 % of those prisoners are awaiting trial.

In order to improve the situation in jails by reducing the number of prisoners, electronic tagging devices were introduced. However, the contract with the company responsible for running the scheme expired at the end of 2011 and has not been renewed because of the high cost of the service, which stands at EUR 11 million.

Given the above, can the Commission state:

1. Whether it is aware of the overcrowding in Italian jails and whether it can provide up-to-date comparative information about the situation in prisons throughout the EU?

2. Whether the funds available under the 2010-2014 Stockholm Programme (which is intended to establish a citizens' Europe in the area of freedom, security and justice) for the purpose of building jails may also be used to provide Europe-wide funding for electronic tagging schemes to reduce overcrowding in jails?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(15 February 2012)

The European Commission is aware of the overcrowding in Italian jails and in other EU countries. Comparative data about the situation in prisons throughout the EU are available in the Commission's Green Paper 'Strengthening mutual trust in the European judicial area — A Green Paper on the application of EU criminal justice legislation in the field of detention' issued in June 2011, which can be consulted through the following link:
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/criminal/opinion/110614_en.htm

As to EU funding in the area of criminal justice, the Criminal Justice Support Programme provides financial support for projects initiated and managed by the Commission with a European dimension, transnational and national projects implemented by organisations in EU countries as well as activities of NGOs or other entities pursuing an aim of general European interest. Conditions for eligibility and further details are published through the following link:
http://ec.europa.eu/justice/grants/programmes/criminal/index_en.htm

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000230/12
alla Commissione
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(24 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Lo scandalo delle protesi al seno

Recentemente si è scoperto che negli ultimi anni sono state impiantate migliaia di protesi al seno nocive per la salute delle donne. Le indagini hanno accertato che le protesi mammarie con marchio Pip (Poly implants prothesis) contenenti, oltre a silicone industriale, additivi chimici presenti nei carburanti, non erano mai state testate prima di essere immesse sul mercato.

Si calcola che in Italia siano state utilizzate oltre 5 000 protesi, ma lo scandalo è internazionale e coinvolge tutti i Paesi d'Europa e gli Stati Uniti d'America. Solo in Italia le donne a rischio sono cinquemila per il Ministero della Salute, ma molte di più per il Codacons, che ha inviato una richiesta di chiarimenti al Ministro della Salute, Balduzzi, in particolare per quanto riguarda l'ammissione da parte dell'Istituto Europeo di Oncologia di aver utilizzato le protesi incriminate anche nel periodo 2000-2001, quando cioè il suo direttore scientifico, Umberto Veronesi, era anche Ministro della Salute.

Alla luce dei fatti sopraesposti, si prega la Commissione di rispondere ai seguenti quesiti:

1. È essa a conoscenza dello scandalo delle protesi al seno scoppiato in tutta Europa?

2. Intende essa istituire una commissione d'inchiesta europea sulla vicenda?

3. Intende essa pensare a forme di risarcimento per le donne che hanno utilizzato protesi mammarie nocive?

4. Quali altre misure intende adottare al riguardo?

Risposta data da John Dalli a nome della Commissione
(15 febbraio 2012)

La Commissione è pienamente consapevole del grave incidente riguardo alle protesi mammarie PIP.

Non spetta alla Commissione istituire una commissione di inchiesta. Peraltro, essa sta esaminando l'incidente in modo approfondito insieme agli Stati membri e a terzi. Essa ha chiesto al comitato scientifico dei rischi sanitari emergenti e recentemente individuati (CSRSERI) il suo parere in merito alla sicurezza delle protesi mammarie interessate in modo da facilitare le decisioni circa la gestione del rischio da parte degli Stati membri.

Inoltre, la Commissione sta esaminando l'incidente per individuare eventuali lacune nell'attuale quadro normativo, in modo che esse possono essere colmate come parte della revisione della legislazione sui dispositivi medici già prevista per il 2012.

L'eventuale risarcimento delle donne alle quali sono state impiantate protesi mammarie PIP è una questione da decidere a livello nazionale.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000230/12
to the Commission
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(24 January 2012)

Subject: The breast implants scandals

It has recently been discovered that in recent years, thousands of breast implant operations were performed which have harmed women's health. Investigations have confirmed that Pip (Poly implants prosthesis) brand implants contained not only industrial silicone but also chemical additives which are present in fuel, and that the implants were not tested before being placed on the market.

It has been calculated that over 5 000 implants have been used in Italy, but the scandal is international, involving all European countries and the USA. According to the Ministry for Health 5000 women are at risk in Italy alone, but Codacons, which sent a request for clarification to Minister of Health Balduzzi, believes the figure is much higher, particularly in relation to the European Institute of Oncology's admission that it used the implicated implants in 2000-2001, when its scientific director, Umberto Veronesi, was also Minister for Health.

In light of the above facts, the Commission is kindly asked to answer the following questions:

1. Is it aware of the breast implant scandal which has erupted in all of Europe?

2. Does it intend to set up a European committee of inquiry on the matter?

3. Does it intend to contemplate forms of compensation for the women who have used the harmful implants?

4. What other measures does it intend to adopt in relation to the matter?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission
(15 February 2012)

The Commission is fully aware of the serious incident concerning the PIP breast implants.

It is not up to the Commission to set up a committee of inquiry. However, it is examining the incident in detail together with the Member States and third parties. It has asked the Scientific Committee on Emerging and Newly Identified Health Risks (SCENIHR) for its opinion on the safety of the breast implants concerned to facilitate risk management decisions by the Member States.

In addition, the Commission is analysing the incident to identify possible shortcomings in the current regulatory framework so that they can be addressed as part of the revision of the medical device legislation already planned for 2012.

The possible compensation of women who were implanted with PIP breast implants is a matter to be decided at national level.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000231/12
alla Commissione
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(18 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Sanguinosi scontri a Tripoli

Come riferito dal ministero dell'Interno della Libia, il bilancio degli scontri armati scoppiati nel centro di Tripoli tra miliziani locali provenienti da Misurata e forze governative è di 6 morti e 18 feriti.

I combattimenti sono avvenuti il 3 gennaio scorso davanti a un edificio usato dall'ex regime di Gheddafi come quartier generale dell'intelligence. Testimoni hanno riferito che negli scontri erano coinvolte le forze del governo provvisorio, che avevano cercato di riprendere possesso dell'edificio, occupato dai miliziani dopo l'arresto di uno di loro. I gruppi rivali si sono affrontati a colpi di armi automatiche e mitragliatrici di grosso calibro.

Alla luce dei fatti sopraesposti, si prega la Commissione di rispondere ai seguenti quesiti:

1. È essa al corrente dei sanguinosi scontri di Tripoli?

2. Può essa tracciare un quadro generale delle sanzioni europee attualmente in vigore in Libia e indicare l'impatto di queste disposizioni sul Paese africano?

3. Quali iniziative intende adottare in merito alla vicenda?

Risposta data dall'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione
(13 marzo 2012)

L'UE è al corrente dei frequenti incidenti legati alla sicurezza a Tripoli e in altre città libiche dovuti alla presenza di bande armate e alla mancanza di un esercito nazionale e di forze di sicurezza nazionali strutturate.

In risposta alla decisione del 16 dicembre 2011 del comitato delle sanzioni delle Nazioni Unite, il 22 dicembre 2011 l'Unione europea ha sbloccato tutti i fondi e i beni detenuti nell'UE appartenenti alla Banca centrale di Libia e alla Lybian Arab Foreign Bank, per sostenere la ripresa dell'economia libica e assistere le nuove autorità del Paese. Conformemente alla risoluzione 2009 (2011) del Consiglio di sicurezza delle Nazioni Unite, l'UE mantiene un congelamento parziale per quanto riguarda l'autorità libica per gli investimenti e il portafoglio di investimenti Libia Africa. Inoltre, l'UE applica alcune misure restrittive autonome in relazione a persone ed entità associate al precedente regime di Gheddafi. L'UE reagirà il più rapidamente possibile a ulteriori modifiche negli elenchi ONU delle persone ed entità soggette a restrizioni, mentre le sue misure autonome vengono sottoposte a monitoraggio costante.

L'UE attualmente fornisce un'assistenza di circa 30 milioni di euro, oltre agli 80,5 milioni di euro erogati per gli aiuti umanitari. Questa assistenza è destinata ai seguenti settori: società civile, mezzi di comunicazione, rafforzamento delle capacità della pubblica amministrazione, istruzione, migrazione, sostegno ai feriti di guerra e democratizzazione. L'assistenza umanitaria attualmente erogata viene utilizzata per sostenere la popolazione libica sfollata attraverso la fornitura di alloggi e di generi alimentari e non. Lo sminamento umanitario e la tutela delle minoranze libiche costituiscono una priorità assoluta dell'UE per i prossimi mesi. L'Unione è inoltre impegnata in un dialogo con le autorità libiche concernenti ulteriori misure di sostegno in vari settori, incluso quello della sicurezza.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000231/12
to the Commission
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(18 January 2012)

Subject: Bloody clashes in Tripoli

As reported by the Libyan Minister of the Interior, the result of the armed clashes that occurred in Tripoli's city centre between local militiamen from Misurata and government forces was 6 dead and 18 wounded.

The fighting took place on 3 January last in front of a building used by the Gaddafi regime as the headquarters of the intelligence service. Witnesses reported that the fighting involved provisional government forces, which had attempted to retake the building occupied by the militia after one of them was arrested. The rival groups exchanged automatic weapons and heavy machine gun fire.

In light of the facts above, would the Commission please answer the following questions:

1. Is it aware of the bloody conflict in Tripoli?

2. Can it provide a general overview of European sanctions currently in place in relation to Libya and indicate the impact of these measures on the African country?

3. What initiatives does it intend to take with regard to the matter?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(13 March 2012)

The EU is aware of the recurrent security incidents in Tripoli and other Libyan cities resulting from the presence of armed brigades and from a lack of national army and structured national security forces.

In response to the UN Sanctions Committee's decision of 16 December 2011, on 22 December 2011 the EU unfroze all funds and assets of the Central Bank of Libya and the Libyan Arab Foreign Bank held in the EU in order to support the recovery of the Libyan economy and assist the new Libyan authorities. In line with UNSCR 2009 (2011), the EU maintains a partial freeze on the Libyan Investment Authority and Libya Africa Investment Portfolio. In addition the EU retains autonomous restrictive measures in relation to persons and entities associated with the former Gaddafi regime. The EU will respond as quickly as possible to further changes to UN listings and its autonomous measures are kept under constant review.

The EU is currently providing assistance of approximately EUR 30 million in addition to EUR 80.5 million provided for humanitarian relief. This assistance covers civil society, media, public administration capacity building, education, migration, support for war wounded and democratisation. Humanitarian assistance currently provided brings support to the Libyan displaced population through non-food items, food items, and shelter assistance. Humanitarian demining and protection of Libyan minorities are key priorities of the EU for the coming months. The EU is also engaged in a dialogue with the authorities regarding further support across a range of sectors including on security issues.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000232/12
alla Commissione
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(18 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Sequestro di un'imbarcazione italiana in Oman ad opera di pirati

La petroliera «Enrico Ievoli», appartenente alla società napoletana Marnavi, è stata sequestrata il 27 dicembre del 2011 da pirati al largo della costa dell'Oman, negli Emirati Arabi.

A bordo ci sono 18 persone, sei delle quali italiane. Gli altri marinai sono cinque ucraini e sette indiani. Il tanker, lungo 138 metri, trasporta circa 15 750 tonnellate di soda caustica. Partita da Fujairah negli Emirati Arabi, era diretta verso il Mediterraneo. La compagnia è stata avvertita dell'assalto alle 5 del mattino. La «Enrico Ievoli» aveva già avuto a che fare con i pirati nel marzo del 2006. Il cargo era in navigazione al largo delle coste yemenite quando si sono avvicinati alcuni barchini con presunti pirati a bordo. Il comandante della motonave aveva dato l'allarme ed era intervenuta in soccorso un'unità della Marina militare italiana, la fregata Euro, che si trovava in zona. In quel caso bastò il sorvolo dell'elicottero militare a far allontanare i due motoscafi.

Alla luce dei fatti sopraesposti, può dunque la Commissione far sapere:

1. se è al corrente del sequestro dell'imbarcazione «Enrico Ievoli» e dei 18 componenti dell'equipaggio;

2. se può tracciare un quadro generale sulla situazione dei sequestri nel mar Arabico;

3. quali iniziative intende assumere in merito alla vicenda?

Risposta data dall'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione
(10 aprile 2012)

1. La Commissione è al corrente del sequestro della motonave Enrico Ievoli e del rapimento dei 18 componenti dell'equipaggio avvenuti il 27 dicembre 2011 e ha monitorato la situazione attraverso l'operazione EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, in stretto contatto con la NATO. L'UE non è intervenuta direttamente sulla questione di cui si sono occupate diverse fonti d'informazione.

2. In questo momento cinque navi e 155 ostaggi sono nelle mani dei pirati somali.

Il Golfo di Aden e il Mar Arabico restano aree ad alto rischio per il transito dei mercantili. Per quanto possibile, nei limiti dei mezzi e delle capacità, l'operazione dell'UE EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, in collaborazione con la NATO e con altre forze impegnate nella lotta alla pirateria, coordina la risposta militare agli attacchi dei pirati per fornire protezione a tutte le navi, indipendentemente dalla bandiera battuta, e trasmettere tutte le informazioni rilevanti alle rispettive autorità nazionali.

L'Organizzazione marittima internazionale incoraggia tutti gli armatori e gli operatori di mercantili a intraprendere le misure necessarie elencate nella pubblicazione «Best Management Practice 4», disponibile online, sulle migliori pratiche per cautelarsi dagli atti di pirateria in Somalia.

3. Da sempre, l'operazione EUNAVFOR ATALANTA fornisce supporto e aiuto su richiesta delle autorità nazionali. Si tenga comunque presente che la Commissione e l'operazione ATALANTA non partecipano alle trattative di riscatto, poiché interferenze militari potrebbero mettere sotto pressione e in pericolo la vita degli ostaggi.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000232/12
to the Commission
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(18 January 2012)

Subject: Italian ship seized by pirates in Oman

The oil tanker *Enrico Ievoli*, belonging to the Naples-based company Marnavi, was seized by pirates on 27 December 2011 off the coast of Oman, in the UAE.

Its 18-member crew included 6 Italian nationals, together with 5 Ukrainians and 7 Indians. The 138 metre long tanker was carrying approximately 15 750 tonnes of caustic soda. It left Fujairah in the UAE and was heading towards the Mediterranean. The shipping company was informed about the attack at 5.00. The *Enrico Ievoli* had already been attacked by pirates in March 2006. It was cruising off the coast of Yemen when it was approached by small boats believed to have pirates aboard. The ship's captain gave the alarm and an Italian naval vessel, the frigate Euro, which was in the area, intervened. In that case, a military helicopter flying over the area was enough to drive the two motor boats away.

1. Is the Commission aware of the seizure of the *Enrico Ievoli* and the kidnapping of its 18 crew members?

2. Can it provide an overview of the situation as regards seizures/kidnappings in the Arabian Sea?

3. What initiatives will it take in this matter?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(10 April 2012)

1. The Commission is aware of the seizure of the MV Enrico Levoli and the kidnapping of its 18 crew members on 27 December 2011 and monitored the situation via Operation EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, which remained in close contact with NATO. There was no EU involvement in the incident or subsequent follow up. Open source reporting of the incident is available.

2. Currently 5 ships and 155 hostages are being held by Somali pirates.

The Gulf of Aden and Arabian Sea remain high threat areas for transiting merchant vessels. The EU Operation ATALANTA, along with NATO and other counter-piracy forces, coordinates military response to pirate activity to provide, where possible, within means and capabilities, protection to all ships regardless of their flag and transmit all relevant information to the national authorities.

All merchant vessel owners and operators are encouraged by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to take necessary steps to avoid being hijacked. These measures are contained in the publication 'Best Management Practice 4' which is available online.

3. Operation EUNAVFOR ATALANTA stands, as it has already done, ready to provide any support or help that would be required by national authorities for this specific issue. However, the Commission and the Operation ATALANTA are not involved in ransom negotiation as any interference of a military force into negotiation would lead to additional pressure and danger put on the hostages' lives.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000233/12
alla Commissione
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(18 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Dimissioni in bianco

Il fenomeno delle dimissioni in bianco è purtroppo ancora frequente in Italia. In pratica, al momento dell'assunzione, a una lavoratrice vengono messi davanti il contratto e contemporaneamente un foglio per firmare, appunto, le dimissioni in bianco: un foglio di dimissioni senza alcuna data che il datore di lavoro può perciò usare in qualsiasi momento decida di farlo.

Nella maggior parte dei casi quelle dimissioni vengono tirate fuori nel momento in cui la lavoratrice dichiara di essere rimasta incinta. Le statistiche parlano di oltre 800 mila donne incinte costrette ad abbandonare il posto di lavoro.

In merito a quanto riportato, può la Commissione far sapere:

1. se è a conoscenza del fenomeno delle dimissioni in bianco per le donne in gravidanza e,

2. in caso di risposta affermativa, quali misure intende prendere per arginare il fenomeno e tutelare le donne in maternità, restituendo loro piena parità e dignità al lavoro?

Risposta data da Viviane Reding a nome della Commissione
(15 febbraio 2012)

La Commissione è a conoscenza dell'esistenza di singoli casi in cui i datori di lavoro cercano di aggirare le vigenti norme dell'UE in materia di tutela della maternità.

Tuttavia, tutti gli Stati membri dell'UE hanno recepito correttamente la direttiva esistente che tutela le donne dal licenziamento per motivi di maternità (direttiva 92/85/CEE). Pertanto, se licenziano donne in stato di gravidanza utilizzando lettere di dimissioni in bianco prefirmate, i datori di lavoro violano la legislazione nazionale.

La Commissione non dispone degli strumenti giuridici per avviare procedure di infrazione in caso di comportamento illecito da parte di singoli cittadini dell'UE. Le donne vittime di tale abuso sono invitate a rendere pubblici questi comportamenti illeciti e a denunciare i loro datori di lavoro alle autorità giudiziarie nazionali.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000233/12
to the Commission
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(18 January 2012)

Subject: Blank resignation letters

Blank resignation letters are, unfortunately, still a widespread phenomenon in Italy. In practice, when a female candidate is recruited, she is asked to sign the employment contract together with a blank resignation letter which, being updated, can be enforced by the employer whenever he or she might decide.

Resignation letters of this kind are mostly brought out when an employee informs her employer that she is pregnant. Statistics suggest that over 800 000 pregnant women are being forced to leave their jobs.

1. Is the Commission aware of the use of blank resignation letters for pregnant women?

2. If so, what measures will it take to stem this phenomenon and protect pregnant women, by restoring their equal opportunities and dignity at the workplace?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(15 February 2012)

The Commission is aware that in individual cases employers are trying to circumvent the existing maternity protection laws in the EU.

However, all EU Member States have correctly transposed the existing Directive protecting women against dismissal on grounds of maternity (Directive 92/85/EEC). Therefore, if employers use pre-signed blank resignation letters to dismiss women in case of pregnancy they act in breach of national law.

The Commission has no legal means to start infringement procedures in case of individual illegal behaviour of EU citizens. Women concerned by this practice are encouraged to make these illegal habits public and take their employers to the national courts.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000234/12
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto rappresentante)
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(25 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: VP/HR — Strage di bambini afghani

In Afghanistan, nella cittadina di Tarinkot, l'improvvisa esplosione di un ordigno ied (improvised explosive device) ha provocato una strage di bambini. Sei bimbi, tra i 4 e i 9 anni, hanno perso la vita mentre giocavano tra i rifiuti. La bomba, infatti, era stata ben occultata tra l'immondizia.

Non soltanto alla luce dell'ultima strage, la situazione in Afghanistan desta molte preoccupazioni. Tra il maggio e il luglio del 2011 si è registrato il record di 4 472 bombe. Le truppe alleate presenti nel paese, inoltre, stanno subendo numerosi attacchi con mine anticarri e ied.

Alla luce dei fatti sopraesposti, può dunque il vicepresidente/alto rappresentante far sapere:

1. se è al corrente dell'ultima strage di bambini afghani;

2. se può tracciare un quadro generale sull'impegno europeo nel paese asiatico e sullasicurezza per le forze alleate presenti sul territorio;

3. quali iniziative intende assumere in merito alla vicenda?

Risposta data dall'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione
(1º marzo 2012)

L'Alta rappresentante/Vicepresidente è a conoscenza del tragico avvenimento riportato.

La questione dei bambini vittime di conflitti armati figura tra le priorità dell'intervento dell'Unione in Afghanistan. La decisione si basa sulla strategia di attuazione riveduta sui bambini e i conflitti armati, adottata dal Consiglio il 7 dicembre 2010, che allinea l'azione dell'UE ai processi delle Nazioni Unite.

In particolare, gli orientamenti dell'Unione europea sui bambini e i conflitti armati, nonché priorità stabilite a livello locale, aiutano l'UE e gli Stati membri ad affrontare il problema dello sfruttamento e del reclutamento di bambini da parte tanto delle forze di sicurezza nazionale afghane e delle milizie quanto dei talebani e, inoltre, sottolineano l'esigenza di perseguire gli autori di reati contro i minori.

Il programma di assistenza pluriennale della Commissione a favore dell'Afghanistan, imperniato su Stato di diritto/governance, agricoltura e sanità, verte altresì sulle necessità dei bambini afghani, segnatamente attraverso programmi per bambini a rischio riguardanti, tra l'altro, la reintegrazione dei bambini di strada, il lavoro minorile e la tratta di minori. Inoltre, l'UE ha contribuito con 89 milioni di euro a programmi di sminamento diretti dall'ONU.

Infine, non avendo alcuna competenza in materia di operazioni militari condotte dagli Stati membri nell'ambito della NATO, le istituzioni europee non dispongono di informazioni sulla sicurezza delle forze alleate nella regione.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000234/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(25 January 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Massacre of Afghan children

In the city of Tarinkot in Afghanistan, the sudden explosion of an improvised explosive device has caused a massacre of children. Six children, aged between 4 and 9, lost their lives whilst they were playing amongst urban waste. The bomb was well hidden in the rubbish.

The situation in Afghanistan arouses many concerns, not just in view of this latest massacre. Between May and July 2011, a record number of 4 472 bombs were registered. Furthermore, the Allied troops in the area are subject to numerous attacks using anti-tank mines and IEDs.

In view of the above facts:

1. Is the Vice-President/High Representative aware of the most recent massacre of Afghan children?

2. Can she provide a general overview of European efforts in the Asian country and of the safety of the Allied forces in the region?

3. What initiatives will she take with regard to the matter?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(1 March 2012)

The High Representative/Vice-President is aware of this tragic incident.

The issue of children affected by armed conflict has been retained as one of the priorities for the EU action in Afghanistan. This decision is based on the Revised Implementation Strategy on Children and Armed Conflict adopted by the Council on 7 December 2010, which aligns the EU action with the UN processes.

Specifically, the EU Guidelines on Children and Armed Conflict and locally developed priorities provide guidance for the EU and Member States to address the exploitation and recruitment of children by both the Afghan National Security Forces, militias and by the Taliban and, furthermore, singles out the prosecution of perpetrators of crimes against children.

The Commission's multiannual assistance programme for Afghanistan with its focus on Rule of Law/governance, agriculture and health also addresses the needs of Afghan children specifically through programmes for children at risk, including the reintegration of street children, child labour and trafficking. In addition, the EU has contributed EUR 89 million for UN led programmes for the clearing of land mines.

With regards to the situation of the allied forces in the region the European institutions have no competence regarding Member States' military operations in the context of NATO and, therefore, do not possess information regarding their safety.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000235/12
alla Commissione
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(18 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Programmi per fondi diretti, Città di Brindisi

Gli enti territoriali, quali Comuni e Province, sono tra i primi possibili beneficiari dei fondi diretti programmati ed erogati dalle Direzioni generali della Commissione europea. Tra i fondi disponibili ci sono ad esempio: il programma «Cultura», il programma per l'occupazione e la solidarietà sociale Progress, il programma «Europa per i cittadini» per la promozione della cittadinanza, quello per l'ambiente Life +, quello per gestire i flussi migratori, ossia il programma «Gestione flussi migratori» e il programma «Investire nelle persone» dedicato alle risorse umane, e tanti altri.

In merito a questo e ad altri programmi disponibili, può la Commissione chiarire quanto segue:

1. Esistono programmi per i quali la Città di Brindisi ha fatto richiesta?

2. In caso affermativo, quali sono i progetti che hanno avuto accesso a fondi europei e con quali risultati suddetti programmi sono stati portati a termine?

Risposta data da Janusz Lewandowski a nome della Commissione
(12 marzo 2012)

La città di Brindisi è stata leader di un progetto annuale di cooperazione culturale cofinanziato con 189 990,90 EUR per il periodo 31 novembre 2008-29 marzo 2010. Il progetto è servito da base per delineare la prima mappa di futuri percorsi turistici sostenendo anche la pubblicazione di materiale di studio per la definizione dei percorsi consigliati. Il progetto ha inoltre favorito lo scambio di esperienze e informazioni scientifico-culturali, creando così una rete di cooperazione a livello europeo.

La città di Brindisi ha anche partecipato in qualità di partner ai seguenti progetti selezionati nell'ambito delle «Reti di città gemellate» per il programma «Europa per i cittadini»:

2009: «INTAC» (Rete internazionale di città — cittadinanza attiva e gemellaggio)

2010: «How culture could play a key role to integrate migrants into local societies» (Il ruolo della cultura nell'integrazione dei migranti nelle società locali)

2011: «VIT: Very Important Twinning, Volunteering in Town»

Al momento è concluso solo il progetto del 2010 per il quale il contributo erogato dall'Unione è stato di 69 115,88 EUR. Il progetto ha incentivato un dialogo interculturale strutturato volto a migliorare la comprensione reciproca e a promuovere la diversità.

Infine, dal 2001 al 2004, in qualità di beneficiario associato alla provincia di Taranto, la provincia di Brindisi ha ricevuto finanziamenti nell'ambito del programma LIFE III (il predecessore di LIFE+) per il progetto «Sea-Land System: azioni concertate per la gestione delle aree costiere». La dotazione finanziaria totale è ammontata a 1 332 828,40 EUR con un contributo dell'UE di 541 170,00 EUR ([1]).

Non risultano altre richieste di finanziamenti diretti da parte della città o della provincia di Brindisi.

([1]) Per i risultati raggiunti, si veda la risposta all'interrogazione parlamentare 00838/2012: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/home.jsp

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000235/12
to the Commission
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(18 January 2012)

Subject: Direct funding programmes, city of Brindisi

Regional authorities, such as municipalities and provinces, are amongst the first possible beneficiaries of direct funding planned and allocated by the Commission's Directorates-General. Available funds include: the Culture programme, the Progress programme for employment and social solidarity, the Europe for Citizens programme for the promotion of citizenship, the Life + environment programme, the programme for managing migration flows, namely the Management of Migration Flows programme and the Investing in People programme dealing with human resources, and many more.

With respect to this and other available programmes, can the Commission clarify:

1. Whether the city of Brindisi has applied for any programmes?

2. If so, which projects received EU funding and what did they achieve?

Answer given by Mr Lewandowski on behalf of the Commission
(12 March 2012)

The City of Brindisi was leader for an annual cultural cooperation project co-financed with EUR 189.990,90 for the period 31 November 2008-29 March 2010. It served as basis for a first sketch of future tourist routes and supported the publication of study documents to help defining the suggested routes. Furthermore it facilitated the exchange of scientific-cultural information and experience, thus creating a cooperation network at European level.

In addition, the City of Brindisi participated as a partner in the following selected projects under 'Networks of twinned towns', within the context of the Europe for Citizens programme:

2009: 'International Network of Towns — Active Citizenship and Twinning'

2010: 'How culture could play a key role to integrate migrants into local societies'

2011: 'VIT: Very Important Twinning, Volunteering in Town'

For the time being only the 2010 project is closed. For this project, the EU contribution has totalled EUR 69.115,88. The project led to a structured intercultural dialogue to enforce mutual understanding and diversity.

Finally, the Province of Brindisi has received funding under the LIFE III programme (LIFE+ predecessor) for the project 'Sea-Land System: concerted Actions for the Coastal Zone Management' asan Associated Beneficiary of the Province of Taranto from 2001 to 2004. The total budget was of EUR 1.332.828,40 and the EU contribution of EUR 541.170,00 [1].

No other application for direct funding by the City or Province of Brindisi has been recorded.

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[1] For the results achieved, please see reply to QE 00838/2012. http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/home.jsp

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000236/12
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto rappresentante)
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(11 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: VP/HR — Attacchi islamici contro i cristiani in Nigeria

In Nigeria non si fermano gli attacchi omicidi a danno dei cristiani. Il gruppo fondamentalista islamico Boko Haram ha rivendicato l'uccisione, il 7 gennaio scorso, di almeno 17 persone nel nord-est del paese. Questo è solo uno degli episodi di violenza causati dai miliziani del gruppo responsabile della morte di oltre 500 persone nel 2011.

Gli attacchi in motocicletta sono uno dei segni caratteristici del modus operandi dell'organizzazione che nelle ultime settimane ha intensificato gli attentati, alternando gli assalti a mano armata alle bombe. Il 31 dicembre il presidente nigeriano Goodluck Jonathan ha dichiarato lo stato di emergenza nelle aeree in cui i militanti sono più attivi. Boko Haram ha dato un ultimatum a tutti i cristiani perché lascino il Nord del paese (a maggioranza musulmana). Le forze dell'ordine del paese più popoloso dell'Africa non sembrano essere in grado di frenare i miliziani che adottano tecniche di guerriglia urbana.

In merito ai fatti sopra esposti, si chiede al vicepresidente/alto rappresentante di comunicare:

1. se è a conoscenza dei fatti;

2. se la delegazione dell'UE in Nigeria ha preso provvedimenti di sorta e soprattutto quali azioni di dissuasione sta mettendo in atto;

3. se esistono associazioni locali per la difesa della libertà religiosa e in che modo esse agiscono.

Risposta data dall'Alta rappresentante/vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione
(16 aprile 2012)

La libertà di religione o credo è una priorità per la politica estera dell'Unione europea. Di fronte al numero crescente di atti di intolleranza e di discriminazione religiosa in tutto il mondo, l'Unione ha reagito fermamente, anche a livello dei ministri degli esteri dell'UE. Le conclusioni del Consiglio «Affari esteri» del febbraio 2011 hanno riaffermato la seria preoccupazione dell'UE e la sua decisa condanna per qualsiasi intolleranza, discriminazione o violenza ai danni delle minoranze religiose. Il Consiglio ha manifestato il forte impegno dell'UE a intensificare gli sforzi per la promozione e la tutela dei diritti delle persone appartenenti a minoranze religiose in qualsiasi parte del mondo.

In generale, la Nigeria è uno stato laico in cui la libertà di religione è sancita dalla Costituzione. Tuttavia, come in ogni altro paese, la religione può talvolta essere strumentalizzata per fini politici. Le condizioni di sicurezza in Nigeria sono motivo di preoccupazione per l'UE e il 26 dicembre 2011 l'Alta rappresentante/vicepresidente Catherine Ashton ha rilasciato una dichiarazione in cui condannava fermamente la recente ondata di attacchi terroristici. In effetti, ultimamente le condizioni di sicurezza si sono ulteriormente deteriorate fino a includere attacchi a luoghi di culto, una tendenza preoccupante che, se non gestita con attenzione, potrebbe produrre una situazione di violenza settaria generalizzata.

In base a tutte le informazioni a nostra disposizione, il numero di persone coinvolte nei recenti atti di violenza pare essere limitato. Il gruppo terroristico noto col nome di Boko Haram sembra essere intenzionato a infondere insicurezza nella popolazione e a destabilizzare il paese con tutti i mezzi a sua disposizione. Le attività del gruppo sono state condannate dai leader religiosi di tutte le confessioni e la sua affermazione di agire a nome dei musulmani è stata definita mendace dagli studiosi islamici. In questa situazione, riteniamo che una delle nostre priorità sia quella di assistere le autorità nella promozione del dialogo inter-religioso per evitare che le violenze vengano interpretate come un conflitto tra gruppi religiosi.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000236/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(11 January 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Islamist attacks on Christians in Nigeria

The attacks on Christians in Nigeria are continuing unremittingly. The Islamic fundamentalist group Boko Haram has claimed responsibility for the killing of at least 17 people in the North-East of the country on 7 January 2012. This is but one of the many violent acts that have been carried out by the militia group, which killed over 500 people in 2011.

Motorcycle attacks are among the methods typically used by the organisation, which has stepped up its operations during recent weeks, alternating between armed assaults and bombings. On 31 December 2011 the Nigerian President, Goodluck Jonathan, declared a state of emergency in the areas in which the militia is most active. Boko Haram has issued an ultimatum for all Christians to leave the North of the country (which is mainly Muslim). The security forces of Africa's most populous country seem to be unable to curb the activities of the militia, which is using urban warfare techniques.

1. Is the Vice-President/High Representative aware of this situation?

2. Is the EU Delegation in Nigeria taking any steps, in particular deterrent measures? If so, what is involved?

3. Are there any local associations for the defence of religious freedom? If so, what action are they taking?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(16 April 2012)

Freedom of religion or belief (FORB) is a priority under the EU's external policy. The EU has firmly responded to the increasing number of acts of religious intolerance and discrimination across the world, including at the level of EU Foreign Ministers. The February 2011 Foreign Affairs Council conclusions reiterated the EU's serious concern and condemnation over any intolerance, discrimination or violence against religious minorities. The Council expressed the EU's strong commitment to step up its efforts to promote and protect rights of persons belonging to religious minorities wherever in the world.

Generally speaking, Nigeria is a secular state. Religious freedom is enshrined in its Constitution. Nevertheless, and as in any other country, religion may at times be instrumentalised for political purposes. The security situation in Nigeria is a matter of concern to the EU and HRVP Ashton issued a statement firmly condemning the latest wave of terrorist attacks on 26 December 2011. The security situation has indeed deteriorated further of late to include attacks on places of worship, which is a worrying trend that could result in widespread sectarian violence, unless managed carefully.

According to all information at our disposal the number of persons involved in the recent spate of violence is limited. The terrorist group known as Boko Haram appears at all accounts to be intent by any means at their disposal to unsettle the population and destabilise the country. Their activities have been condemned by religious leaders of all observations and Islamic scholars have described their claims to be acting on behalf of Muslims as bogus. In this situation, we believe one of our priorities should be to assist the authorities in promoting inter-faith dialogue to help avoid this being seen as a conflict between religious groups.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000237/12
alla Commissione
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(18 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Fuga di aziende italiane verso la Svizzera

Da mesi sulla linea di confine tra Lombardia e Canton Ticino si susseguono grandi movimenti. Nel corso del 2011 il numero di lavoratori che ha residenza in Italia e impiego in Svizzera è cresciuto del 7,8 %, dando vita anche a nuove professioni come il «facilitatore» per le piccole e medie imprese, ovvero la figura che si occupa di aprire la strada alle aziende italiane che sempre più numerose decidono di aprire una sede nella Svizzera italiana.

Le ragioni di tale migrazione, nonostante il costo della manodopera più elevato, risiedono in una burocrazia e una giustizia efficienti, nella stabilità politica, nella pace sindacale e in una pressione fiscale che non supera il 20 %.

Il sistema elvetico propone insomma condizioni di lavoro migliori rispetto all'Italia.

Alla luce di quanto precede, può la Commissione dire:

1. se è a conoscenza dei fatti e in che modo sta monitorando questo frequente fenomeno;

2. quali misure di accompagnamento alla delocalizzazione sono e saranno presto messe inatto al fine di evitare le ben note ripercussioni negative sulle aziende europee;

3. quali incentivi europei prevede per attirare e trattenere le imprese europee.

Risposta data da Antonio Tajani a nome della Commissione
(15 febbraio 2012)

Qualunque sia la loro dimensione, le imprese competitive costituiscono il principale motore di una solida crescita economica. Per poter prosperare, le imprese necessitano di un contesto operativo favorevole. Nella sua comunicazione «Politica industriale: rafforzare la competitività» ([1]), la Commissione ha osservato che per consolidare la competitività sarebbe necessario «ridurre l'onere amministrativo per le imprese valutando l'onere attuale (compreso l'onere fiscale) riducendolo rapidamente al livello degli obiettivi fissati.»

Tramite la pubblicazione annuale di raccomandazioni specifiche per paese, la Commissione sostiene gli Stati membri nel loro sforzo volto a promuovere la crescita e l'occupazione. Il programma nazionale di riforma dell'Italia ([2]) delinea una serie di azioni che il governo italiano si è impegnato a adottare nell'intento di migliorare la competitività dell'Italia e delle sue regioni.

La raccomandazione generale della Commissione è che il consolidamento fiscale dovrebbe essere operato in maniera tale da salvaguardare il più possibile la crescita e l'occupazione, ma spetta ai governi degli Stati membri definire le politiche opportune. La Commissione segue gli sviluppi e ne riferisce nel contesto del semestre europeo, nonché nella sua relazione «Member States competitiveness performance and policies» ([3]).

Nel quadro della politica di coesione, il Fondo europeo di sviluppo regionale sostiene le PMI locali, principalmente nel settore della R&S, nell'intento di svilupparne le attività nella regione e a condizione che i finanziamenti dell'UE non promuovano la delocalizzazione delle PMI all'interno o al di fuori dell'UE.

([1]) COM(2011)642 definitivo.
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/nrp/nrp_italy_it.pdf
([3]) http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/industrial-competitiveness/industrial-policy/files/ms_comp_report_2011_en.pdf

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000237/12
to the Commission
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(18 January 2012)

Subject: The flight of Italian companies into Switzerland

There has been a great deal of activity on the Lombardy and Canton Ticino border for months. During 2011 the number of workers living in Italy but working in Switzerland rose by 7.8 %, giving life to new professions such as that of 'facilitator' for small and medium-sized businesses, meaning a person who paves the way for the increasing number of Italian companies which have decided to open in Italian Switzerland.

The reasons for this migration, despite higher labour costs, are the more efficient bureaucracy and legal system, political stability, good relationships with the trade unions and a tax burden which does not exceed 20 %.

The Swiss system offers better working conditions than in Italy.

In light of the above, can the Commission state:

1. if it is aware of the facts and in what way it is monitoring this frequent phenomenon;

2. what accompanying measures for this relocation exist or will be implemented shortly with the aim of avoiding the well known negative repercussions on European companies;

3. what European incentives it provides to attract and retain European businesses?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(15 February 2012)

The main drivers of strong economic growth are competitive firms of all sizes. Businesses need a favourable operating environment to thrive. In its communication 'Industrial Policy: Reinforcing competitiveness' ([1]), the Commission noted that competitiveness would be strengthened by 'Reducing the administrative burden on businesses by evaluating the current burden (including that due to the tax code) and rapidly reducing burdens to targets'.

The Commission supports the Member States in delivering growth and jobs by publishing country-specific recommendations every year. The Italian National Reform Programme ([2]) contains a series of actions to which the Italian Government has committed itself in order to improve the competitiveness of Italy and its regions.

The overall recommendation of the Commission has been that fiscal consolidation should be carried out in a way that protects growth and jobs as much as possible, but the design of policies has to be determined by the Member State governments. The Commission follows the developments and reports on these in the context of the European Semester, and in its report 'Member States competitiveness performance and policies' ([3]).

Within the framework of Cohesion Policy, the European Regional Development Fund supports local SMEs, primarily in the field of R & D, with a view to developing their business activities in the region and provided that the EU funding does not support SME relocations within or outside the EU.

([1]) COM(2011) 642 final.
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/pdf/nrp/nrp_italy_en.pdf
([3]) http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/industrial-competitiveness/industrial-policy/files/ms_comp_report_2011_en.pdf

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000238/12
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto rappresentante)
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(25 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: VP/HR — Kamikaze a Damasco

L'ennesimo attentato suicida a Damasco, nei pressi delle basi dei servizi segreti, non può più lasciare indifferente la dittatura del presidente Bashar al Assad. La rivoluzione sta ormai raggiungendo il cuore vitale del Paese, sono svanite le zone franche e Damasco diventa la prima linea con il conseguente intensificarsi della violenza.

Si è trattato di un duro colpo per la missione degli osservatori della Lega Araba, giunta nel Paese il 23 dicembre durante gli attentati. Il fronte rivoluzionario li accusa di essere burattini del regime, legittimandone l'esistenza invece di chiedere le dimissioni immediate di Bashar.

In merito ai fatti sopra esposti, si chiede al vicepresidente/alto rappresentante se non ritiene che relazioni più strette con il paese, sotto forma di accordi di associazione, potrebbero aiutare a gestire l'emergenza insurrezione e ad agevolare un probabile futuro cambio di governo verso un sistema più democratico.

Risposta data dall'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione
(15 marzo 2012)

Il Consiglio Affari esteri del maggio 2011 ha deciso di sospendere i programmi di cooperazione bilaterale tra l'UE e il governo siriano previsti dagli strumenti MEDA/ENPI e di interrompere tutti i lavori preparatori per nuove cooperazioni bilaterali. Inoltre l'UE non si adopererà ulteriormente in merito all'accordo di associazione negoziato con la Siria. Le iniziative intraprese dall'UE erano intese a contribuire al raggiungimento di un cambiamento delle politiche del governo siriano che comportasse la sospensione delle repressioni, l'attuazione delle riforme annunciate e la promozione di un dialogo nazionale credibile, autentico e inclusivo.

Da allora la Commissione ha sospeso la partecipazione delle autorità siriane ai suoi programmi regionali e la BEI ha interrotto tutte le operazioni di finanziamento e di assistenza tecnica alla Siria. Il 30 novembre 2011, in risposta alle misure restrittive dell'UE, la Siria ha sospeso la propria associazione e partecipazione all'Unione per il Mediterraneo.

Non tutte le attività di cooperazione sono state sospese e diversi progetti sono ancora in corso nell'ambito del sostegno a soggetti non statali, società civile siriana e rifugiati. Proseguono anche i programmi Tempus ed Erasmus con studenti e università siriani.

La Commissione crede nell'intensificazione dei rapporti con i cittadini e la società civile siriani e l'UE manterrà i contatti con l'opposizione siriana operando allo stesso tempo attraverso le reti per i diritti umani e le ONG europee ben radicate sul territorio e altre organizzazioni collegate alla diaspora dei cittadini siriani e con capacità operative in Siria.

La Commissione è pronta a collaborare all'identificazione di misure in sostegno della popolazione siriana e a mobilitare risorse per l'assistenza finanziaria a favore di una transizione autentica e democratica.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000238/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(25 January 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Suicide bombers in Damascus

The latest suicide bomb attack in Damascus, near the secret service headquarters, is unlikely to leave President Bashar al Assad's dictatorship unperturbed. The revolution is starting to reach the heart of the country, there are no longer any free zones, and Damascus is now in the front line, with the consequent escalation of violence.

This came as a hard blow for the Arab League observers, who entered the country on 23 December 2011 as the attacks were happening. The revolutionary front accuses them of being the regime's puppets, legitimising its existence instead of calling for Assad's immediate resignation.

In the light of the facts described above, does not the Vice-President/High Representative believe that closer relations with Syria, in the form of association agreements, could help the country manage the emergency created by the insurgency and facilitate a probable future change of government, thereby paving the way for a more democratic system?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(15 March 2012)

The Foreign Affairs Council of May 2011 took the decision to suspend bilateral cooperation programmes between the EU and the Syrian government under the MEDA/ENPI instruments and to suspend all preparations for new bilateral cooperation. The EU also will not take further steps with regard to the Association Agreement that had been negotiated with Syria. The steps taken by the EU aimed at helping achieve a change of the Syrian government's policy, including halting the repression, implementing announced reforms, and advancing a credible, genuine and inclusive national dialogue.

Since then, the Commission has suspended the participation of Syrian authorities to its regional programmes and the EIB has suspended all its loan operations and technical assistance to Syria. On 30 November 2011, in reaction to the EU restrictive measures, Syria suspended its membership and its participation to the Union for the Mediterranean.

However, not all cooperation has stopped, as several projects are still ongoing in the field of support to Non State Actors, the Syrian civil society, and the refugees. Tempus and Erasmus programmes with Syrian students and universities are also continuing.

The Commission believes in closer relations with the Syrian people and civil society, and the EU will continue its contacts with Syrian opposition while at the same time working through well established Human Rights networks, European NGOs and other organisations with links to the Syrian diaspora and with an operational capacity in Syria.

The Commission stands ready to work together in identifying actions to support the Syrian people and mobilise financial assistance in favour of a genuine democratic transition.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000239/12
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto rappresentante)
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(25 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: VP/HR — Sanzioni a Teheran

I 27 paesi dell'Unione europea hanno stabilito di comune accordo la necessità di aumentare la pressione affinché Teheran rinunci alle possibili applicazioni militari dei suoi programmi nucleari. Si tratta dell'ultimo avviso alla controparte, con la speranza che la crisi rientri in extremis.

L'Italia si è detta pronta a fare la sua parte, incoraggiando un dialogo aperto e trasparente con l'Iran. Se questo si rivelasse impossibile e se l'Iran persistesse nella sua politica di armamento nucleare, l'Italia sarebbe pronta a sostenere tutte le nuove sanzioni imposte dall'Europa, incluso l'embargo petrolifero all'Iran.

Alla luce di quanto precede, può il vicepresidente/alto rappresentante comunicare:

1. se vi sono state reazioni di sorta da parte dell'Iran a seguito della minaccia europea di embargo;

2. quali sono gli Stati membri che hanno già dato il loro assenso a un simile trattamento neiconfronti del regime di Teheran?

Risposta data dall'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione
(10 aprile 2012)

L'Iran ha informato l'Unione europea che si oppone alla decisione del Consiglio del 23 gennaio relativa a nuove sanzioni nei confronti del paese (decisione 2012/35/PESC del Consiglio).

La decisione sulle nuove sanzioni è stata adottata dal Consiglio all'unanimità.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000239/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(25 January 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Sanctions against Iran

The 27 Member States have jointly agreed that pressure should be stepped up on Iran, to ensure that it does not put its nuclear programmes to any military uses. This is intended as a last warning to Iran, issued in the hope that the crisis may be resolved at the last minute.

Italy has declared itself ready to play its part by encouraging an open and transparent dialogue with Iran. Should this be impossible and should Iran continue to pursue its nuclear weapons policy, Italy would be willing to support all new sanctions imposed by Europe, including an embargo on Iranian oil.

1. Has there been any reaction on the part of Iran following the EU's threat to impose an embargo?

2. Which Member States have already stated their support for such action against the regime In Iran?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(10 April 2012)

Iran has informed the EU that it objects to the Council's decision of 23 January on new sanctions against the country (Council Decision 2012/35/CFSP).

The Council's decision on these additional sanctions was taken by unanimity.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000240/12
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto rappresentante)
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(25 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: VP/HR — Violenti attacchi contro i cristiani in Nigeria

In Nigeria proseguono gli attacchi terroristici a danno dei fedeli cristiani. Il giorno di Natale, in tre attacchi coordinati rivendicati dal gruppo Boko Haran, hanno perso la vita 35 persone, di cui 27 uccise in un'unica chiesa di Abuja dove l'esplosione è avvenuta proprio durante la messa.

In Nigeria le tensioni durano da oltre dieci anni. Nel 2010 si erano verificati massacri di fedeli cristiani a Jos. Il gruppo terroristico responsabile degli attacchi dello scorso 25 dicembre, che ha dichiarato di voler instaurare lo Stato islamico e applicare la legge islamica, tiene inoltre sotto scacco l'intero paese.

I portavoce del gruppo terroristico Boko Haran hanno lanciato un ultimatum contro le comunità cristiane che vivono nella Nigeria settentrionale, a maggioranza musulmana, affinché lascino al più presto quei territori.

Considerando che:

— l'articolo 8 dell'accordo di Cotonou consente all'UE di mantenere un confronto politico costante con la Nigeria in materia di principi democratici, diritti umani e Stato di diritto;

— le delegazioni dell'UE ad Abuja hanno già avviato iniziative diplomatiche con il ministero degli Affari esteri nigeriano al fine di stigmatizzare la condanna alle violenze;

intende il vicepresidente/alto rappresentante far pesare le proprie prerogative di controllo, anche rispetto all'utilizzo degli aiuti allo sviluppo?

Quali azioni ritiene inoltre opportune per far fronte all'ulteriore emergenza generata dagli ultimatum contro le comunità cristiane del paese africano?

Risposta dell'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione
(10 agosto 2012)

I recenti attentati terroristici in Nigeria hanno preso di mira, oltre alle chiese, edifici del governo e di sicurezza, mercati, scuole e civili innocenti senza distinzioni. L'Unione europea condanna questi attentati che rappresentano vere e proprie attività criminali. Si veda inoltre la dichiarazione dell'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente del 19 giugno 2012.

La collaborazione tra UE e Nigeria mira ad aiutare il paese a realizzare l'obiettivo di una sicurezza duratura, affrontando i molteplici fattori socioeconomici e politici che conducono alla radicalizzazione.

L'Unione ha già reindirizzato una parte dei suoi programmi di cooperazione verso il nord del paese in modo da velocizzare le iniziative per la lotta alla povertà e alle privazioni.

Inoltre, di recente l'UE ha fornito sostegno allo sviluppo delle capacità di mediazione in una delle aree più a rischio avvalendosi dei fondi provenienti dal progetto per il sostegno alla mediazione (EEAS BL 2238) varato dal Parlamento europeo.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000240/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(25 January 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Violent attacks on Christians in Nigeria

Terrorist attacks on Christians are continuing to take place in Nigeria. On Christmas day, 35 people were killed in three coordinated attacks — 27 of them in a single church in Abuja, where the explosion occurred during mass. The Boko Haram group has claimed responsibility.

Tension has been high in Nigeria for over 10 years now. In 2010, Christians were massacred in Jos. The terrorist group responsible for the attacks on 25 December 2011, which has declared its intention to establish an Islamic state and apply Islamic law, has also been holding the entire country in check.

The spokesmen for the Boko Haram terrorist group have issued an ultimatum to the Christian communities in northern Nigeria, where there is a Muslim majority, to leave the area as soon as possible.

Whereas:

— Article 8 of the Cotonou Agreement allows the EU to maintain a constant political dialogue with Nigeria on democratic principles, human rights and the rule of law;

— The EU delegations in Abuja have already launched diplomatic initiatives with the Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs aimed at condemning the violence;

Does the Vice-President/High Representative intend to bring her own prerogatives, including with regard to the use of development aid?

What steps does she consider should be taken to address the latest emergency triggered by the ultimatums issued to the Christian communities in this African country?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(10 August 2012)

The recent attacks by terrorists in Nigeria have targeted government and security buildings, markets, schools and innocent civilians of all kinds as well as churches. All such attacks are criminal activities and have been condemned as such by the EU. Please also refer to HR/VP Ashton's statement of 19 June 2012.

The EU is working together with Nigeria to help it tackle the challenges of creating durable security and dealing with the multiple socioeconomic and political factors conducive to radicalisation.

The EU has already reoriented parts of its cooperation programme with Nigeria to the North of the country to accelerate action against poverty and deprivation there.

In addition, the EU has recently provided capacity building for mediation in one of the most fragile areas making use of funds from the mediation support project (EEAS BL 2238) initiated by the European Parliament.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000241/12
alla Commissione
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(18 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Armonizzazione delle politiche fiscali fra gli Stati membri

L'Agenzia italiana delle entrate ha recentemente concluso un accordo di accertamento per adesione con la società tedesca Bosch GmbH — accordo con il quale è stata messa la parola fine a un lungo contenzioso.

L'ente infatti sosteneva che l'azienda tedesca dovesse al Fisco italiano ben 1,4 miliardi di euro, ritenendo come non pagate tasse dal 1997. Per contro, la Bosch sosteneva di aver versato i contributi dovuti al Fisco tedesco.

L'accordo si è chiuso con il versamento da parte della Bosch di 300 milioni di euro e la rinuncia da parte dell'Agenzia italiana delle entrate a ben 1,1 miliardi di euro.

Ma la società leader nella produzione di componenti automobilistiche, con numerosi investimenti attivi in Italia, avrebbe già annunciato di voler chiedere un rimborso delle tasse pagate in Germania.

Appare quanto mai urgente arrivare a una forma di chiarimento, se non di armonizzazione, dei rapporti fra le regolamentazioni fiscali degli Stati membri.

Si interroga pertanto la Commissione per sapere se:

1. non ritenga opportuno avviare una verifica dei rapporti fra le regolamentazioni fiscali degli Stati membri;

2. non consideri urgente l'avvio di un procedimento di armonizzazione delle regolamentazioni fiscali che garantisca certezza sia alle legittime richieste degli Stati sia agli investimenti delle aziende.

Risposta data da Vladimir Algirdas Šemeta a nome della Commissione
(28 febbraio 2012)

La Commissione non è a conoscenza dello specifico caso cui fa riferimento l'onorevole parlamentare.

In linea di principio, gli Stati membri sono liberi di configurare il proprio sistema tributario e di ripartirsi tra loro il potere impositivo, purché ciò avvenga in conformità al diritto UE. Tuttavia, in mancanza di norme comuni in materia di imposta sulle società, l'interazione tra i sistemi fiscali nazionali può portare ad una doppia imposizione o ad una doppia non imposizione. Il 16 marzo 2011 la Commissione ha adottato una proposta di direttiva su una base imponibile consolidata comune per l'imposta sulle società (Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base — CCCTB), che consentirà alle società che operano nell'UE di far riferimento ad un insieme unico di norme per il calcolo degli utili imponibili. Uno dei vantaggi della CCCTB è quello di contribuire a evitare la doppia imposizione e la doppia non imposizione infragruppo.

In aggiunta, l'11 novembre 2011 la Commissione ha adottato una comunicazione sulle modalità per far fronte al problema della doppia imposizione nell'UE. La Commissione intende lavorare alla valutazione e allo sviluppo delle possibili opzioni delineate nella comunicazione, in particolare la creazione di un forum sulla doppia imposizione per le questioni fiscali che rilevano puramente dell'ambito UE, la proposta di un codice di condotta in materia di doppia imposizione e la fattibilità di un meccanismo efficiente di risoluzione delle controversie, allo scopo di determinare il modo più efficace per eliminare la doppia imposizione.

Inoltre, la Commissione sta per avviare una consultazione conoscitiva sulla doppia non imposizione, per accertare l'entità del fenomeno. I risultati della consultazione consentiranno di determinare e di elaborare la risposta politica adeguata. Peraltro, entro la fine del 2012 la Commissione intende adottare una comunicazione sul rafforzamento della buona governance nel settore fiscale, al fine di affrontare, tra l'altro, le discordanze tra sistemi tributari.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000241/12
to the Commission
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(18 January 2012)

Subject: The harmonisation of fiscal policies between Member States

The Italian revenue service has recently reached a tax assessment agreement with the German company Bosch GmbH, an agreement which ironed out a long dispute.

The revenue service claimed that the German company owed the exchequer EUR 1.4 billion, claiming that this figure was unpaid taxes from 1997. On the other hand Bosch claimed to have paid the taxes to the German exchequer.

The agreement was concluded with the payment by Bosch of EUR 300 million and the Italian revenue service forfeiting EUR 1.1 billion of taxes.

But this leading vehicle component manufacturer, with numerous investments in Italy, had apparently already announced that it was intending to claim a tax reimbursement in Germany.

It would appear that a form of clarification, if not harmonisation, of the relationship between the various taxation systems of the Member States is urgently needed.

1. Does not the Commission consider it necessary to clarify the relationships between the taxation systems of the Member States?

2. Does not the Commission consider that the launch of a harmonisation procedure between the taxation systems is urgently necessary, which would guarantee certainty for both the legitimate requests of the Member States and investments by companies?

Answer given by Mr Šemeta on behalf of the Commission
(28 February 2012)

The Commission is not aware of the specific case referred to by the Honourable Member.

As a matter of principle, Member States may freely design their tax systems and allocate taxing powers between themselves provided they comply with EC law. However, in the absence of common corporate tax rules, the interaction of national tax systems may lead to double taxation or double non-taxation. On 16 March 2011, the Commission has adopted a proposal for a directive on a Common Consolidated Corporate Tax Base (CCCTB) which will provide companies operating within the EU with a single set of rules to calculate their taxable profits. One of the benefits of the CCCTB is to help avoiding double taxation and double non-taxation within groups.

In addition, on 11 November 2011, the Commission has adopted a communication on possible ways to address double taxation within the EU. The Commission intends to work on evaluating and developing the possible options set out in this communication, in particular the creation of a Forum on double taxation for purely EU tax matters, a proposal for a code of conduct on double taxation and the feasibility of an efficient dispute resolution mechanism, with a view to determining the most effective ways to remove double taxation.

In addition, the Commission is about to launch a fact-finding consultation procedure on double non-taxation, in order to establish the full scale of this phenomenon. The results of this consultation will be used to identify and develop the appropriate policy responses. Furthermore, by the end of 2012 the Commission intends to adopt a communication on strengthening good governance in the tax area with a view to address, *inter alia*, mismatches between tax systems.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000242/12
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto rappresentante)
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(25 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: VP/HR — Arrestata Faezeh Rafsanjani

A Teheran Faezeh, figlia dell'ex presidente iraniano Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, è stata condannata a sei mesi di reclusione senza attenuanti per «propaganda contro il regime» e a cinque anni di «interdizione» da ogni tipo di attività politica

Faezeh era stata convocata di fronte al tribunale lo scorso 25 dicembre. Era stata arrestata in occasione delle manifestazioni dell'opposizione contro la contesta rielezione del presidente Mahmoud Ahmadinejad nel giugno 2009.

Alla luce dei fatti sopraesposti, s'interroga dunque il VP/HR per sapere:

1. se è al corrente dell'arresto della figlia dell'ex leader iraniano Rafsanjani,

2. se può tracciare un quadro generale sulla libertà di espressione in Iran e

3. quali iniziative intende assumere in merito alla vicenda?

Risposta data dall'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione
(22 maggio 2012)

L'UE ritiene che il rispetto dei diritti umani e delle libertà fondamentali debba restare un pilastro nelle relazioni presenti e future dell'UE con l'Iran. L'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Ashton è intervenuta in numerose occasioni in merito alla situazione dei diritti umani in Iran e ha ripetutamente invitato le autorità iraniane a rispettare il diritto alla libertà di espressione, in linea con gli obblighi sottoscritti in materia di diritti umani, e a porre fine alla persecuzione e all'intimidazione dei cittadini. Ciò riguarda anche il caso di Faezeh Rafsanjani.

L'AR/VP ha condannato l'inaccettabile repressione a cui sono soggetti costantemente i rappresentanti di numerosi gruppi politici e della società civile, e ha chiesto all'Iran di rispettare i diritti fondamentali di tutti i cittadini, sanciti dalla Convenzione internazionale sui diritti civili e politici, che l'Iran ha liberamente firmato e ratificato.

Inoltre, diversi Stati membri e l'UE stessa contribuiscono alla promozione della libertà d'espressione in Iran, attraverso un sostegno finanziario e pratico a progetti e organizzazioni dedicati al miglioramento delle condizioni dei diritti umani nel paese, compreso il diritto alla libertà d'espressione.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000242/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(25 January 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Faezeh Rafsanjani arrested

In Tehran, Faezeh, daughter of Ex-President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani of Iran, has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment without attenuating circumstances for 'propaganda against the regime' and 'banned' for five years from any type of political activity.

Faezeh appeared in court on 25 December last year. She had been arrested during the opposition's protests against the controversial re-election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in June 2009.

1. Is the VP/HR aware of the arrest of the former Iranian leader's daughter?

2. Can she provide an overview of freedom of expression in Iran?

3. What initiatives will she take in this matter?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(22 May 2012)

The EU considers that the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms must remain an essential pillar of the EU's present and future relations with Iran. High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) Ashton has issued numerous statements on the situation of human rights in Iran and has, on several occasions, called on the Iranian authorities to respect the right to freedom of expression in line with their human rights obligations and to put a stop to the persecution and intimidation of its citizens. This includes the case of Faezeh Rafsanjani.

HR/VP has condemned the unacceptable repression to which representatives of many political and civil society groups are now routinely subjected and has called on Iran to respect the fundamental rights of all its citizens as codified by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which Iran has freely signed and ratified.

Furthermore, several EU Member States as well as the EU contribute to the promotion of freedom of expression in Iran through financial and practical support to projects and organisations that are dedicated to improving the human rights situation in Iran, including the right to freedom of expression.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000243/12
alla Commissione
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(25 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Emergenza povertà in Puglia

Il 21,1 per cento delle famiglie pugliesi non riesce ad arrivare a fine mese, si trova quindi in una condizione di «povertà relativa», con un consumo di beni e servizi inferiore a quello della media nazionale. Un dato ancora più allarmante, se confrontato con il resto d'Italia: la Puglia è la quinta regione più povera dopo la Calabria, la Basilicata, il Molise e la Campania.

Il dramma della solitudine, della povertà e della paura di non riuscire a continuare una vita dignitosa ha colpito dall'inizio dell'anno soprattutto la provincia di Bari, un dramma confermato dalle cifre del rapporto Caritas. Sempre secondo l'indagine, una famiglia su due non riesce a sostenere delle spese impreviste (in caso di rottura ad esempio di qualche apparecchiatura elettronica), l'11,9 per cento non riesce a fare un pasto adeguato almeno ogni due giorni, così come il 17,6 per cento non ha abbastanza soldi per provvedere al riscaldamento della propria casa.

Alla luce dei fatti sopraesposti può la Commissione far sapere:

1. se è al corrente dei dati sulla povertà in Puglia e

2. quali sono i risultati della strategia europea «piattaforma contro la povertà e l'esclusione sociale», e se all'interno del programma esistono piani dedicati al mezzogiorno italiano?

Risposta data da László Andor a nome della Commissione
(27 febbraio 2012)

Dati dell'ISTAT (Istituto nazionale di statistica) sulla percentuale di famiglie al di sotto della soglia di povertà (povertà relativa) si trovano in allegato.

La strategia Europa 2020 ha incluso fra i suoi principali obiettivi quello di ridurre la povertà di almeno 20 milioni di persone. Pur restando gli Stati membri i responsabili primari della lotta contro la povertà, l'UE può sostenerli in vari modi: rammentando i loro obblighi, aiutandoli a scambiare pratiche esemplari ma anche con iniziative di vario tipo nonché attraverso l'uso dei fondi di coesione.

Nel contesto della Piattaforma europea contro la povertà e l'esclusione sociale, la Commissione ha svolto varie attività per ridurre la povertà e l'esclusione sociale nella UE. In particolare, essa ha recentemente adottato una raccomandazione sull'accesso a conti di base[1] e prevede di adottarne un'altra sulla povertà infantile nel 2012. La Commissione prevede anche di pubblicare la relazione di seguito sull'attuazione della raccomandazione del 2008 sull'integrazione attiva, che guarda in modo specifico alle misure adottate dagli Stati membri nei 3 pilastri dell'integrazione attiva: sostegno a un reddito adeguato, mercati del lavoro capaci di integrare e accesso a servizi di qualità. Il documento di accompagnamento della comunicazione sulla Piattaforma europea contro la povertà e l'esclusione sociale[2] disponi di un elenco completo di iniziative.

Il programma operativo 2007-2013, cofinanziato dal Fondo sociale europeo (FSE) in Puglia individua la povertà come problema particolarmente rilevante nella regione. L'FSE non può fornire sostegni diretti al reddito delle famiglie povere. Ma può riguardare persone al di sotto della soglia di povertà grazie a iniziative tese a rafforzare l'inclusione sociale delle persone svantaggiate ai fini di una loro integrazione sostenibile nel mondo del lavoro.

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(1) Cfr http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/ia_carried_out/docs/ia_2011/c_2011_4977_en.pdf
(2) Cfr http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=SEC:2010:1564:FIN:EN:PDF

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000243/12
to the Commission
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(25 January 2012)

Subject: Poverty emergency in Apulia

21.1 % of households in the Italian region of Apulia currently have to struggle to get to the end of the month and are therefore in a state of 'relative poverty', with a consumption of goods and services lower than the national average. This figure is even more alarming when viewed in the national context: Apulia is Italy's fifth-poorest region, after Calabria, Basilicata, Molise and Campania.

People in the province of Bari have been particularly hard hit since the beginning of the year by the problems of loneliness and poverty and a fear of being unable to continue to lead a dignified life. This is borne out by the figures given in a Caritas report, according to which one in two families are unable to cope with unexpected expenses (for instance, in the event of an electrical appliance breaking down), 11.9 % cannot afford a decent meal at least once every other day, and 17.6 % do not have enough money to heat their homes.

In light of the above, can the Commission:

1. State whether it is aware of these data on poverty in Apulia?

2. Outline the results of the EU strategy known as the 'platform against poverty and social exclusion', and explain whether that programme includes dedicated plans for the south of Italy?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission
(27 February 2012)

Data on percentage of households below the poverty threshold (relative poverty) from ISTAT (Italian National Institute of Statistics) are in annex.

The Europe 2020 strategy has set as one of its main target to reduce poverty by at least 20 million people. While the Member States bear the primary responsibility for fighting poverty, the EU level can support them in different ways: by reminding Member States of their obligation, helping them exchanging good practices, but also in the framework of various initiatives as well as through the use of Cohesion Funds.

In the context of the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion, the Commission has been engaged in various activities to reduce poverty and social exclusion in the EU. In particular it recently adopted a recommendation on access to basic accounts ([1]) and plans to adopt another one on child poverty in 2012. The Commission also plans to publish the follow-up report on the implementation of the 2008 Commission recommendation on active inclusion by looking specifically at the measures taken by Member States in the three pillars of active inclusion: adequate income support, inclusive labour markets, and access to quality services. The accompanying document to the communication on the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion ([2]) gives a full list of initiatives.

The 2007-2013 operational programme co-financed by the European Social Fund (ESF) in Puglia identifies poverty as a very relevant challenge in the region. The ESF can not provide direct income support to poor households. However, it can target people below the poverty threshold through initiatives that reinforce the social inclusion of disadvantaged people with a view to their sustainable integration in employment.

([1]) See http://ec.europa.eu/governance/impact/ia_carried_out/docs/ia_2011/c_2011_4977_en.pdf
([2]) See http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=SEC:2010:1564:FIN:EN:PDF

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000244/12
alla Commissione
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(25 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Suicidi nelle carceri di Trani e Torino

Un detenuto di 34 anni si è tolto la vita nel carcere di Trani a poche ore di distanza da un altro suicidio nel carcere di Torino. Il dato dei suicidi nelle carceri italiane è drammatico. In tutto il 2011, inoltre, sono stati 59 i detenuti a togliersi la vita e ben 167 hanno tentato, senza riuscirci, il suicidio (dato triplicato rispetto all'anno precedente).

Inoltre, secondo un recente studio del Consiglio d'Europa, in Italia il tasso di sovraffollamento delle carceri è tra i più alti in assoluto. Per ogni 100 posti disponibili, infatti, ci sono in media 148,2 detenuti. Non si tratta soltanto di detenuti italiani: un terzo è straniero (16mila circa), la maggior parte proviene da altri paesi europei ed extra Unione europea.

Alla luce dei fatti sopraesposti, può la Commissione far sapere:

1. se è a conoscenza della presenza massiccia degli stranieri nelle carceri italiane, un problema diffuso in tutta l'Unione, e

2. se intende presentare un progetto legislativo sulla giustizia penale nel settore della detenzione e sul problema del sovraffollamento delle carceri che faccia seguito al libro verde del 14 giugno 2011, COM(2011)327?

Risposta data da Viviane Reding a nome della Commissione
(13 marzo 2012)

La Commissione è consapevole del problema del sovraffollamento delle carceri italiane.

La responsabilità della costruzione e della gestione delle carceri spetta agli Stati membri e rientra quindi nella sfera di competenza delle autorità italiane.

In linea con il programma di Stoccolma la Commissione sta valutando le possibili modalità di rafforzamento della fiducia e del riconoscimento reciproci nel settore della detenzione, in conformità e nei limiti delle competenze dell'UE. A tal fine la Commissione ha pubblicato un Libro verde sull'applicazione della normativa dell'UE sulla giustizia penale nel settore della detenzione COM(2011)327 del 14 giugno 2011.

La Commissione ha ricevuto oltre 200 risposte dagli Stati membri e dai soggetti interessati e analizzerà attentamente tutte le risposte prima di esprimersi sulle azioni più appropriate che possono e dovrebbero essere adottate a livello europeo.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000244/12
to the Commission
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(25 January 2012)

Subject: Suicides in Trani and Turin prisons

A 34-year-old inmate took his own life in Trani prison only a few hours after another suicide took place in Turin prison. The number of suicides in Italian prisons is alarming. In 2011, a total of 59 inmates committed suicide and there were 167 unsuccessful suicide attempts (these numbers are three times higher than those for the previous year).

In addition, a study recently carried out by the Council of Europe shows that the rate of overcrowding in Italian prisons is among the highest anywhere. There is an average of 148.2 inmates for every 100 prison places. The prisoners are not only Italian nationals: one third of inmates (approximately 16 000) are foreign nationals, mostly from non-EU European countries.

1. Is the Commission aware that, in Italy, foreign nationals account for a very large proportion of the prison population and that the same applies throughout the EU?

2. Will it submit a legislative proposal on criminal justice in the field of detention, with particular reference to prison overcrowding, in order to follow up the Green Paper of 14 June 2011, COM(2011)0327?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(13 March 2012)

The Commission is aware of the problem of overcrowded conditions in Italian prisons.

The responsibility for the construction and management of prisons lies with the Member States and it is therefore a matter for the Italian authorities

In line with the Stockholm Programme, the Commission is reflecting on ways to strengthen mutual trust and mutual recognition in the area of detention, in accordance with and within the limits of EU's competence. To that effect, the Commission has published a Green Paper on the application of EU criminal justice legislation in the field of detention (COM(2011)327 of 14.6.2011).

The Commission received over 200 replies from Member States and stakeholders and will carefully analyse all responses before deciding on what appropriate action can and should be taken at the European level.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000245/12
alla Commissione
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(25 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Crisi Italcarta

Ad Alice chiude la Italcarta. Quindici dipendenti hanno perso il posto di lavoro e anche gli ammortizzatori sociali.

I lavoratori, che erano in cassa integrazione dal giugno scorso, il 2 gennaio hanno trovato i cancelli dell'azienda chiusi e il nome della ditta cambiato: adesso si chiama «Doctor pack». La Italcarta, invece, è stata messa in liquidazione. La Italcarta era un'azienda attiva da oltre 25 anni con forte impatto sul mercato. I primi problemi sono iniziati nel 2004, quando morì uno dei due soci. Poi è arrivata prima la cassa integrazione e per ultima la messa in liquidazione.

Alla luce dei fatti sopraesposti, può la Commissione far sapere:

1. se è a conoscenza della chiusura dell'Italcarta,

2. se il governo italiano ha fatto richiesta per l'attivazione del Fondo europeo di adeguamentoalla globalizzazione al fine di aiutare i lavoratori a trovare un nuovo impiego e a riqualificarsie,

3. in caso di risposta affermativa, a quale stadio è la procedura di richiesta del Fondo?

Risposta data da László Andor a nome della Commissione
(20 febbraio 2012)

La Commissione non era a conoscenza della chiusura della società Italcarta. Alla luce delle informazioni fornite dall'onorevole deputato e nonostante la gravità dell'impatto potenziale della chiusura sui singoli lavoratori interessati, la chiusura di tale stabilimento non appare qualificarsi per un'assistenza del Fondo europeo di adeguamento alla globalizzazione (FEG). In forza del regolamento del FEG ([1]), oltre ad altri criteri, occorrono almeno 500 licenziamenti, a petto dei 15 licenziamenti menzionati dall'onorevole deputato, per attivare il sostegno del Fondo.

([1]) Regolamento (CE) n. 1927/2006, GU L 48 del 22.2.2008, pag. 82.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000245/12
to the Commission
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(25 January 2012)

Subject: Italcarta crisis

Italcarta is winding up its operations at Alife (Caserta, Italy). Fifteen employees have lost their jobs, as well as social support payments.

On 2 January 2012, the employees in question, who had been receiving special lay-off benefits since last June, found that the factory gates were shut and that the company had a new name: it is now called 'Doctor pack'. Italcarta, on the other hand, had been liquidated. Italcarta had been in operation for over 25 years, with a strong market presence. The problems first started in 2004, with the death of one of the two partners. This was followed initially by a redundancy scheme and eventually by the company's liquidation.

In the light of the foregoing:

1. Is the Commission aware that Italcarta has shut?

2. Has the Italian Government applied for assistance under the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund in order to help employees to find new jobs or retrain?

3. If so, what stage has been reached in the application procedure?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission
(20 February 2012)

The Commission was not aware of the closure of the Italcarta company. In the light of the information provided by the Honourable Member and despite the seriousness of the potential impact of the closure on the individual workers concerned, the latter do not appear to qualify for assistance from the European Globalisation Adjustment Fund (EGF). Under the EGF Regulation ([1]), in addition to other criteria, at least 500 redundancies, as opposed to the 15 lay-offs referred to by the Honourable Member, are needed to trigger support from the Fund.

([1]) Regulation (EC) No 1927/2006, OJ L 48, 22.2.2008, p. 82.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000248/12
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto rappresentante)
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(20 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: VP/HR — Iran e pena di morte

L'Iran ha emesso sentenza di condanna a morte per l'americano di origine iraniana Amir Mirza Hekmati, arrestato a dicembre con l'accusa di spionaggio per la CIA.

La famiglia di Hekmati, giovane 28enne ex-marine, ha affermato dalla California che il giovane si trovava in visita a parenti.

Questo ennesimo atto di Teheran rappresenta un'autentica sfida all'Occidente e al governo degli Stati Uniti.

Si chiede alla Vice-Presidente/Alto Rappresentante:

1. se é a conoscenza di quanto riferito nella presente interrogazione;

2. se non ritiene che questa decisione rappresenti una chiara violazione della carta dei diritti fondamentali in cui viene ripresa la dichiarazione riguardante l'abolizione della pena di morte;

3. quali urgenti iniziative intende assumere, in concomitanza con l'azione delle NazioniUnite e della comunità internazionale, affinché non si faccia più ricorso alla pena capitale e si adottino tutte le misure necessarie per abolirla dai sistemi giurisdizionali.

Risposta data dall'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione
(15 marzo 2012)

L'Unione europea mantiene una posizione ferma e di principio contro la pena di morte. L'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton ha espresso profonda preoccupazione per il numero di persone giustiziate in Iran, specialmente nel 2011, anno in cui sono state eseguite centinaia di condanne a morte. In particolare, l'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente ha sollevato il problema della mancanza di un equo processo in molti di questi casi, in cui gli imputati sono stati privati del diritto di ricorso e condannati per reati che, in base agli standard internazionali, non sarebbero punibili con la pena capitale.

In Iran migliaia di persone, tra cui Amir Mirzai Hekmati, rischiano ancora di essere giustiziate. In numerose occasioni l'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente ha espresso profonda preoccupazione riguardo a tali esecuzioni e, in una dichiarazione del 5 gennaio 2012, ha esortato l'Iran, e tutti gli Stati che continuano a mantenere in vigore la pena capitale, a sospendere le esecuzioni e a introdurre una moratoria. Tutto ciò ha diretta attinenza anche con il caso di Amir Mirzai Hekmati. La rappresentanza dell'UE in Iran, guidata da Ungheria e Polonia nel 2011, e dalla Danimarca nel primo semestre del 2012, segue con grande attenzione i casi di condanna a morte e l'Unione europea continua a esprimere la propria preoccupazione alle autorità iraniane, sia direttamente a Teheran, a Bruxelles e nelle capitali dell'Unione sia attraverso organizzazioni multilaterali. In questo contesto l'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente continuerà a seguire da vicino la vicenda di Amir Mirzai Hekmati.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000248/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(20 January 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Iran and the death penalty

Iran has issued a death sentence against a US citizen of Iranian origin, Amir Mirza Hekmati, who was arrested in December on charges of being a CIA spy.

From California, the family of Hekmati, a 28-year-old ex-marine, said that the young man was visiting family.

This latest action by Tehran is a true act of defiance against the West and the Government of the United States.

Can the Vice-President/High Representative state:

1. whether she is aware of the facts set out above;

2. whether she does not agree that this decision is clearly in violation of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, which includes a declaration concerning the abolition of the death penalty;

3. what urgent measures she intends to take, in conjunction with the action taken by the United Nations and the international community, to ensure that the death penalty is no longer used and that all necessary measures are taken to have it removed from the statute books worldwide?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(15 March 2012)

The EU holds a strong and principled position against the death penalty. High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) Ashton has expressed deep concern regarding the number of individuals executed in Iran, particularly during 2011. Hundreds of individuals were executed last year, and the HR/VP was particularly concerned with the lack of fair trials in a number of those cases, whereby defendants were deprived of their right of appeal and sentenced for offences which according to international standards should not result in capital punishment.

Thousands of individuals remain at risk of execution in Iran, including Amir Mirzai Hekmati. HR/VP has, on numerous occasions, expressed her deep concern regarding these executions and in a statement issued on 5 January 2012, called on Iran, as it does on all states which insist on maintaining the death penalty, to halt pending executions and introduce a moratorium. This includes the case of Amir Mirzai Hekmati. The local representation of the EU in Iran, ensured by Hungary and Poland in 2011, and by Denmark during the first semester of 2012, is following death penalty cases very closely, and the EU continues to raise its concerns directly with the Iranian authorities in Tehran, in Brussels, in EU capitals, and through multilateral organisations. HR/VP Ashton will therefore continue to monitor the case of Amir Mirzai Hekmati closely.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000249/12
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto rappresentante)
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(20 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: VP/HR — Libertà dei monaci tibetani a rischio

Nei giorni scorsi, Tulku Sonam Wangyal, un monaco del Qinghai (regione che appartiene all'area del Tibet storico), si è immolato dandosi fuoco dopo essersi cosparso di kerosene e averne deglutito alcune sorsate.

L'organizzazione «International Campaign for Tibet» denuncia «una correlazione diretta fra la repressione del buddhismo tibetano da parte del Partito comunista e l'immolazione di Tulku Sonam Wangyal», che aveva 42 anni.

Questo gesto suicida è almeno il quindicesimo dal marzo scorso ed è stato preceduto da altri due atti analoghi avvenuti venerdì nella contea di Aba, area del Sichuan, dove i sentimenti anticinesi e la lealtà al Dalai Lama, capo spirituale del buddhismo tibetano, si manifestano con particolare intransigenza.

Le autorità di Pechino hanno risposto all'escalation con restrizioni all'accesso nelle zone interessate e l'inasprimento dei controlli, mentre i suicidi hanno ricevuto il marchio di gesti di «terrorismo» provocati dal Dalai Lama.

Oltre alle manovre di polizia e di prevenzione tra i tibetani, Pechino ha intensificato l'«educazione patriottica» impartita ai religiosi e le iniziative di «commissariamento» dei monasteri.

Tutto ciò premesso, si chiede alla Vice-Presidente/Alto Rappresentante se è stato dato seguito a quanto indicato dal Parlamento europeo nella sua risoluzione dell'ottobre 2011, ed in particolare quali sono state le risposte dalla controparte cinese durante il 14° vertice UE-Cina dello scorso ottobre in merito al rimprovero per il mancato rispetto dei diritti umani e la necessità di proteggere la religione e l'indipendenza tibetana.

Risposta data dall'Alta rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione
(27 marzo 2012)

L'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente è profondamente turbata dai terribili episodi verificatisi nelle zone tibetane. Il 9 dicembre 2011 la delegazione dell'UE in Cina ha intrapreso un'iniziativa diplomatica nei confronti del ministero degli Affari esteri esprimendo forte preoccupazione per i recenti episodi di autoimmolazione. L'iniziativa ha sottolineato che il crescente numero di monaci tibetani che decidono di compiere questo gesto disperato è un segnale della sensazione, avvertita in modo profondo e costante da molti tibetani, che i loro diritti religiosi, linguistici e culturali non siano rispettati. L'iniziativa ha ribadito l'apprensione dell'Unione per la situazione nel monastero di Kirti, dove si dice siano rimaste solo poche centinaia di monaci mentre la maggior parte sono stati mandati via o incarcerati. L'UE ha esortato le autorità cinesi ad acconsentire alla ripresa delle normali attività religiose, a ritirare i funzionari governativi, a rilasciare i monaci detenuti e a permettere a tutti i monaci che lo desiderino di fare ritorno al monastero. L'iniziativa ha altresì manifestato preoccupazione per il recente aumento delle limitazioni dei diritti religiosi, linguistici e culturali, sollecitando le autorità cinesi ad affrontare le cause alla radice degli atti di autoimmolazione, in particolare la sensazione da parte della popolazione tibetana di non partecipare appieno alla politica di sviluppo della regione.

L'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente ha ribadito il suo rammarico in merito alla situazione in Tibet anche durante la visita del 12 dicembre di Zhu Weiqun, Vice ministro esecutivo del Dipartimento del Fronte Unito di lavoro.

Il 14 febbraio si è svolto il vertice UE-Cina e l'UE ha colto tale occasione per sollevare con le autorità cinesi la questione dei diritti umani, compresa la situazione in Tibet.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000249/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(20 January 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Tibetan monks' freedom at risk

Tulku Sonam Wangyal, a monk from Qinghai (a region in the area of historic Tibet), recently immolated himself after dousing himself in paraffin oil and swallowing several mouthfuls.

The 'International Campaign for Tibet' organisation has reported that there is a direct correlation between the repression of Tibetan Buddhism by the Communist Party and the self-immolation of Tulku Sonam Wangya, who was 42 years old.

This suicide is at least the fifteenth since last March and was preceded by two similar incidents last Friday in Aba County, in the Sichuan region, where anti-Chinese feelings and loyalty to the Dalai Lama, Tibetan Buddhism's spiritual leader, are expressed in particularly intransigent ways.

Beijing's authorities have reacted to this escalation by restricting access to the areas in question and increasing checks, while the suicides have been labelled acts of 'terrorism' caused by the Dalai Lama.

In addition to its police manoeuvres and prevention activities among Tibetans, Beijing has stepped up its 'patriotic education' for monks and continued placing monasteries under administration.

In the light of the above, can the Vice-President/High Representative state whether the provisions of the European Parliament's resolution of October 2011 have been implemented? More specifically, during the 14th EU-China summit last October, how did China respond to the criticism about its failure to respect human rights and the need to protect Tibetan religion and independence?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(27 March 2012)

The HR/VP is deeply concerned at the distressing events in the Tibetan areas. On 9.12.2011, the EU Delegation to China made a demarche to the MFA expressing its profound concern at the recent series of self-immolations. The demarche noted that the fact that a growing number of Tibetan monks are choosing to take such tragic steps demonstrates the profound and continuing depth of feeling among many Tibetans that their religious, linguistic and cultural rights are not being respected. The demarche underlined that the EU is concerned with the situation at Kirti monastery, in particular with reports that only a few hundred monks remain at the monastery and that the majority have either been sent home or are in detention. The EU urged the Chinese authorities to allow the resumption of normal religious observance, to withdraw government officials, to release monks who have been detained and to allow all monks who wish to do so to return to the monastery. The demarche expressed concern that restrictions on religious, linguistic and cultural rights throughout the Tibetan areas have increased recently. The EU urged the Chinese authorities to address the root causes of the self-immolations, and in particular the perceived lack of genuine participation by the Tibetan population in the development policy of the region.

The HR/VP also expressed her concerns regarding the situation in Tibet during the visit of Zhu Weiqun, Executive Vice-Minister of the United Front Work Department, on 12.12.2011.

The EU-China Summit took place on 14 February. The EU used this opportunity to raise human rights issues, including the issue of Tibet with the Chinese authorities

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-000250/12
adresată Comisiei
Rareş-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)
(18 ianuarie 2012)

Subiect: Importuri cu urme de fungicid din Brazilia

Departamentul american al agriculturii a anunțat că a găsit urme de carbendazim, un fungicid, în portocalele importate din Brazilia. Comisia este rugată să precizeze dacă au fost sau vor fi efectuate controale în această privință în statele membre ale UE și, dacă este cazul, care sunt rezultatele acestor controale.

Răspuns dat de dl Dalli în numele Comisiei
(15 februarie 2012)

Utilizarea substanței carbendazim este autorizată în UE numai pentru cereale, semințe de rapiță, zahăr, sfeclă furajeră și porumb.

UE a stabilit o limită maximă de reziduuri (LMR) pentru prezența de carbendazim în portocale pentru utilizările în țări din afara UE ([1]).

LMR-UE pentru prezența de carbendazim în portocale este de 0,2 mg/kg, în timp ce LMR-SUA este de 0,01 mg/kg. LMR-UE s-a stabilit în 2011 ([2]) pe baza avizului Autorității Europene pentru Siguranța Alimentară ([3]), care a concluzionat că un nivel de 0,2 mg/kg este acceptabil și nu ar constitui un risc pentru consumatorii din UE.

Cu privire la portocalele/sucul de portocale din Brazilia, Comisia nu a primit prin intermediul Sistemului rapid de alertă pentru alimente și furaje (RASFF) nicio notificare privind depășirea LMR-UE.

Statele membre au fost informate despre rezultatele obținute în SUA cu privire la carbendazim pentru a le da posibilitatea de a testa într-o manieră specifică portocalele/sucul de portocale importate din Brazilia, utilizând LMR-UE. Cu toate acestea, în această etapă, Comisia nu recomandă statelor membre să își sporească în mod semnificativ testele.

Trebuie reținut, de asemenea, faptul că monitorizarea prezenței de carbendazim în sucul de portocale, indiferent de originea acestuia, este impusă de programul UE de control multianual ([4]) pentru 2012 în toate statele membre.

([1]) A se consulta baza de date UE privind pesticidele: http://ec.europa.eu/sanco_pesticides/public/index.cfm
([2]) Regulamentul (UE) nr. 559/2011 (JO L 152, 11.6.2011).
([3]) http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/289r.pdf
([4]) Regulamentul (UE) nr. 1274/2011 (JO L 325, 8.12.2011).

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000250/12
to the Commission
Rareş-Lucian Niculescu (PPE)
(18 January 2012)

Subject: Imports from Brazil with traces of fungicide

The US Department of Agriculture has announced that it has found traces of the fungicide carbendazim in oranges imported from Brazil. Can the Commission clarify whether checks have been or will be carried out on the matter in the Member States, and, if checks have already been made, what the results are?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission
(15 February 2012)

Carbendazim is approved in the EU only for uses on cereals, rape seed, sugar, fodder beet and maize.

The EU has set a maximum residue level (MRL) for carbendazim in oranges accounting for uses in non-EU countries ([1]).

The EU-MRL for carbendazim in oranges is 0.2 mg/kg, while the US-MRL is 0.01 mg/kg. The EU-MRL was set in 2011 ([2]) based on the opinion of the European Food Safety Authority ([3]), which concluded that a level of 0.2 mg/kg is acceptable and would not constitute a risk for EU consumers.

As regards oranges/orange juice from Brazil, the Commission has no record of any exceedence of the EU-MRL notified through the the EU Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF).

Member States were informed of the US results on carbendazim in order to enable them to test in a targeted way oranges/orange juice imported from Brazil, using the EU-MRL. However at this stage, the Commission does not recommend the Member States to significantly increase their tests.

It should also be noted that monitoring of carbendazim in orange juice, irrespective of its origin, is required by the EU multiannual control programme ([4]) for 2012 in all Member States.

([1]) See EU pesticide database: http://ec.europa.eu/sanco_pesticides/public/index.cfm
([2]) Regulation (EU) No 559/2011 (OJ L 152, 11.6.2011).
([3]) http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/289r.pdf
([4]) Regulation (EU) No 1274/2011 (OJ L 325, 8.12.2011).

(Versiunea în limba română)

Întrebarea cu solicitare de răspuns scris E-000252/12
adresată Comisiei
Silvia-Adriana Ţicău (S&D)
(18 ianuarie 2012)

Subiect: Marca patrimoniului european

Marca patrimoniului european este o acțiune voluntară, deschisă participării statelor membre ale UE, ce va intensifica sentimentul de apartenență la Uniune al cetățenilor europeni, pe baza elementelor comune de istorie și patrimoniu.

Conform Deciziei nr. 1194/2011/EU intrată în vigoare în noiembrie 2011, fiecare stat poate să preselecteze maxim două situri la fiecare doi ani în care se fac selecții. Consider că Biblioteca V.A. Urechia din Galați, înființată în 1871 și inaugurată în 1890, merită să primească Marca patrimoniului european. Biblioteca V.A. Urechia funcționează în primul sediu al Comisiei Europene a Dunării, instituție care și-a început activitatea în 1856, la Galați, pentru a asigura libera circulație pe Dunăre. După 155 de ani de la înființarea Comisiei Europene a Dunării, Consiliul European a adoptat Strategia Uniunii pentru Regiunea Dunării, ca recunoaștere a importanței regiunii Dunării pentru istoria, prezentul, viitorul și coeziunea Uniunii.

Având în vedere Decizia nr.1194/2011/EU privind Marca patrimoniului european, aş dori să întreb Comisia când va face disponibil formularul de cerere comun care va fi utilizat de către toate siturile candidate și când va prezenta lista cu organismele responsabile cu selecția la nivel național?

Răspuns dat de dna Vassiliou în numele Comisiei
(15 februarie 2012)

Comisia ar dori să mulțumească onorabilei membre pentru interesul său în noua marcă a patrimoniului european. Formularul de cerere comun, care va fi elaborat în strânsă cooperare cu juriul european de experți independenți, ar trebui să fie pus la dispoziție pe site-ul internet relevant al Comisiei în iunie 2012 ([1]). Preselecția la nivel național va fi realizată sub responsabilitatea statelor membre. Lista persoanelor de contact din cadrul ministerelor relevante se va publica pe același site internet, foarte probabil în iunie 2012.

([1]) http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/label/how-to-apply_en.htm

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000252/12
to the Commission
Silvia-Adriana Ţicău (S&D)
(18 January 2012)

Subject: European Heritage Label

European Heritage Label is an action open to the participation of the Member States on a voluntary basis, strengthening European citizens' sense of belonging to the Union on a basis of shared elements of history and cultural heritage.

In accordance with Decision No 1194/2011/EU, which entered into force in November 2011, each Member State may pre-select up to two sites every two years when selections are being made. I believe that V.A. Urechia Library in Galați (Romania), founded in 1871 and inaugurated in 1890, deserves the European Heritage Label. This library is operational at the headquarters of the European Commission of the Danube, which began its activities in 1856 in Galați in order to ensure free circulation on the Danube. 155 years after the European Commission of the Danube was established, the European Council adopted the European Union Strategy for the Danube Region as an acknowledgment of the importance of that region in the history, the present and future and the cohesion of the Union.

In the light of Decision No 1194/2011/EU on the European Heritage Label, can the Commission state when the common application form to be used by all candidate sites will be made available, and when the list of organisations responsible for the selection process at national level will be presented?

Answer given by Ms Vassiliou on behalf of the Commission
(15 February 2012)

The Commission would like to thank the Honourable Member for her interest in the new European Heritage Label. The common application form will be prepared in close cooperation with the European panel of independent experts and it is expected to be made available on the relevant Commission website in June 2012 ([1]). The pre-selection at national level will be carried out under the responsibility of the Member States. The list of contact persons in the relevant Ministries shall be published on the same website, provisionally in June 2012.

([1]) http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/label/how-to-apply_en.htm

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-000256/12
a la Comisión
Raül Romeva i Rueda (Verts/ALE)
(18 de enero de 2012)

Asunto: Privatizaciones de empresas públicas rentables

Diferentes informaciones periodísticas destacan que una de las posibilidades que baraja el gobierno del Estado español para reducir el déficit y cumplir sus compromisos de estabilidad presupuestaria con la UE es la privatización de empresas públicas rentables en términos económicos. Esta decisión puede reportar liquidez en el corto plazo, pero supone renunciar a unos ingresos estructurales, así como al control público de infraestructuras o servicios estratégicos.

¿Tiene alguna información la Comisión sobre si el gobierno del Estado español tiene la intención de llevar a cabo la venta de la participación pública en empresas como Loterías, Aena, Adif, Agencia Efe, RTVE, Hunosa, Navantia o cualquiera de las empresas en que tiene una participación minoritaria?

¿Qué opinión tiene la Comisión sobre si la privatización total o parcial de empresas que actúan en sectores estratégicos va en contra de los intereses de España y puede comportar graves limitaciones a la capacidad del Estado español para decidir sus políticas estratégicas?

Respuesta del Sr. Rehn en nombre de la Comisión
(29 de febrero de 2012)

Los Estados miembros no tienen la obligación de informar a la Comisión sobre sus intenciones en materia de privatización de las empresas públicas. Además, habida cuenta del reciente cambio de Gobierno en España, es posible que se hayan producido cambios en los planes al respecto. Por tanto, la Comisión no puede confirmar si el Gobierno español tiene intención de privatizar las empresas mencionadas por Su Señoría.

En principio, los Estados miembros disponen de competencia plena para decidir sobre las empresas públicas que han de ser privatizadas. En el caso de que existan presiones de carácter presupuestario, como sucede actualmente en España, puede resultar apropiada la privatización también de empresas estatales que resulten rentables en términos económicos. En la medida en que estén en juego intereses estratégicos como garantizar el suministro nacional, por ejemplo en el sector de la energía, la legislación europea asegura el establecimiento de salvaguardias.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000256/12
to the Commission
Raül Romeva i Rueda (Verts/ALE)
(18 January 2012)

Subject: Privatisation of profitable public enterprises

Various media reports state that one of the options being considered by the Spanish Government in order to reduce its deficit and meet its EU commitments to budgetary stability is the privatisation of public enterprises that are economically profitable. This decision may bring liquidity in the short term, but it means giving up structural revenues and public control of strategic infrastructures or services.

Does the Commission have any information on whether the Spanish Government intends to go ahead with the sale of state participation in Spanish enterprises such as Loterías, the national lottery operator; Aena, the airports and air navigation body; Adif, the railway infrastructure administrator; EFE news agency; RTVE radio and television corporation; HUNOSA, the national coal-mining company; Navantia, the shipbuilding firm, or any of the companies in which it has a minority stake?

What is the Commission's view on whether the full or partial privatisation of enterprises that operate in strategic sectors goes against Spain's interests, and could seriously limit Spain's capacity to establish its strategic policies?

Answer given by Mr Rehn on behalf of the Commission
(29 February 2012)

Member States are not obliged to inform the Commission about their intentions regarding the privatisation of public enterprises. In addition, in view of the recent change in government in Spain, plans in this regard may have changed. The Commission is therefore not in a position to confirm whether the Spanish Government intends to privatise the enterprises mentioned by the Honourable Member.

In principle, the decision as to which public enterprises are to be privatised is fully in the competence of Member States. In case of budgetary pressures, as currently in Spain, it may be appropriate to privatise also profitable state-owned firms. To the extent that strategic interests such as securing national supply are at stake, for instance in the energy sector, European legislation ensures that safeguards are in place.

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-000257/12
a la Comisión
Raül Romeva i Rueda (Verts/ALE)
(18 de enero de 2012)

Asunto: Cuotas participativas

Recientemente el Fondo de Restructuración Ordenada Bancaria (FROB) y la Caja de Ahorros del Mediterráneo (CAM) han comunicado al Consejo Nacional del Mercado de Valores que el valor contable de las cuotas participativas ha perdido todo su valor. La CAM, que finalmente ha sido adquirida por el Banco de Sabadell, colocó en bolsa un total de 155 millones en 2008 y unos 54 000 inversores se verían afectados. Cabe recordar que el FROB, el proceso de recapitalización y el proceso de restructuración del sistema financiero español, se ha sometido a la valoración de la Comisión Europea, que lo ha aprobado.

Teniendo en cuenta que parte de este proceso de restructuración y recapitalización valorado por la Comisión ha sido la emisión de cuotas participativas por parte de la CAM,

¿Estaba al corriente la Comisión de la pérdida de valor de las cuotas participativas?

¿Qué opinión tiene la Comisión sobre la colocación de cuotas participativas llevada a cabo en 2008 por la CAM sobre el hecho de que su valor actual sea cero?

Respuesta del Sr. Almunia en nombre de la Comisión
(24 de febrero de 2012)

En relación con la primera cuestión, la Comisión es consciente de la pérdida de valor de las cuotas participativas emitidas por la Caja de Ahorros del Mediterráneo (CAM). Las cuotas participativas son instrumentos equivalentes a acciones concebidas específicamente para las cajas de ahorros españolas y constituyen, al igual que otras participaciones tales como los valores, un instrumento financiero de absorción de riesgo.

La Comisión desea recordar que una de sus principales preocupaciones al evaluar las ayudas estatales es aplicar el principio de «reparto de cargas», en virtud del cual el coste de la reestructuración de una institución financiera beneficiaria de ayudas no solo corresponde al contribuyente, sino también a sus accionistas y, en particular, a los titulares de acciones e instrumentos subordinados.

En cuanto a la segunda cuestión, la Comisión no tiene una opinión específica con respecto a la emisión de esas acciones por la CAM en 2008. La Comisión desea recordar que corresponde a las autoridades nacionales garantizar que los inversores, en especial los minoristas, sean plenamente conscientes de los riesgos que corren al invertir en productos financieros.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000257/12
to the Commission
Raül Romeva i Rueda (Verts/ALE)
(18 January 2012)

Subject: Shares

Recently the Fund for Orderly Bank Restructuring (FROB) and Caja de Ahorros del Mediterráneo (CAM) have informed the Consejo Nacional del Mercado de Valores [National Securities Market Commission] that its shares have lost all of their book value. CAM, which ended up being acquired by Banco de Sabadell, put a total of 155 million into the market in 2008, and some 54 000 investors may be affected. It should be remembered that the FROB, the recapitalisation process, and the process of restructuring Spain's financial system were submitted for evaluation by the European Commission, which has approved them.

Bearing in mind that part of this restructuring and recapitalisation process evaluated by the Commission was CAM's issuance of shares,

Was the Commission informed about the shares' loss of value?

What is the Commission's opinion regarding CAM's issuance of shares in 2008, given the fact that their current value is zero?

Answer given by Mr Almunia on behalf of the Commission
(24 February 2012)

Regarding the first question, the Commission is aware of the reported loss of value of the *cuotas participativas* issued by Caja de Ahorros del Mediterráneo (CAM). *Cuotas participativas* are instruments equivalent to equity which are devised specifically for Spanish savings banks. They constitute, like other equity such as securities, a risk-absorbing financial instrument.

The Commission would like to recall that one of the Commission's main concerns during the state aid assessment is to implement the principle of 'burden-sharing' whereby the cost of the restructuring of an aided financial institution not only lies with the tax payer but also with the stakeholders of the institution concerned, and in particular with equity and subordinated capital holders.

As for the second question, the Commission does not have a specific opinion regarding the issuance of those shares by CAM in 2008. The Commission would like to recall that it lies within the competence of the national authorities to ensure that investors, in particular retail investors, are fully aware of the risks they undertake when investing in financial products.

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-000258/12
a la Comisión
Raül Romeva i Rueda (Verts/ALE)
(18 de enero de 2012)

Asunto: Cobertura sanitaria en Catalunya

El gobierno de la Generalitat ha anunciado la creación de un tributo universal indirecto de alrededor de un euro por cada medicamento adquirido con receta. El propio gobierno insiste en que toda la ciudadanía que reciba asistencia sanitaria en Catalunya estará obligada a pagarlo, independientemente de su nivel de renta, situación laboral o estado de salud. Esta ley romperá por primera vez uno de los principios rectores del sistema sanitario en Catalunya, como es el acceso a una sanidad pública, universal y gratuita.

Los costes de la atención sanitaria de los ciudadanos y ciudadanas comunitarios que reciban atención con la tarjeta sanitaria europea son reembolsados a los ciudadanos que hayan recibido dicha asistencia.

¿Estaba la Comisión al corriente de esta propuesta del gobierno catalán?

¿Cree la Comisión que esta medida es oportuna, justa y equitativa, teniendo en cuenta la situación económica actual?

En el caso de tratarse de ciudadanos con tarjeta sanitaria europea, ¿se les rembolsará el coste de dicho tributo?

En caso afirmativo, ¿quién se hará cargo de la cuantía presupuestaría total que suponga?

Respuesta del Sr. Andor en nombre de la Comisión
(29 de febrero de 2012)

Los Estados miembros, o sus autoridades regionales, son los responsables de la gestión de los servicios sanitarios y de atención médica, de su correspondiente asignación de recursos y de las condiciones para recibir dicha asistencia médica. A nivel de la UE, se realiza un control de las políticas de protección social (incluido el sector sanitario) y se mantiene regularmente informada a la Comisión sobre los distintos proyectos o propuestas como, por ejemplo, la que ha mencionado Su Señoría. No obstante, la Comisión incentiva los esfuerzos de los Estados miembros para que se reduzcan las desigualdades en materia de sanidad, incluido el acceso a la asistencia sanitaria, tal como se prevé en la Comunicación de la Comisión «Solidaridad en materia de salud» ([1]). Asimismo, la UE fomenta la coordinación de las políticas sanitarias nacionales a través del método abierto de coordinación. En este marco, se han acordado objetivos específicos respecto de los sistemas de asistencia sanitaria ([2]) en relación con el acceso a la asistencia sanitaria, su calidad y la sostenibilidad financiera de los sistemas sanitarios. Este trabajo se lleva a cabo bajo los auspicios del Comité de Protección Social ([3]).

Una persona que se encuentre temporalmente en otro país de la UE ([4]) tiene derecho a recibir la asistencia sanitaria necesaria en las mismas condiciones que las personas aseguradas en el país de visita. Esto significa que debe recibir el mismo trato que los residentes, pero también que debe abonar cualquier tarifa a cargo del paciente que se aplique en dicho país. La TSE ([5]) da derecho a la prestación de asistencia sanitaria necesaria en el sistema sanitario público. Se reembolsará al prestador de asistencia sanitaria el coste total del tratamiento proporcionado a través de un sistema de pago entre los Estados miembros. Al final, la institución competente en el Estado miembro que emitió la TSE asumirá los gastos correspondientes. En caso de que el paciente haya tenido que pagar los gastos completos del tratamiento recibido y no haya podido solicitar el reembolso durante su estancia en el extranjero, podrá ponerse en contacto con la institución competente y solicitar el reembolso una vez que haya regresado a su país.

([1]) COM(2009)567 final de 20.10.2009.
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=753&langId=es
([3]) http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=753&langId=es
([4]) O Islandia, Lichtenstein, Noruega o Suiza.
([5]) Tarjeta Sanitaria Europea.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000258/12
to the Commission
Raül Romeva i Rueda (Verts/ALE)
(18 January 2012)

Subject: Healthcare coverage in Catalonia

The Government of Catalonia has announced that it is to establish an indirect universal tax of around EUR 1 for any drug obtained with a prescription. The government itself insists that all citizens who receive healthcare in Catalonia will be required to pay, regardless of their level of income, work situation or state of health. For the first time, this law will break with one of the governing principles of the healthcare system in Catalonia, which is access to healthcare that is public, universal and free of charge.

The healthcare costs for all EU citizens who receive treatment with their European health insurance card are reimbursed to the citizens who have received that treatment.

Was the Commission aware of this proposal by the Government of Catalonia?

Does the Commission think that this measure is timely, fair and equitable, bearing in mind the current economic situation?

In the case of citizens with a European health insurance card, will they be reimbursed for the cost of this tax?

If that is to be the case, who is going to take responsibility for the total budgetary amount involved?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission
(29 February 2012)

Member States, or their regional authorities, are responsible for the management of health services and medical care, the allocation of resources assigned to them and the conditions for obtaining such care. Monitoring of social protection policies (including health branch) is organised at EU level and the Commission is regularly informed of projects or proposals such as the one mentioned by the Honourable Member. The Commission does, however, promote efforts of the Member States to reduce inequalities in health, including in access to healthcare, as set out in the Commission Communication Solidarity in Health ([1]). The EU also promotes the coordination of national healthcare policies through the Open Method of Coordination. Within this framework, specific objectives have been agreed concerning healthcare systems ([2]) in relation to access to healthcare, quality of healthcare, and the financial sustainability of healthcare systems. This work takes place under the auspices of the Social Protection Committee ([3]).

A person staying temporarily in another EU country ([4]), is entitled to necessary healthcare on the same conditions as persons insured in the country they are visiting. This means the person should be treated under the same conditions, but also that they pay any patient fees that might apply. The EHIC ([5]) confirms the entitlement to necessary healthcare within the public healthcare system. The healthcare provider is reimbursed for the full cost of treatment via a payment system between Member States. In the end, the competent institution in the Member State that issued the EHIC will bear the cost. If a patient has had to pay for the full cost of a treatment and has been unable to claim a refund while staying abroad, he or she can contact the competent institution when returning home to claim reimbursement.

([1]) COM(2009) 567 final of 20.10.2009.
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=753&langId=en
([3]) http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=753&langId=en
([4]) Or Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway or Switzerland.
([5]) European Health Insurance Card.

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000261/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Bezpečnostné riziká v súvislosti so zavádzaním moderných technológií

Spoločnosť Ernst and Young zverejnila výsledky pravidelného globálneho prieskumu informačnej bezpečnosti, ktorý prebiehal od júna do augusta 2011. Zúčastnilo sa na ňom 1 700 spoločností z 52 krajín, pričom výsledky boli získané najmä na základe rozhovorov s vedúcimi pracovníkmi zodpovednými za informačnú bezpečnosť. Zahrnuté spoločnosti reprezentovali všetky významné priemyselné odvetvia. Z prieskumu vyplýva, že 72 % respondentov si myslí, že rýchly vývoj v oblasti informačných technológií prináša so sebou väčšie bezpečnostné riziká, pričom stratégiu týkajúcu sa zabezpečenia informácií revidovala v uplynulom roku len tretina z opýtaných firiem. Hrozbu počítačovej kriminality potvrdzujú aj posledné správy servera uscollegeresearch.org, podľa ktorých sa približne 65 % celosvetových používateľov internetu stalo do júna 2011 obeťou počítačového zločinu. Zo správ FBI navyše vyplýva, že len v roku 2011 bolo prijatých už viac než 350 000 sťažností týkajúcich sa počítačovej kriminality.

Plánuje Komisia prijať opatrenia, na základe ktorých by firmy v členských štátoch EÚ zavádzali kontrolné opatrenia na zmiernenie bezpečnostných rizík, ktoré súvisia so zavádzaním moderných technológií?

Odpoveď od pani Kroesovej v mene Komisie
(22. februára 2012)

Komisia sa vážne zaoberá rastúcim počtom bezpečnostných hrozieb v súvislosti so zavádzaním moderných technológií, pričom si uvedomuje aj ich potenciál negatívne vplývať na prosperitu našich hospodárstiev a spoločnosti.

Už v roku 2006 ([1]) Komisia vyzvala súkromný sektor, aby zabezpečil rozvinutie kultúry bezpečnosti na základe otvoreného dialógu, partnerstva a aktívneho pôsobenia medzi všetkými zainteresovanými stranami. Pokrok v tomto ohľade ďalej podporila iniciatíva o ochrane kritických informačných infraštruktúr (CIIP) ([2]) a opatrenia v rámci piliera „dôvera a bezpečnosť" Digitálnej agendy pre Európu ([3]). Iniciatívou CIIP sa zároveň odštartovalo Európske verejno-súkromné partnerstvo pre odolnosť ako celoeurópsky rámec správy a riadenia, ktorým sa podporí verejno-súkromná spolupráca v oblasti kľúčových otázok politiky bezpečnosti a odolnosti EÚ.

Komisia v roku 2012 navrhne európsku stratégiu pre bezpečnosť internetu, ktorou sa zavedie robustná obranná línia proti kybernetickým útokom a narušeniam s cieľom podporiť odolnosť siete a dôveru občanov, čím sa prispeje k bezproblémovému fungovaniu jednotného trhu.

Bezpečnosť je spoločnou zodpovednosťou všetkých zainteresovaných strán. Keďže väčšinu sietí a infraštruktúry vlastní a prevádzkuje súkromný sektor, nadchádzajúca stratégia poskytne stimuly na podporu kultúry riadenia rizík, na adekvátne investície do bezpečnosti produktov a služieb a na prijatie dobrých bezpečnostných postupov.

EÚ sa zároveň so súkromným sektorom angažuje v oblasti zvyšovania informovanosti o bezpečnostných rizikách s cieľom zabezpečiť, aby sa zaviedli a v celom reťazci používateľov internetu aj používali najmodernejšie bezpečnostné technológie.

([1]) KOM(2006) 251 v konečnom znení, Stratégia pre bezpečnú informačnú spoločnosť –„Dialóg, partnerstvo a aktívne pôsobenie".
([2]) KOM(2009) 149, oznámenie Komisie o ochrane kritických informačných infraštruktúr „Ochrana Európy pred rozsiahlymi kybernetickými útokmi a narušeniami: zvyšovanie pripravenosti, bezpečnosti a odolnosti" a KOM(2011) 163, oznámenie o ochrane kritických informačných infraštruktúr „Dosiahnuté ciele a ďalšie kroky: na ceste ku globálnej kybernetickej bezpečnosti".
([3]) KOM(2010) 245 „Digitálna agenda pre Európu".

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000261/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Security risks in connection with the introduction of modern technology

Ernst and Young has released the results of the periodic Global Information Security Survey, which ran from June to August 2011. It was participated in by 1 700 companies from 52 countries, and the results were mainly based on interviews with executives responsible for information security. The companies included came from all industry sectors. The survey shows that 72 % of respondents think that rapid developments in information technology bring with them increased security risks; however only one third of respondents have updated their information security strategy in the past year. The threat of cybercrime is also confirmed by recent reports by uscollegeresearch.org, according to which about 65 % of global Internet users have fallen victim to cybercrime by June 2011. FBI reports have indicated that more than 350 000 complaints of cybercrimes were received in 2011 alone.

Does the Commission plan to adopt measures under which companies in EU Member States could implement control measures to mitigate security risks associated with the introduction of modern technology?

Answer given by Ms Kroes on behalf of the Commission
(22 February 2012)

The Commission looks seriously at the growing threats to security related to the take-up of modern technologies also taking into account their potential to negatively affect the prosperity of our economies and society.

Already in 2006 ([1]), the Commission invited the private sector to develop a culture of security on the basis of multi-stakeholder and open dialogue, partnership and empowerment. Progress in this regard was further fostered via the initiative on Critical Information Infrastructure Protection (CIIP) ([2]) and the actions under the 'Trust and security' pillar of the Digital Agenda for Europe ([3]). The CIIP initiative also launched the European Public-Private Partnership for Resilience as a Europe-wide governance framework fostering public-private cooperation on key EU security and resilience policy issues.

In 2012, the Commission will propose a European Strategy for Internet Security, which will put in place a robust line of defence against cyber attacks and disruptions in order to boost network resilience and citizens' trust, thus contributing to the smooth functioning of the single market.

Security is a shared responsibility of all stakeholders. As the private sector owns or runs most of the networks and infrastructure, the forthcoming Strategy will provide incentives to foster a risk management culture, adequate investments in the security of products and services and the adoption of good security practices.

The EU is also engaged with private sector in raising awareness of security risks, to ensure that state-of-the-art security measures are in place and used throughout the whole chain of Internet actors.

([1]) COM(2006) 251 final, A strategy for a Secure Information Society — 'Dialogue, partnership and empowerment'.
([2]) COM(2009) 149, Communication on Critical Information Infrastructure Protection 'Protecting Europe from large scale cyber-attacks and disruptions: enhancing preparedness, security and resilience' and COM(2011) 163, Communication on Critical Information Infrastructure Protection 'Achievements and next steps: towards global cyber-security'.
([3]) COM(2010) 245, 'A Digital Agenda for Europe'.

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000262/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Financovanie elektriny v Grécku

Grécke ministerstvo životného prostredia, energetiky a klimatickej zmeny nedávno oznámilo, že štátna elektrická spoločnosť DEH bude platiť 2 eurá za každý megawatt elektriny, ktorý vyrába z lignitu. Z tohto fosílneho zdroja pritom ešte v roku 2009 pochádzalo až 55 % elektriny. Od poplatku za elektrinu z hnedého uhlia si vláda sľubuje príjmy vo výške 55 miliónov eur. Získané prostriedky by mali ísť do fondu na podporu výroby energie z obnoviteľných zdrojov, ktorého deficit v súčasnosti dosahuje asi 200 miliónov eur. Tento deficit chce Grécko napraviť aj príjmami z plánovaného predaja asi 10 miliónov ton emisných povoleniek. Na základe ďalšieho rozhodnutia sa bude zvyšovať aj špeciálny poplatok za obnoviteľné zdroje zo súčasných približne 1,80 eura na 5,43 eura.

Aký má Komisia názor na takýto postup, ktorého dôsledkom bude zvyšovanie účtov za elektrinu a teda ďalšie zaťaženie gréckych občanov?

Odpoveď pána Oettingera v mene Komisie
(28. februára 2012)

Reforma gréckeho sektora energetiky je kľúčovým prvkom v prebiehajúcich diskusiách Komisie s gréckymi orgánmi. Komisia má v úmysle pomôcť Grécku uskutočniť potrebné reformy, aby sa zabezpečilo životaschopné financovanie gréckeho sektora elektrickej energie. Týmito reformami sa nesmú neúnosne zvýšiť poplatky Gréckych občanov za elektrickú energiu ani obmedziť rast v oblasti energie z obnoviteľných zdrojov ani dosiahnutie cieľov 2020.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000262/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Financing of electric power in Greece

The Greek Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change recently announced that the state electricity company DEH will pay EUR 2 for every megawatt of electricity that is generated from lignite (brown coal). In 2009, 55 % of electric power came from this fossil fuel. The government is expecting revenue of EUR 55 million from payments for electric power generated from brown coal. The funds thus obtained would go into a fund for the support of energy production from renewable sources, the deficit of which currently stands at around EUR 200 million. Greece wants to correct this deficit by also using the revenue from the planned sale of about 10 million tonnes of emission allowances. On the basis of a subsequent decision, the special fee for renewables will be increased from the current level of approximately EUR 1.80 to EUR 5.43.

What is the Commission's opinion on such a procedure, the result of which will be a rise in electricity bills that places a further burden on Greek citizens?

Answer given by Mr Oettinger on behalf of the Commission
(28 February 2012)

The reform of the Greek energy sector is a key element in the Commission's ongoing discussions with the Greek authorities. The Commission intends to help Greece undertake the necessary reforms to ensure that the financing of the Greek electricity sector is viable. These reforms must not impose an excessive burden on the electricity bills of Greek citizens, or jeopardise renewable energy growth and the achievement of the 2020 targets.

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000263/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Efektívne využívanie prírodných zdrojov

Komisár pre životné prostredie nedávno upozornil na skutočnosť, že nadmerným používaním a vyhadzovaním hodnotných prírodných zdrojov hrozí vznik novej ekonomickej krízy. Súčasnú ekonomickú krízu v eurozóne prepojil s potenciálnymi budúcimi krízami, ku ktorým by mohlo viesť plytvanie a následný nedostatok kľúčových zdrojov, vrátane energetických a nerastných surovín. Varoval, že ak spotrebitelia a firmy nebudú účinnejšie využívať stále dostupné zdroje, ich zvyšujúci sa nedostatok, rastúce ceny a dnešné metódy užívania poženú hore náklady a znížia životnú úroveň Európanov. Platí to podľa neho pre energetické suroviny a nerasty, ako aj pre vodu a potraviny.

Akým spôsobom chce Komisia tento dôležitý odkaz propagovať?

Odpoveď pána Potočnika v mene Komisie
(27. februára 2012)

V oznámení Komisie „Plán pre Európu efektívne využívajúcu zdroje" ([1]) je načrtnutá cesta k udržateľnej konkurencieschopnosti s cieľom pomôcť EÚ dostať sa zo súčasnej hospodárskej krízy a zabrániť budúcej kríze podnecovanej nedostatkom zdrojov, nárastom a pohyblivosťou cien a úpadkom životného prostredia.

Medzi opatreniami, ktoré treba uskutočniť v krátkodobom a strednodobom horizonte, sa v pláne počíta so začatím participatívneho procesu, aby sa zaistilo, že zúčastnené strany na všetkých úrovniach sa zmobilizujú a zapoja do diskusie o nutnej hospodárskej zmene. Kľúčovým prvkom pritom bude aktívny dialóg s podnikateľskou sférou. Otázky efektívneho využívania zdrojov budú tiež predmetom diskusií na mnohých existujúcich fórach, ako je maloobchodné fórum alebo okrúhly stôl pre potraviny,

Okrem toho treba zaviesť správne stimuly na nasmerovanie spotrebiteľského správania. Trhové nástroje sú účinným prostriedkom na dosiahnutie toho, aby ceny vernejšie odrážali skutočnú hodnotu zdrojov a aby tak boli lepšie prideľované a využívané. Komisia preto členské štáty povzbudzuje k tomu, aby ich využívali prostredníctvom ročnej stratégie rastu. Na umožnenie a podporovanie trozhodovania sa, ktoré bude mať udržateľnejšie následky, je potrebná lepšia informovanosť spotrebiteľov ako aj všeobecná uvedomelosť. Komisia preto v októbri rozbehla celoeurópsku komunikačnú kampaň pre širokú verejnosť. Kampaň nazvaná „Generation Awake" ([2]) poskytuje praktické informácie o zdrojoch a dôsledkoch vyčerpania zdrojov a povzbudzuje občanov k tomu, aby sa zamysleli nad tým, aký majú pri rozhodovaní na nákupoch vplyv na planétu.

([1]) KOM(2011) 571 v konečnom znení
([2]) www.generationawake.eu

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000263/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Efficient use of natural resources

The Environment Commissioner recently warned that the overuse and waste of valuable natural resources threatens to cause a fresh economic crisis. He linked the current economic crisis in the euro area with potential future crises which could be caused by the wastage and consequent lack of key resources, including energy and raw materials. He warned that, unless consumers and businesses take action to use still-available resources more efficiently, their increasing scarcity, rising prices and today's methods of using them will drive up costs yet further and reduce Europe's standard of living. According to him, this applies to energy raw materials and minerals, as well as water and food.

How does the Commission intend to spread this important message?

Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(27 February 2012)

The communication of the Commission 'Roadmap to a resource efficient Europe' ([1]) lays out the path to sustainable competitiveness to help the EU to come out of the current economic crisis and to counteract future crises fuelled by resource scarcities, rising and volatile prices, and environmental degradation.

Among the actions, which need to be undertaken in the short and medium term, the Roadmap envisages launching participatory processes to ensure that stakeholders at all levels are mobilised and involved in the debate on the necessary economic transformation. Active dialogue with businesses will be a key part of this. Resource efficiency issues will also feed in the deliberations of many existing forums, such as the Retail Forum or the Food Round Table.

Moreover, the right incentives need to be put into place to steer consumer behaviour. Market-based instruments are an effective means of getting prices to reflect more accurately the real value of resources and thereby better guide their allocation and use; therefore the Commission is encouraging Member States to use them via the Annual Growth Strategy. Better consumer information and general awareness are needed to enable and encourage more sustainable choices; therefore the Commission launched a pan-European communication campaign for the general public in October 2011. The campaign called 'Generation Awake' ([2]) provides practical information on the sources and consequences of resource depletion and encourages citizens to think about their impact on the planet when making purchasing decisions.

([1]) COM(2011)571 final.
([2]) www.generationawake.eu

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000264/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Maďarský zákon o centrálnej banke

Maďarská vláda nedávno schválila kontroverzný zákon o centrálnej banke, a to aj napriek protestom zo strany Európskej únie, ako aj zo strany Európskej centrálnej banky. Tento zákon ohrozuje nezávislosť maďarskej centrálnej banky. Samotná maďarská centrálna banka uviedla, že nový zákon a ďalšie právne predpisy, ktoré umožnia prepojenie banky s finančným regulátorom, vážne ohrozia záujmy krajiny a umožnia vláde ovplyvňovať rozhodnutia centrálnej banky. Zákon totiž vytvára možnosť ovplyvňovať rozhodovanie centrálnej banky na základe vládnych a straníckych záujmov, čo je v rozpore s právom Európskej únie, pričom zvyšuje nepredvídateľnosť ekonomickej situácie v Maďarsku a ohrozuje ekonomickú stabilitu štátu. Umožňuje predsedovi vlády menovať tretieho viceguvernéra a oslabiť tak postavenie guvernéra. Zavádza zlúčenie centrálnej banky s maďarským úradom pre dohľad nad finančným trhom (PSZAF), čo by znamenalo vznik nového orgánu a pre vládu šancu odstaviť guvernéra centrálnej banky jeho degradovaním na viceguvernéra novej inštitúcie.

Plánuje Komisia uložiť Maďarsku v tejto súvislosti určitý druh sankcií?

Odpoveď pána Rehna v mene Komisie
(12. marca 2012)

Komisia adresovala formálnu výzvu Maďarsku v súlade s článkom 258 ods. 1 ZFEÚ v súvislosti s niektorými opatreniami, ktoré zasahujú do nezávislosti centrálnej banky. Toto je prvý krok v konaní o porušení povinnosti. Maďarská vláda medzičasom poslala svoju odpoveď, ktorú útvary Komisie posudzujú. V rámci konania o porušení predpisov Komisia nemá žiadne právo uložiť členskému štátu sankcie. Podľa článku 260 ods. 2 ZFEÚ má Súdny dvor výhradné právo uložiť paušálnu pokutu alebo penále, ktoré má zaplatiť členský štát, ktorý neprijal opatrenia potrebné na dosiahnutie súladu s rozsudkom Súdneho dvora.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000264/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Hungarian law on its Central Bank

The Hungarian Government recently approved a controversial law on the Hungarian Central Bank, despite protests from the European Union and the European Central Bank. The law places the independence of the Hungarian Central Bank in jeopardy. The Hungarian Central Bank itself said that the new law and other laws that allow banks to be linked to the financial regulator seriously compromise the interests of the country and allow the government to influence the decisions of the Central Bank. The law does create the possibility that Central Bank decisions will be influenced by governmental and party interests, which is contrary to EC law, increases the unpredictability of the economic situation in Hungary and threatens the economic stability of the state. It allows the Prime Minister to appoint a third deputy governor, thereby weakening the position of the governor. It introduces a merger between the Central Bank and the Hungarian Financial Supervisory Authority (PSZAF), which would mean the emergence of a new body and an opportunity for the government to remove the governor of the Central Bank by demoting him to deputy governor of the new institution.

Does the Commission plan to impose some kind of sanctions on Hungary in this respect?

Answer given by Mr Rehn on behalf of the Commission
(12 March 2012)

The Commission has addressed a letter of formal notice to Hungary pursuant to Article 258(1) TFEU concerning certain measures affecting the independence of the central bank. This is the first step in an infringement procedure. In the meantime, the Hungarian government has sent its reply and Commission services are assessing it. Within the framework of an infringement procedure, the Commission has no right to impose sanctions on Member States. According to Article 260(2) TFEU, the right to impose a lump sum or penalty payment on a Member State which has not taken the necessary measures to comply with a judgment of the Court of Justice lies exclusively with the Court.

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000265/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Koniec patovej situácie v Bosne

Politické strany v Bosne sa nedávno dohodli na vytvorení centrálnej vlády. Po viac ako 14 mesiacoch sa tak v krajine vytvorí riadny kabinet. Patová situácia znepokojovala Európsku úniu aj Organizáciu Spojených národov už dlhšiu dobu a krajine znemožňovala prijímať ďalšie potrebné demokratické reformy. Centrálna vláda by mala oficiálne začať fungovať začiatkom januára. Jej zloženie odráža etnickú skladbu v krajine, v ktorej žijú najmä Srbi, Chorváti a bosnianski moslimovia. Kreslo premiéra obsadí prvýkrát v histórii krajiny Chorvát. Vláda bude mať desiatich členov — štyri kreslá pripadnú Bosniakom a po troch zástupcoch budú mať Srbi a Chorváti. Politickí lídri v krajine si od tejto dohody sľubujú získania štatútu kandidátskej krajiny.

Považuje Komisia túto dohodu za dostatočný dôvod na to, aby bol Bosne udelený štatút kandidátskej krajiny, alebo bude požadovať ďalšie kroky?

Ak áno, ktoré konkrétne?

Odpoveď pána Füleho v mene Komisie
(13. marca 2012)

Komisia víta vymenovanie Rady ministrov Bosny a Hercegoviny a jej predsedu, pána Bevandu, na základe schválenia parlamentným zhromaždením tejto krajiny 10. februára 2012, ako aj to, že všetci vymenovaní nastúpili do funkcie.

Na získanie statusu kandidátskej krajiny však vytvorenie Rady ministrov nie je pre Bosnu a Hercegovinu dostačujúce. Na dosiahnutie tohto statusu je nevyhnutné, aby boli prijaté ďalšie opatrenia v súlade so závermi Rady z marca 2011 a s postupmi stanovenými v článku 49 ZEÚ ([1]). Komisia víta program predstavený pánom Bevandom, podľa ktorého je integrácia do EÚ hlavnou prioritou.

([1]) Závery Rady z 21. marca 2011 týkajúce sa Bosny a Hercegoviny sú dostupné tu: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/120066.pdf

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000265/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: End of the stalemate situation in Bosnia

The political parties in Bosnia have recently agreed to create a central government. After more than 14 months a proper cabinet is to be created in the country. The stalemate situation has long caused unease in both the European Union and the United Nations, and has made it impossible for the country to take further necessary democratic reforms. The central government should officially start work at the beginning of January. Its composition reflects the ethnic make-up of the country, which is inhabited mainly by Serbs, Croats and Bosnian Muslims. For the first time in the history of the country, the post of Prime Minister will be held by a Croat. The government will have ten members: four seats will be for Bosnians, and Serbs and Croats will have three representatives each. Political leaders in the country expect this agreement to lead to the granting of candidate status.

Does the Commission consider this agreement to be a sufficient reason for Bosnia to be granted candidate status, or will it require further action?

If so, what specific action?

Answer given by Mr Füle on behalf of the Commission
(13 March 2012)

The Commission welcomes the appointment of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of its Chair, Mr Bevanda, following the approval by the Parliamentary Assembly, on 10 February 2012 and their subsequent taking office.

It is not sufficient for Bosnia and Herzegovina to have established the Council of Ministers in order to obtain the status of a candidate country. This would require further actions in line with the conditions spelled out in the Council conclusions of March 2011 and in line with procedures established in Article 49 TEU ([1]). The Commission welcomes Mr Bevanda's programme which has EU integration as its top priority.

([1]) The Council conclusions of 21 March 2011 on Bosnia and Herzegovina can be found on: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_Data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/120066.pdf

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000266/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Nemecká letecká spoločnosť a poplatky za emisie

Najväčšia nemecká letecká spoločnosť Lufthansa AG oznámila, že palivový príplatok zvýši o náklady, ktoré jej vzniknú zaradením aerolínií do schémy obchodovania s emisiami (EÚ ETS). Spoločnosť vyhlásila, že bremeno prenesie prostredníctvom zvýšenia cien leteniek. Odhadla, že dodatočné náklady na tzv. emisné povolenky v roku 2012 dosiahnu približne 130 miliónov eur. V krátkodobom časovom horizonte však firma nebude meniť ceny leteniek, pretože ich stihla zvýšiť už v decembri, a to o 102 až 122 eur pri medzinárodných letoch a do 31 eur pre domáce a európske lety. V tej dobe to zdôvodnila vyššími nákladmi na palivo. Takéto konanie leteckej spoločnosti Lufthansa by malo slúžiť ako pozitívny príklad a nemalo by znamenať zníženie jej konkurencieschopnosti na trhu. K internalizácii nákladov za škody na životnom prostredí by mali byť zaviazané všetky letecké spoločnosti.

Akým spôsobom chce komisia motivovať ostatné letecké spoločnosti, aby nasledovali tento trend?

Odpoveď pani Hedegaardovej v mene Komisie
(28. februára 2012)

Rozsah, do akého letecké spoločnosti zohľadnia náklady na palivo v cenách leteniek, je ich rozhodnutím a neurčuje sa v rámci systému EÚ na obchodovanie s emisiami.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000266/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: The German national airline and emissions charges

Germany's largest airline, Lufthansa AG, announced that it will increase its fuel surcharge in line with the costs that it incurs as a result of the inclusion of airlines in the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). The company announced that it would pass on these costs by raising air fares. It estimated that the additional cost of emission permits amounted to roughly EUR 130 million in 2012. However, Lufthansa has opted not to raise air fares in the near future, since in December it managed to raise them by between EUR 102 and EUR 122 for international flights and up to EUR 31 for domestic and European flights. At the time, this was justified by higher fuel costs. Lufthansa's conduct should serve as a positive example and should not mean a fall in its competitiveness in the market. All airlines should be required to internalise the costs of environmental damage.

How does the Commission intend to encourage other airlines to follow this trend?

Answer given by Ms Hedegaard on behalf of the Commission
(28 February 2012)

The extent to which airlines reflect their carbon costs in their ticket prices is their decision and not regulated by the EU ETS.

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000267/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Nezamestnanosť vo Francúzsku

Situácia na trhu práce vo Francúzsku sa zhoršuje. Francúzske ministerstvo práce nedávno zverejnilo údaje, ktoré upozorňujú na skutočnosť, že počet ľudí bez zamestnania stúpol v novembri na dvanásťročné maximum. Pribudlo skoro 30 tisíc nových nezamestnaných, pričom celkovo je bez práce 2,85 milióna ľudí. Údaje francúzskeho ministerstva práce sú najpoužívanejším ukazovateľom zamestnanosti v krajine, a to aj napriek tomu, že sa nezostavujú podľa metodiky Medzinárodnej organizácie práce (ILO). Francúzsky štatistický úrad INSEE prvého decembra zverejnil údaje, ktoré naznačujú, že miera nezamestnanosti vo Francúzsku vzrástla v treťom kvartáli na 9,3 %. V predchádzajúcom štvrťroku pritom bola nezamestnanosť na úrovni 9,1 %. Tieto údaje sú zostavené v súlade s metodikou ILO.

Mieni komisia adresovať Francúzsku v tejto súvislosti nejaké odporúčania a tým prispieť k zlepšeniu situácie v krajine?

Odpoveď pána Andora v mene Komisie
(29. februára 2012)

Komisia si dobre uvedomuje zložitú situáciu v súvislosti so zamestnanosťou v Európskej únii, zlepšenie ktorej patrí medzi ciele a kľúčové priority stratégie pre rast a zamestnanosť Európa 2020. Kríza túto situáciu zhoršila a uvedené ciele sa stali ešte relevantnejšími pre všetky členské štáty vrátane Francúzska.

V rámci stratégie Európa 2020 a na návrh Komisie Rada 12. júla 2011 prijala odporúčania týkajúce sa národného programu reforiem Francúzska na rok 2011. Odporúčané opatrenie sa zameralo na situáciu na trhu práce ([1]).

V ročnom prieskume rastu, ktorý je hlavným príspevkom Komisie k jarným zasadnutiam Európskej rady, sa stanovuje, čo by podľa názoru Komisie malo patriť medzi priority EÚ na nasledujúcich 12 mesiacov. V ročnom prieskume rastu na rok 2012 ([2]) sa EÚ a členské štáty vyzývajú, aby sa zamerali na päť priorít vrátane riešenia otázky nezamestnanosti. Bude to základom usmernenia k otázke zamestnanosti, ktoré má Európska rada prijať 1. marca 2012.

Priority ročného prieskumu rastu a usmernenie poskytnuté jarným zasadnutím Európskej rady členské štáty zohľadňujú pri aktualizácii svojich národných programov reforiem ([3]) a programov stability alebo konvergenčných programov. Komisia posudzuje vykonávanie reforiem na základe aktualizovaných programov reforiem členských štátov a môže navrhnúť aktualizované odporúčania špecifické pre jednotlivé krajiny. V tejto súvislosti zváži situáciu, pokiaľ ide o nezamestnanosť vo Francúzsku.

([1]) Ú. v. EÚ C 213, 20.7.2011, s. 8.
([2]) KOM(2011) 815 z 23. novembra 2011.
([3]) Členské štáty majú predložiť svoje aktualizované programy do polovice apríla tohto roka.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000267/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Unemployment in France

The situation on the French labour market is deteriorating. According to the data published recently by France's Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, the number of people without work reached a 12-year high in November 2011. Almost 30 000 people joined the ranks of the unemployed, bringing the jobless total to 2 850 000.

Data produced by the French Ministry of Employment are the most widely used indicator of the employment rate in France, despite not being compiled in accordance with the guidelines of the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

On 1 December, the French statistical office INSEE published data showing that France's unemployment rate rose to 9.3 % in the third quarter, up from 9.1 % in the previous quarter. These data are compiled in accordance with ILO methodology.

Does the Commission intend to make any recommendations to France with a view to improving the country's employment situation?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission
(29 February 2012)

The Commission is well aware of the difficult employment situation in the European Union, improving which is among the objectives and key targets of the Europe 2020 strategy for growth and jobs. The crisis has made the situation worse, and the targets even more relevant, for all Member States, including France.

Under Europe 2020 and on a proposal from the Commission, the Council adopted recommendations relating to France's 2011 national reform programme on 12 July 2011. The recommended action focused on the labour market situation [1].

The Annual Growth Survey, which is the Commission's main contribution to Spring European Councils, sets out what, in the Commission's view, should be the EU's priorities for the following 12 months. The 2012 Annual Growth Survey [2] calls for the EU and the Member States to focus on five priorities, including tackling unemployment. It will be the basis for the employment guidance to be adopted at the European Council on the 1 March 2012.

The Member States take the priorities in the Annual Growth Survey and the guidance provided by the Spring European Council into account when they update their National Reform Programmes [3] and Stability or Convergence Programmes. The Commission assesses the implementation of reforms on the basis of the Member States' updated reform programmes, and may propose updated country-specific recommendations. It will consider the unemployment situation in France in this connection.

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[1] OJ C 213, 20.7.2011, p. 8.
[2] COM(2011) 815 of 23 November 2011.
[3] The Member States are to submit their updated programmes by mid-April this year.

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000268/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Nová legislatíva súvisiaca s transparentnosťou EÚ

Európsky parlament schválil v záujme väčšej transparentnosti zmeny legislatívy o slobodnom prístupe k dokumentom Európskej únie. Návrh napríklad umožňuje vidieť, ako hlasujú ministri a premiéri v Rade či Európskej rade. To by mohlo podľa slov spravodajcu vyvrátiť mýtus o tom, že niektoré menej populárne opatrenia sú členským štátom nanútené. V legislatíve bola zároveň zmenená definícia pojmu „dokument" na akýkoľvek dátový obsah bez ohľadu na médium, ktoré je jeho nosičom, ak sa týka záležitosti patriacej do okruhu zodpovednosti orgánu EÚ alebo jej agentúry. Dokumenty musia byť v držbe EÚ. Týkať sa to má aj Európskeho súdneho dvora, Európskej centrálnej banky a Európskej investičnej banky. Z povinnosti budú existovať výnimky, najmä ak by išlo o zásah do určitých verejných alebo súkromných záujmov, ako je napr. ochrana osobných údajov či ochrana práv duševného vlastníctva. Výnimky sa však nebudú môcť aplikovať v prípade, že pôjde o vyšší verejný záujem na odtajnení, a to napríklad v prípade ochrany základných práv alebo správneho manažmentu verejných zdrojov.

Aký je postoj Komisie k návrhu týchto legislatívnych zmien?

Odpoveď pána Barrosa v mene Komisie
(16. februára 2012)

Komisia v súčasnosti posudzuje zmeny a doplnenia prijaté Európskym parlamentom k jej návrhu prepracovaného znenia nariadenia (ES) č. 1049/2001 o prístupe verejnosti k dokumentom Európskeho parlamentu, Rady a Komisie. Stanovisko Komisie k zmenám a doplneniam navrhovaným Európskym parlamentom bude zahrnuté do jej správy o opatreniach nadväzujúcich na legislatívne uznesenia prijaté počas zasadnutia v decembri 2011. Komisia by chcela ozrejmiť, že súčasné nariadenie už poskytuje verejnosti veľmi široký prístup k dokumentom EÚ, okrem menšieho počtu výnimiek. Definícia pojmu „dokument" v súčasnom nariadení znamená „akýkoľvek obsah bez ohľadu na to, aké je jeho médium". Komisia prijala aj návrh na rozšírenie pôsobnosti súčasného nariadenia na všetky inštitúcie, orgány, úrady a agentúry EÚ ([1]) s cieľom dosiahnuť súlad s Lisabonskou zmluvou. V súlade s Lisabonskou zmluvou však Súdny dvor, Európska centrálna banka a Európska investičná banka podliehajú týmto pravidlám prístupu verejnosti k dokumentom len pri výkone svojich administratívnych úloh.

([1]) KOM(2011) xxx.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000268/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: New legislation on EU transparency

In the interests of greater transparency, the European Parliament has adopted amendments to the legislation on free access to EU documents. The proposal allows one, for example, to see how ministers and prime ministers are voting in the Council or the European Council. This could, in the words of the rapporteur, debunk the myth that some less popular measures are forced upon Member States. In the legislation, the definition of 'document' was amended to mean any data content — regardless of the medium on which it is carried — if it relates to matters falling within the scope of responsibility of the EU or its agencies. The documents must be held by the EU. This will also apply to the European Court of Justice, the European Central Bank and European Investment Bank. There will be exceptions to this obligation, especially if it involves an encroachment on certain public or private interests, such as personal data protection and the protection of intellectual property rights. It will not be possible to apply exceptions, however, where disclosure is a matter of greater public interest, for example in order to protect fundamental rights and the sound management of public resources.

What is the Commission's position on the proposal for legislative changes?

Answer given by Mr Barroso on behalf of the Commission
(16 February 2012)

The Commission is currently assessing the amendments adopted by the European Parliament to its proposal for a recast of Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 regarding public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents. The Commission's position on the amendments proposed by the European Parliament will be included in its report on the follow-up to the legislative resolutions adopted during the December 2011 sitting. The Commission would like to clarify that the current Regulation already grants members of the public a very wide access to EU documents, subject to a limited number of exceptions. In particular, the definition of 'document' in the current Regulation means 'any content whatever its medium'. The Commission has also adopted a proposal for extending the scope of the current Regulation to all institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the EU ([1]) with a view to make it compliant with the Lisbon Treaty. However, in accordance with the Lisbon Treaty, the Court of Justice, the European Central Bank and the European Investment Bank shall only be subject to the rules on public access to documents when exercising their administrative tasks.

([1]) COM(2011)xxx.

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000269/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Nový spôsob spolupráce EMA so zdravotníkmi

EMA je európska agentúra, ktorej úlohou je harmonizovať národných liekových regulátorov. Financovaná je Európskou úniou a farmaceutickým priemyslom. Na Európsku komisiu EMA smeruje svoje odporúčania o schválení alebo neschválení nových medicínskych, ľudských aj veterinárnych produktov pre uvedenie na trh v EÚ a EHS. Agentúra nedávno vyhlásila, že po dôkladnej analýze prišla k záveru, že bude nutné vypracovať štruktúrovanejší rámec jej spolupráce so zdravotnými profesionálmi. Jeho súčasťou má byť aj monitorovací systém výsledkov a pokroku takejto štruktúrovanej spolupráce. Rámec by mal posilniť nezávislú expertízu agentúry v otázkach týkajúcich sa humánnej medicíny a predovšetkým reálnych skúseností s liekmi v klinickej praxi a reálnom terapeutickom prostredí, aj mimo schválenej indikácie. Kontakty môžu byť tiež zdrojom informácií, ako sa vyhnúť najčastejším chybám v medikácii. Agentúra si od toho sľubuje lepšie kontinuálne hodnotenie prínosov a rizík počas celého cyklu života medicínskeho produktu na európskom trhu.

Aké je stanovisko Komisie k takémuto postupu európskej agentúry EMA?

Odpoveď pána Dalliho v mene Komisie
(29. februára 2012)

Podľa článku 78 nariadenia, ktorým sa zriaďuje Európska agentúra pre lieky ([1]), agentúra má budovať vhodné kontakty so zástupcami zdravotníckych pracovníkov. V tejto súvislosti správna rada agentúry v decembri 2011 podporila rámec interakcie so zdravotníckymi pracovníkmi, ktorého účelom je sformalizovanie už existujúcej interakcie so zdravotníckymi pracovníkmi. Rámec tiež zavádza monitorovanie takejto interakcie a podávanie správ o jej pokroku. Okrem toho stanovuje kritériá, ktoré sú podobné ako už uplatňované kritériá pre organizácie pacientov a spotrebiteľov. Tieto kritériá majú spĺňať organizácie zdravotníckych pracovníkov zapojené do aktivít agentúry s cieľom zabezpečiť, aby agentúra nadviazala kontakt s najvhodnejšími organizáciami zastupujúcimi zdravotníckych pracovníkov transparentným spôsobom.

Účelom rámca je podpora agentúry, aby mala prístup k najlepšej možnej nezávislej expertíze v akejkoľvek otázke týkajúcej sa liekov. Prispeje tiež k účinnejšej a lepšie zameranej komunikácii so zdravotníckymi pracovníkmi a podporí ich úlohu v bezpečnom a racionálnom používaní liekov.

Uplatňovanie rámca bude znamenať vytvorenie siete európskych organizácií zdravotníckych pracovníkov, ktorá sa uverejní na webovej stránke agentúry, a transformáciu neformálnych zasadnutí zdravotníckych pracovníkov na riadnu pracovnú skupinu s prepojením na všetky vedecké výbory zaoberajúce sa liekmi na humánne použitie.

([1]) Nariadenie (ES) č. 726/2004, Ú. v. EÚ L 136, 30.4.2004, s. 1.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000269/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: New method of cooperation between the EMA and healthcare professionals

The main task of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) is to harmonise national drug regulators. It is funded by the European Union and the pharmaceutical industry. The EMA submits its recommendations concerning the approval or rejection of new medical, human and animal health products for marketing in the EU and the EEA to the European Commission. The agency recently announced that, after careful analysis, it had reached the conclusion that it would be necessary to develop a more structured framework for its cooperation with health professionals. Part of this should include a system for monitoring the results and progress of such structured cooperation. The framework should strengthen the Agency's independent expertise in matters relating to human medicine, and above all, real world experience with medicines in clinical practice, in a real therapeutic environment. Contacts can also be a source of information on how to avoid the most common errors in medication. The Agency expects from this an improved continuous evaluation of the benefits and risks throughout the entire life cycle of medical products on the European market.

What is the Commission's opinion on the EMA adopting such a practice?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission
(29 February 2012)

Under Article 78 of the founding regulation of the European Medicines Agency ([1]), the Agency is to develop appropriate contacts with representatives of healthcare professionals. It is within this context that the Agency's Management Board endorsed the framework for interaction with healthcare professionals in December 2011 which aims at formalising the already existing interaction with healthcare professionals. The framework also introduces the monitoring of such interaction and reporting on its progress. In addition, it lays down criteria which are similar to those already implemented for patients and consumers' organisations, to be fulfilled by healthcare professionals' organisations involved in the Agency's activities, with a view to ensuring that it establishes contact with the most suitable organisations representing healthcare professionals in a transparent manner.

The framework aims at supporting the Agency in order to access the best possible independent expertise in any matter related to medicines. It will also contribute to a more efficient and targeted communication to healthcare professionals and support their role in the safe and rational use of medicines.

The implementation of the framework will imply the establishment of a network of European healthcare professionals' organisations that will be published on the Agency's website and the transformation of the informal meetings with healthcare professionals into a regular working party with links to all scientific committees dealing with medicinal products for human use.

([1]) Regulation (EC) No 726/2004, OJ L 136, 30.4.2004, p. 1.

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000270/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Postoj verejnosti k cestovnej mape pre energetiku do roku 2050

Európska komisia nedávno predstavila cestovnú mapu pre energetiku do roku 2050. Komisiou stanovený cieľ je zredukovať celkové emisie skleníkových plynov do roku 2050 o viac ako 80 % v porovnaní s úrovňami v roku 1990. Jednou z výziev je vylepšenie európskej energetickej infraštruktúry, čo bude vyžadovať značný investičný kapitál. Komisia odhadla, že v nasledujúcej dekáde budú potrebné investície vo výške 1 bilióna eur. Z toho asi 200 miliárd sa vyžaduje na výstavbu plynovodov a elektrických sietí. S prihliadnutím na strednodobú až dlhodobú povahu týchto investícií bude treba prekonať konflikt medzi potrebou stabilnej, dlhodobej politiky a krátkodobými tlakmi, ktorým čelia zvolené vlády. Dôležité je aj zaistenie podpory verejnosti pre nevyhnutné reformy. Máloktorí občania EÚ totiž v čase existenčnej krízy vidia dôležitosť investícií v energetickej oblasti a ich návratnosť v dlhodobom horizonte.

Akým spôsobom chce Komisia európsku verejnosť presvedčiť o nevyhnutnosti investícií a reforiem v oblasti energetiky?

Odpoveď pána Oettingera v mene Komisie
(28. februára 2012)

Ako bolo potvrdené v Pláne postupu v energetike do roku 2050, angažovanie verejnosti má kľúčový význam z hľadiska transformácie systému energetiky. Prechod ovplyvní zamestnanosť a pracovné miesta a bude vyžadovať vzdelávanie, odbornú prípravu a dynamickejší sociálny dialóg. Občania musia byť informovaní a zapojení do procesu rozhodovania, lebo pri technologických voľbách sa musí vziať do úvahy miestne prostredie. Vytvorenie dobre fungujúceho vnútorného trhu s energiami bude viesť k väčším možnostiam výberu, lepším službám a dostupným cenám pre spotrebiteľov. Ďalšou výhodou pre spotrebiteľov je získanie opatrení energetickej účinnosti, čo na druhej strane vedie k zníženiu poplatkov za energiu. Tieto dva ciele by mali pomôcť presvedčiť verejnosť o dlhodobých výhodách vyplývajúcich z Plánu postupu v energetike do roku 2050.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000270/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Public attitude to the Energy Roadmap 2050

The Commission recently presented a roadmap for the energy sector up to 2050. The Commission’s stated objective is to reduce total greenhouse gas emissions to more than 80 % below 1990 levels by 2050. One of the challenges is to improve Europe’s energy infrastructure, which will require significant capital investment. The Commission has estimated that investment of EUR 1 trillion will be required over the next decade. Of this amount approximately EUR 200 billion will be required for the construction of gas pipelines and electricity networks. Taking into account the medium- to long-term nature of these investments, it will be necessary to overcome the conflict between the need for a stable, long-term policy and short-term pressures faced by elected governments. It is also important to ensure public support for essential reforms. In this time of existential crisis, few EU citizens see the importance of investing in the energy sector, and its return in the long run.

How does the European Commission intend to convince the public of the need for reforms and investments in the energy sector?

Answer given by Mr Oettinger on behalf of the Commission
(28 February 2012)

As acknowledged in the Energy Roadmap 2050, engaging the public is crucial for energy system transformation. The transition will affect employment and jobs, requiring education and training and a more vigorous social dialogue. Citizens need to be informed and engaged in the decision-making process, while technological choices need to take account of local environments. Establishing a well functioning internal energy market will lead to more choice, better services and more affordable rates for consumers. A further advantage for consumers lies in achieving energy efficiency measures, which in turn leads to reduced energy bills. These two objectives alone should help to convince the public of the long term benefits of the Energy Roadmap 2050.

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000271/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Plynovod South Stream

Rusko nedávno získalo od tureckého ministra pre energetiku povolenie na výstavbu plynovodu South Stream cez exkluzívnu ekonomickú zónu Turecka. Rusko tým získalo súhlas všetkých zainteresovaných krajín a môže začať s výstavbou. Stanovený termín pre začiatok výstavby je koniec roku 2012 a výstavba by podľa naplánovaného rozvrhu mala prebehnúť do konca roka 2015. Z uvedeného vyplýva, že projekt South Stream má oproti konkurenčnému Nabuccu značný náskok. V snahe znížiť závislosť od dodávok plynu z Ruska je projekt Nabucco podporovaný Európskou úniou.

Aký má Komisia názor na takýto vývoj situácie?

Mieni byť v tomto smere v najbližšej dobe určitým spôsobom aktívna?

Odpoveď pána Oettingera v mene Komisie
(27. februára 2012)

Komisia podporuje aktívne koncepciu južného koridoru zemného plynu, ktorej cieľom je prepojiť Európu s novými zdrojmi plynu, vytvoriť nové prepravné trasy a diverzifikovať partnerov v rámci dodávok. Nabucco je jedným z projektov v rámci tohto koridoru.

Projekt South Stream do tejto koncepcie nepatrí, pretože Európskej únii neposkytuje prístup k novým zdrojom plynu. Jeho jediným cieľom je prepravovať ruský plyn po novej trase.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000271/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: South Stream pipeline

The Turkish Minister of Energy has recently given Russia permission to build the South Stream gas pipeline through Turkey's exclusive economic zone. This means that Russia has now gained the consent of all countries involved and may start construction. Work on building the pipeline is set to begin towards the end of 2012 and is scheduled for completion towards the end of 2015. This places the South Stream project at a significant advantage over its rival, Nabucco, which is being financed by the EU in an attempt to reduce its reliance on Russian gas supplies.

What is the Commission's opinion on these developments?

Does it intend to take action on this matter in the near future?

Answer given by Mr Oettinger on behalf of the Commission
(27 February 2012)

The Commission actively supports the Southern Gas Corridor concept that aims at linking Europe with new sources of gas, providing new routes for its transportation and diversifying counterparts involved in providing gas. Nabucco is one of the projects within this Corridor.

South Stream is not part of this concept as it does not intend to create access to new sources of gas for the EU. The project limits its ambitions to providing a new route for Russian gas.

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000272/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Potenciálne vystúpenie Grécka z eurozóny

Na summite EÚ, ktorý sa konal v októbri 2011, sa európski lídri dohodli na tom, že Grécku poskytnú záchranných 130 miliárd eur, pričom súkromní veritelia prisľúbili, že pristúpia k 50-percentnému odpisu z gréckych dlhopisov. Predstavitelia EÚ, MMF a ECB by mali o pomoci v Aténach rokovať v polovici januára. Vyjednávania so súkromnými investormi sú však komplikované, pretože chcú zaistiť, aby nedošlo k tomu, že straty z dlhopisov budú vyššie. Zatiaľ nebola dosiahnutá dohoda ani o dĺžke splatnosti a úročení nových dlhopisov, ktoré by veritelia mali dostať výmenou za staré. Táto dohoda so súkromnými veriteľmi má krajinu ochrániť pred definitívnym bankrotom. Ak sa teda nepodarí dosiahnuť jej uzavretie, Grécko bude musieť z eurozóny vystúpiť.

Pracuje komisia na pláne ďalšieho postupu pre prípad, že Grécko bude musieť z eurozóny vystúpiť, alebo už má takýto plán pripravený?

Odpoveď pána Rehna v mene Komisie
(12. marca 2012)

Odpoveď Komisie poslankyni Európskeho parlamentu je nie.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000272/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Potential withdrawal of Greece from the Eurozone

At the EU summit held in October 2011, EU leaders agreed that they would provide Greece with an emergency EUR 130 billion, whilst private creditors pledged to write down the value of Greek bonds by 50 %. Representatives of the EU, IMF and the ECB are due to hold talks about aid in Athens in mid-January. Negotiations with private investors are complicated, however, because they want to ensure that their losses on the bonds will not be higher. So far no agreement has been reached on the length of maturity and the interest rate for the new bonds that creditors should receive in exchange for old ones. This agreement with private creditors is designed to protect the country from final bankruptcy. If a conclusion cannot be reached, Greece will have to withdraw from the euro area.

Is the Commission working on a plan for further action in the event that Greece is forced to leave the Eurozone or has it already prepared a plan?

Answer given by Mr Rehn on behalf of the Commission
(12 March 2012)

The Commission's reply to the Honourable Member is no.

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000273/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Pripravenosť Európskej únie na zdravotné krízy

Európska únia bola v uplynulých mesiacoch dejiskom niekoľkých nebezpečných krízových situácií, ktoré súviseli s ohrozením verejného zdravia. V roku 2009 to bola pandémia H1N1, nebezpečný mrak sopečného popola v roku 2010 a ohnisko nákazy E. coli v roku 2011. Všetky tieto krízové situácie mali výrazný cezhraničný charakter. Európska komisia chce preto zlepšiť prostriedky, ktoré EÚ umožňujú pripraviť sa na takéto krízy a ich riešenie. Toto chce dosiahnuť rozšírením súčasného mechanizmu koordinácie pre prenosné choroby na všetky ohrozenia zdravia, ktoré sú spôsobené biologickými, chemickými alebo environmentálnymi príčinami, ďalej posilnením mandátu Výboru pre zdravotnú bezpečnosť, posilnením pripravenosti na krízy, napr. umožnením spoločných nákupov očkovacích látok, poskytnutím prostriedkov na uznanie situácie mimoriadneho ohrozenia zdravia v EÚ, čo by mohlo prispieť k rýchlejšej dostupnosti liekov, a dohodnutím celoeurópskych mimoriadnych cezhraničných opatrení pre prípad, že kríza povedie k vysokej úmrtnosti a vnútroštátne opatrenia šírenie choroby nezastavia.

Plánuje komisia tieto návrhy určitým spôsobom koordinovať aj so susediacimi krajinami a regiónmi?

Odpoveď pána Dalliho v mene Komisie
(27. februára 2012)

Podľa článku 16 návrhu rozhodnutia Európskeho parlamentu a Rady o závažných cezhraničných ohrozeniach zdravia [1] Komisia navrhuje, aby Únia mohla uzavrieť medzinárodné dohody s tretími krajinami alebo medzinárodnými organizáciami. Cieľom je umožnenie spolupráce, pokiaľ ide o závažné cezhraničné ohrozenie zdravia, ktoré predstavuje osobitné riziko prenosu na obyvateľov EÚ. Návrh zahŕňa tieto aspekty: výmena osvedčených postupov v oblastiach plánovania pripravenosti a reakcie, výmena príslušných informácií zo systémov monitorovania a varovania, spolupráca na hodnotení rizík pre verejné zdravie, pokiaľ ide o závažné cezhraničné ohrozenia zdravia, a spolupráca na koordinácii reakcie.

Okrem toho podľa článku 4 o plánovaní pripravenosti a reakcie uvedeného návrhu Komisia predpokladá zlepšenú koordináciu, pokiaľ ide o konzistentné uplatňovanie medzinárodných zdravotných predpisov, ktorá by bola výhodná pre krajiny mimo EÚ.

Návrh Komisie je predmetom prebiehajúcich rokovaní v Európskom parlamente a Rade.

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[1] http://ec.europa.eu/health/preparedness_response/policy/hsi/index_en.htm

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000273/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Preparedness of the European Union for health crises

The European Union has, in recent months, been the scene of several dangerous public health-related emergencies. In 2009, it was the H1N1 pandemic, the dangerous cloud of volcanic ash in 2010 and the outbreak of E. coli in 2011. All of these crises had a significant cross-border nature. The European Commission wishes to improve the mechanisms which enable the EU to prepare for such crises and to address them. It seeks to achieve this by extending the existing coordination mechanism for communicable diseases to all health hazards attributable to biological, chemical or environmental causes; further strengthening the mandate of the Health Security Committee; strengthening crisis preparedness, for example by facilitating the joint purchase of vaccines; introducing mechanisms for recognising situations of extreme danger to health in the EU, which could contribute to faster access to medicines; and by arranging cross-border pan-European emergency measures in case the crisis leads to high mortality and national measures are unable to stop the spread of the disease.

Does the Commission intend to coordinate these proposals with neighbouring countries and regions?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission
(27 February 2012)

Under Article 16 of the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on serious cross-border threats to health ([1]), the Commission proposes that the Union may conclude international agreements with third countries or international organisations. The aim is to allow cooperation on serious cross-border threats to health that pose particular risks of transmission to the EU population. It covers the following aspects: exchange of good practice in the areas of preparedness and response planning, exchange of relevant information from monitoring and alerting systems, collaboration on public health risk assessment of serious cross border threats to health, and collaboration on response coordination.

In addition, under Article 4 on preparedness and response planning of the abovementioned proposal, the Commission foresees improved coordination as regards the consistent implementation of the International Health Regulations which would provide benefits to the countries outside the EU.

The Commission proposal is subject to the ongoing negotiations in the European Parliament and in the Council.

([1]) http://ec.europa.eu/health/preparedness_response/policy/hsi/index_en.htm

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000274/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Problematika definícií v oblasti bezpečnosti práce

Ochrana zdravia ľudí pri práci je predmetom častých legislatívnych úprav. Tie sú nevyhnutné, pretože relevantná legislatíva sa musí prispôsobovať rýchlo sa meniacemu pracovnému prostrediu a zmenám v pracovných postupoch. Európska únia musí svojim obyvateľom zabezpečiť vysokú úroveň ochrany bezpečnosti a zdravia pri práci. Problémom v tejto oblasti je však presná metodika a definovanie, čo presne predstavuje pojem pracovný úraz, choroba z povolania, alebo pojem pracovný stres.

Plánuje Komisia vypracovať presné definície relevantných pojmov, dôležitých pre oblasť legislatívy v oblasti bezpečnosti a ochrany zdravia pri práci?

Odpoveď pána Andora v mene Komisie
(22. februára 2012)

Komisia si uvedomuje dôležitosť jasnej terminológie v oblasti bezpečnosti a zdravia pracovníkov. V posledných desaťročiach sa v tejto oblasti vypracovalo množstvo oficiálnych definícií. Jedným z príkladov sú smernice EÚ o bezpečnosti a zdraví pracovníkov, ktoré zvyčajne zahŕňajú definície pojmov relevantných pre tú špecifickú oblasť prevencie, na ktorú sa právne predpisy vzťahujú, a najmä pre oblasť rizikových faktorov pri práci.

Podľa oficiálnej definície v európskej štatistike pracovných úrazov, ktorú spravuje Eurostat, je „pracovný úraz" „jednotlivá udalosť pri plnení pracovných úloh, ktorá vedie k poškodeniu telesného alebo duševného zdravia". Jednoznačne sa teda vzťahuje na úrazy, ktoré utrpia pracovníci pri výkone zamestnania alebo v čase strávenom v práci, no vylučuje úrazy spôsobené vlastným pričinením, úrazy, ku ktorým dôjde na ceste do práce a z práce, a stavy, ktoré majú výlučne zdravotné dôvody.

Štúdia systémov chorôb z povolania v EÚ, ktorú Komisia v súčasnosti uskutočňuje, sa okrem iného bude týkať problémov, ktoré vznikli v dôsledku nejasností spojených s definíciou pojmu „choroba z povolania". Pojem sa opiera o vnútroštátne právne predpisy a prax pri odškodňovaní, keďže pracovný pôvod chorôb z povolania je uznaný a schválený vnútroštátnymi orgánmi, ktoré sa zaoberajú odškodňovaním. Hoci zistenia štúdie nebudú právne záväzné, môžu pomôcť pri objasnení uvedeného pojmu a poskytnúť základ pre ďalší vývoj v tomto smere.

V dostupnej vedeckej literatúre možno v súčasnosti nájsť niekoľko definícií pojmu „pracovný stres", ktorý vážená pani poslankyňa takisto spomenula, no diskusia o spoločnej definícii na úrovni EÚ ostáva stále otvorená.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000274/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: The issue of definitions in the field of occupational safety

Protection of health at work has been the subject of frequent legislative changes. These are necessary because the relevant legislation must adapt to the rapidly changing work environment and changes in working practices. The European Union must ensure a high level of health and safety at work for its citizens. The problem in this area is, however, the exact methodology and definition of what exactly constitutes the concept of work-related injury or illness, or the notion of work-related stress.

Does the Commission intend to develop precise definitions for the relevant concepts which are important for the field of occupational health and safety?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission
(22 February 2012)

The Commission is aware of the importance of clarity in the use of occupational safety and health (OSH) terminology. A number of official definitions have been developed in this area in recent decades. For example, EU OSH Directives usually include definitions of the concepts that are relevant to the specific area of prevention to which the legislation refers, and in particular of the occupational risk factors.

The official definition of 'accident at work' in the European Statistics on Accidents at Work, which is managed by the European Statistical Office, is 'a discrete occurrence in the course of work which leads to physical or mental harm'. It thus clearly refers to accidents that workers suffer when they are engaged in an occupational activity or during time spent at work, but excludes self-inflicted injuries, accidents that occur on the way to or from work and conditions of purely medical origin.

A study of occupational disease systems in the EU which the Commission is currently conducting will *inter alia* address the problems posed by the uncertainty in the definition of the concept of 'occupational disease'. The concept relies on the national legislation and compensation practice, since the occupational origin of occupational diseases is recognised and approved by the national compensation authorities. Although the findings of the study will not be legally binding, they may help clarify the concept and provide a basis for future developments.

The scientific literature available currently provides for several definitions of 'work-related stress', which the Honourable Member also mentions, but the discussion is still open on a common EU-level definition.

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000275/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Projekt ITER

ITER je projekt experimentálneho termonukleárneho reaktora, ktorý má replikovať procesy prebiehajúce v jadre hviezd a v Slnku. Výstavba tohto medzinárodného experimentálneho termonukleárneho reaktora sa má začať už tento rok pri juhofrancúzskom meste Cadarache. Financovanie zo strany EÚ v súčasnosti závisí najmä od vôle členských štátov uvoľniť potrebné prostriedky. Niektoré vlády totiž v roku 2010 vyhlásili, že z dôvodu ekonomickej krízy nemajú k dispozícii prostriedky na financovanie tohto projektu. Komisia preto navrhla uvoľniť sumu 1,4 miliardy eur z nepoužitých zdrojov rozpočtu EÚ na rok 2010 a presunom peňazí zo 7. rámcového rozpočtu pre výskum. Chýbajúca suma 1,3 miliardy eur sa uvoľnila z nevyužitých zdrojov spoločného rozpočtu. Zatiaľ však nie je jasné financovanie projektu v období rokov 2014 – 2020. Projekt patrí pod zmluvu o Euratome, EÚ zaň teda nie je bezprostredne zodpovedná. Komisia vyhlásila, že ITER by sa mal financovať oddelene od spoločného rozpočtu, pretože sa obáva, že keď sa ITER stane položkou v spoločnom rozpočte, môže to ohroziť program Horizont 2020. Vlády však zatiaľ v tomto smere nezaujali jednotné stanovisko.

Akým spôsobom chce komisia presvedčiť vlády o tom, že projekt ITER by mal byť financovaný oddelene od spoločného rozpočtu EÚ?

Odpoveď pána Lewandowského v mene Komisie
(27. februára 2012)

Vo svojom návrhu budúceho viacročného finančného rámca (VFR) [KOM(2011) 500 v konečnom znení] ([1]) Komisia skutočne navrhla, aby sa financovanie ITER po roku 2013 uskutočňovalo mimo VFR. Tento prístup sa zakladá na závere, že štruktúra VFR nie je najvhodnejšia na financovanie projektov veľkého rozsahu, akým je ITER. Časový rozsah tohto projektu vo veľkej miere prevyšuje trvanie jedného finančného rámca a nespĺňa ani prísne pravidlá a obmedzenia VFR. Okrem toho by potenciálne riziko zvýšenia nákladov mohlo vyvolať potrebu prerozdeliť finančné prostriedky, ktoré už boli pridelené iným prioritným potrebám, kľúčovým pre implementáciu stratégie 2020 a pre rast a inováciu. Preto nejde o trvalo udržateľné riešenie.

Komisia následne prijala 21. decembra 2011 návrh o prijatí doplnkového výskumného programu pre projekt ITER (2014 – 2018) — KOM(2011) 931 v konečnom znení ([2]).

Komisia bude všetky aspekty svojich návrhov obhajovať pre Radou a Európskym parlamentom, najmä návrhy zamerané na rast a inováciu, ktoré sú nevyhnutným prvkom štruktúry VFR na roky 2014 – 2020. Financovanie projektu ITER mimo VFR by sa teda malo posudzovať a rozhodnutia o ňom prijímať v týchto širších súvislostiach.

([1]) http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/docs/maff-2020_en.pdf
([2]) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0931:FIN:SK:PDF.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000275/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: ITER project

The ITER project is an experimental fusion reactor, which should replicate the processes within the cores of stars and the sun. Construction of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor will begin later this year in the southern French town of Cadarache. Funding from the EU currently depends mainly on the willingness of Member States to release the necessary funds. Some governments declared in 2010 that, because of the economic crisis, they do not have the funding available for the financing of this project. The Commission therefore proposed to release EUR1.4 billion of unused funds from the EU budget for 2010 and to transfer money from the Seventh Framework Programme for Research. The missing amount of EUR 1.3 billion was released from unused common budget funds. So far, however, financing for the project in the 2014-2020 period is not clear. The project falls under the Euratom Treaty, and therefore the EU is not directly responsible for it. The Commission said that ITER should be financed separately from the common budget, because it fears that if ITER becomes an item in the common budget, it may endanger the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme. The governments have not yet adopted a unified position on this matter.

How does the Commission intend to convince the governments that the ITER project should be funded separately from the common EU budget?

Answer given by Mr Lewandowski on behalf of the Commission
(27 February 2012)

In its proposals for the next multi-annual financial framework (MFF) (COM(2011) 500 final) ([1]) the Commission has indeed proposed to foresee the funding for ITER outside the MFF after 2013. This approach is based on the conclusion that the structure of the MFF is not well-suited for the funding of large-scale projects like ITER. The timescale of this project far exceeds the duration of a single financial framework and it doesn't fit within the strict rules and limitations of the MFF. Furthermore, the potential risk of cost overruns could trigger a need to redeploy funds that have already been earmarked for other priority needs which are crucial for the implementation of the 2020 strategy and the support to growth and innovation. Therefore this is not a sustainable solution.

Consequently, the Commission has adopted on 21 December 2011 a proposal on the adoption of a Supplementary Research Programme for the ITER project (2014-2018) — COM(2011) 931 final ([2]).

The Commission will defend all aspects of its proposals before Council and European Parliament, in particular the proposals geared towards growth and innovation which are an essential component of the architecture of the MFF 2014-2020. It is in this wider context that the financing of the ITER project outside the MFF should be assessed and decided.

([1]) http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/docs/maff-2020_en.pdf
([2]) http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2011:0931:FIN:EN:PDF

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000276/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Reálny poľnohospodársky príjem

Z prvého odhadu európskeho štatistického úradu Eurostat vyplýva, že reálny poľnohospodársky príjem na pracovníka v roku 2011 stúpol o 6,7 %. Úrad uviedol, že tento nárast je dôsledkom zvýšenia reálneho poľnohospodárskeho príjmu (+3,9 %) spolu s poklesom pracovných vstupov v poľnohospodárstve (-2,7 %). Reálny poľnohospodársky príjem na pracovníka v období 2005 – 2011 stúpol o 18,3 %, kým pracovný vstup klesol o 15,2 %. Rast v príjme na pracovníka zaznamenali v 19 členských štátoch EÚ, pokles v ôsmich. Zo štatistiky vyplýva, že najvyšší nárast očakávajú v Rumunsku (+43,7 %), Maďarsku (+41,8 %) a Írsku (30,1 %). Najvýraznejší pokles v príjmoch hlási Belgicko (-22,5 %), Malta (-21,2 %) a Fínsko (-9,6 %). Z pohľadu hodnoty poľnohospodárskych výstupov došlo v roku 2011 k nárastu o 7,5 %. Hodnota totiž stúpla aj v prípade rastlinnej (+8 %) a živočíšnej výroby (+7,8 %). Rast hodnoty rastlinnej výroby je dôsledkom rastu cien (+5,4 %) a objemu (+2,5 %). Najvýraznejšie stúpla pri obilninách (+18,9 %) a olejninách (+18,4 %). Z pohľadu objemu bol rast zaznamenaný v prípade cukrovej repy, vína, zemiakov a ovocia. Poľnohospodári v menšej miere produkovali olivový olej a kvety. Pod rast hodnoty živočíšnej výroby sa podpísali rovnaké faktory ako v prípade rastlinnej, a teda rast cien (+6,7 %) a objemu (+1,1 %). Ceny stúpajú najmä pri mlieku, hydine a dobytku, na druhej strane klesá cena vajec. Poľnohospodári však zaznamenali nárast nákladov na poľnohospodárske vstupy. Podľa odhadu ide o 9,7 %, najmä pre rast cien krmív (+16,8 %), hnojív (+14,6 %) či energií a olejov (+11,8 %).

Ako hodnotí Komisia tento vývoj? Považuje ho za žiaduci, alebo chce nejakým spôsobom intervenovať?

Ak áno, akým spôsobom?

Odpoveď pána Cioloșa v mene Komisie
(1. marca 2012)

Na základe prvých odhadov z Eurostatu sa reálny príjem na poľnohospodárskeho robotníka v EÚ po prudkom poklese v roku 2009 v dôsledku finančnej a hospodárskej krízy už druhý rok zvyšuje, a dosiahol najvyššiu zaznamenanú úroveň za posledných desať rokov.

Zatiaľ čo Komisia víta tento vývoj, najmä z dôvodu podstatného zníženia príjmov, ktoré sa dalo pozorovať v poľnohospodárstve EÚ v roku 2009, mal by sa preskúmať s ohľadom na pocit neistoty, pokiaľ ide o budúce vyhliadky, keďže odvetvie poľnohospodárstva čelí rastúcemu počtu úloh spojených s vonkajšími faktormi, potravinovými dodávateľskými reťazcami a neistotou vyplývajúcou z hospodárskeho, politického a trhového prostredia.

Návrhy predostreté v rámci prebiehajúcej reformy SPP sú navrhnuté tak, aby riešili tieto úlohy a aby v EÚ zabezpečili životaschopnú výrobu potravín tým, že prispejú k príjmom poľnohospodárskych podnikov a obmedzia výkyvy týchto príjmov.

Okrem návrhov o jednotnej spoločnej organizácii trhov, ktorej cieľom je ďalej zvyšovať konkurencieschopnosť poľnohospodárstva EÚ pri poskytovaní účinnej záchrannej siete poľnohospodárom a posilňovaní postavenia poľnohospodárov v potravinovom dodávateľskom reťazci, budú mať priame platby naďalej za úlohu zabezpečovať poľnohospodárom minimálny príjem a opatrenia rozvoja vidieka by poskytovali ďalšie prostriedky podpory vo forme pomoci na investície a reštrukturalizáciu, vo forme manažmentu rizík a zvýšeného financovania výskumu a vývoja.

Po uverejnení aktualizovaných odhadov príjmov, ktoré sa očakáva pred koncom marca, a na základe konečných údajov začiatkom štvrtého štvrťroku 2012 bude možné uskutočniť komplexnejšie posúdenie vývoja príjmov.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000276/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Real agricultural income

According to initial estimates issued by Eurostat, real agricultural income per worker in 2011 rose by 6.7 %. The authority noted that this increase is due to the increase in real income per agricultural worker (+3.9 %) together with a decrease in labour input in agriculture (-2.7 %). Real agricultural income per worker in the period 2005-2011 increased by 18.3 %, whilst labour input fell by 15.2 %. A growth in income per worker was reported in 19 EU Member States, and a decrease in eight. Statistics show that the highest increases are expected in Romania (+43.7 %), Hungary (+41.8 %) and Ireland (30.1 %). The most significant declines in earnings were seen in Belgium (-22.5 %), Malta (-21.2 %) and Finland (-9.6 %). In terms of value of agricultural output, there was an increase of 7.5 % in 2011. The value also increased in crop (+ 8 %) and livestock (+7.8 %) production. The growth in the value of crop production is the result of increases in price (+5.4 %) and volume (+2.5 %). Cereals (+ 18.9 %) and oilseeds (+18.4 %) showed the greatest increase. In volume terms, growth was recorded in the case of sugar beet, wine, potatoes and fruit. Farmers produced olive oil and flowers to a lesser extent. The rise in the value of livestock was subject to the same factors as in the case of crops, i.e. increase in prices (+6.7 %) and volume (+1.1 %). Prices are rising particularly in milk, poultry and cattle, but on the other hand the price of eggs is decreasing. Farmers, however, recorded an increase in the cost of agricultural inputs. According to estimates this is an increase of 9.7 %, especially for the increase in the price of feed (+16.8 %), fertilisers (+14.6 %), and energy and oil (+11.8 %).

How does the Commission assess this development? Does it see it as desirable, or does it wish to intervene in some way?

If so, how?

Answer given by Mr Cioloş on behalf of the Commission
(1 March 2012)

The first estimates from Eurostat indicate that EU real agricultural income per worker has increased for the second year following the sharp decline in 2009 in the wake of the financial and economic crisis and has reached the highest level observed over the past decade.

While the Commission welcomes this development, particularly in light of the considerable drop in income observed for EU agriculture in 2009, it should be examined in the light of the persistence of uncertainty about future perspectives, since the agricultural sector is facing a growing number of challenges linked to external factors, food supply chain issues and uncertainties regarding the economic, policy and market environment.

The proposals set forth in the ongoing CAP reform have been drafted to address these challenges and to provide for a viable food production in the EU by contributing to farm incomes and limiting farm income fluctuations.

Besides the proposals on the single Common Market Organisation that aim to further improve the competitiveness of EU agriculture while providing an effective safety net for farmers, as well as strengthening the position of farmers in the food supply chain, direct payments would continue their role to ensure a minimum income for farmers and rural development measures would provide additional means of support in the form of aid for investment and restructuring, of risk management and increased financing for research and development.

A more comprehensive assessment of income developments will become possible following the publication of the updated income estimates expected before the end of March and the final figures in the beginning of the fourth quarter of 2012.

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000277/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Reforma súdneho systému v Srbsku

Srbskí právnici vypracovali správu, ktorá hodnotí reformu súdneho systému v krajine. Správa, ktorá je určená zástupcom delegácie Európskej únie v Srbsku, upozorňuje na mnohé nedostatky tejto reformy a celého srbského súdneho systému. Reforma je podľa nich netransparentná, podlieha politickému tlaku a obsahuje obrovské množstvo nezrovnalostí. Správu vypracovali po siedmich týždňoch monitoringu procesu vymenúvania sudcov v období od 4. júla do 27. augusta 2011. Najnovšie oficiálne hodnotenie Srbska Európskou úniou je však v tejto oblasti pozitívne.

Akým spôsobom chce komisia vysvetliť tento rozpor?

Odpoveď pána Füleho v mene Komisie
(13. marca 2012)

Komisia by chcela odkázať váženú pani poslankyňu na svoju odpoveď na písomnú otázku E-000006/2012 pani Cornelissenovej a pani Brantnerovej ([1]).

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/application/home.do?language=EN

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000277/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Judicial reform in Serbia

Serbian lawyers have produced a report which assesses judicial reform in the country. The report, which is written for representatives of the European Union delegation to Serbia, draws attention to the many shortcomings in this reform and in the Serbian judicial system. The reform is, in their opinion, non-transparent, subject to political pressure and contains a huge number of irregularities. The report was drafted after seven weeks spent monitoring the process for the appointment of judges from 4 July to 27 August 2011. The latest official assessment of Serbia by the European Union is positive in this area.

How does the Commission intend to explain this discrepancy?

Answer given by Mr Füle on behalf of the Commission
(13 March 2012)

The Commission refers the Honourable Member to its answer to previous Written Question E-000006/2012 by Ms Cornelissen and Ms Brantner [1].

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[1] http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/application/home.do?language=EN

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000278/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Revízia smernice o ochrane osobných údajov

Európska komisia v súčasnosti pracuje na revízii Smernice o ochrane osobných údajov z roku 1995. Španielske médiá odhalili niektoré detaily návrhu. Podľa nich by mala byť celá jedna kapitola venovaná tzv. právu na zabudnutie. Nové pravidlá v súvislosti s internetovým prostredím majú jasne zadefinovať právo človeka stiahnuť, resp. odvolať svoj predošlý súhlas so spracovaním svojich osobných údajov na sieti. Pôjde teda o právo na vymazanie informácií, ktoré v minulosti používateľ na internet sám priniesol, a ktoré sa ho týkajú.

Plánuje Komisia v dohľadnej dobe zverejniť detaily tohto plánu?

Odpoveď pani Redingovej v mene Komisie
(1. marca 2012)

Komisia prijala 25. januára 2012 svoje návrhy týkajúce sa reformy právnej úpravy EÚ v oblasti ochrany osobných údajov a predložila ich Európskemu parlamentu a Rade. Navrhovaným nariadením o ochrane fyzických osôb pri spracúvaní osobných údajov a o voľnom pohybe takýchto údajov [COM(2012) 11 final] by sa stanovilo „právo byť zabudnutý“, ktorým sa posilní existujúce právo požiadať o výmaz osobných údajov, ktoré už nie sú potrebné na žiaden legitímny účel.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000278/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Revision of the Data Protection Directive

The Commission is currently working on a revision of the 195 Data Protection Directive. The Spanish media have released some details of a proposal that calls for an entire chapter to be devoted to the 'right to oblivion'. New rules concerning the Internet should clearly define the right to withdraw or retract previously given consent to the processing of online personal data. At issue is the user's right to delete information concerning himself/herself that the user had previously placed online.

Does the Commission intend to publish details of its proposal in the near future?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(1 March 2012)

On 25 January 2012, the Commission adopted its proposals for EU data protection Reform and submitted them to the European Parliament and to the Council. The proposed regulation on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data (COM(2012) 11 final) would establish a right to be forgotten, which strengthens the existing right to demand erasure of data that is no longer needed for any legitimate purpose.

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000279/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Spor o emisie z leteckej dopravy

Súdny dvor Európskej únie vydal nedávno rozsudok, v ktorom konštatoval, že rozšírenie pravidiel emisnej schémy na leteckú dopravu od 1. januára 2012 neporušuje ani princípy zvykového medzinárodného práva v tejto záležitosti, ani dohodu o otvorenom nebi a predmetná smernica je teda plne v súlade s medzinárodným právom. Európska únia totiž v roku 2008 rozhodla o začlenení leteckej dopravy do schémy obchodovania s emisnými povolenkami (EÚ ETS). Všetky letecké spoločnosti, ktoré pristávajú alebo odlietajú zo všetkých členských krajín EÚ budú teda musieť od 1.1.2012 platiť za každú tonu CO_2, ktorú vypustia nad rámec pridelených povolenie k.

Akým spôsobom chce Komisia v budúcnosti stavať na tomto úspechu?

Aké budú ďalšie kroky Komisie v súvislosti s legislatívou v tejto oblasti?

Odpoveď pani Hedegaardovej v mene Komisie
(27. februára 2012)

Komisia si želá rozvíjať globálne opatrenia, aby sa obmedzil vplyv leteckej dopravy na zmenu klímy prostredníctvom Medzinárodnej organizácie civilného letectva, ICAO, a využiť tak impulz, ktorý vznikol v otázke globálnych opatrení vďaka diskusiám o opatrení EÚ.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000279/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: The dispute on aviation emissions

The European Court of Justice has recently delivered a judgment in which it ruled that the extension of the rules of the Emissions Trading System to aviation activities from 1 January 2012 does not infringe upon either the principles of customary international law in this matter, or the Open Skies Agreement, and that the directive in question is thus fully consistent with international law. In 2008, the European Union decided to include aviation activities in an emission permit trading system (EU ETS). From 1 January 2012, all airlines landing or departing from all EU Member States will therefore have to pay for each tonne of CO_2 that they emit in excess of the allowances.

How does the Commission intend to build on this success in the future?

What are the next steps the Commission intends to take in connection with legislation in this area?

Answer given by Ms Hedegaard on behalf of the Commission
(27 February 2012)

The Commission wishes to take forward global action to limit aviation's climate change impacts through the International Civil Aviation Organisation, ICAO, and thereby build on the momentum for global action that the debate about the EU measure has created.

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000280/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Štúdia EÚ a migrácia: výzva k akcii

Centrum pre Európsku reformu vydalo štúdiu s názvom EÚ a migrácia: výzva k akcii. Centrum v tomto dokumente apeluje na Európsku úniu, aby bola v oblasti migračnej politiky aktívnejšia. V štúdii sa uvádza, že dôvodov na takýto postup je viac, či už v súvislosti so stratou kontroly Grécka nad svojou severovýchodnou hranicou s Tureckom, udalosťami arabskej jari či enormným nárastom nacionalizmu, populizmu a anti-imigrantských nálad v agendách niektorých národných politických strán. Problémom je podľa centra ilegálna imigrácia, ktorú umožňuje neefektívny systém a mätúce kritériá. Cieľom zmien by mala byť úprava pravidiel v oblastiach hlavných dôvodov migrácie do EÚ, ktorými sú práca, štúdium, rodina a politický azyl, ale aj posilňovanie schengenskej hranice, nové prístupy ku vzťahom s priamymi susedmi, repatriácia — teda návrat ilegálnych imigrantov do krajín, z ktorých prišli, boj proti obchodovaniu s ľuďmi a zmeny vo vízovej politike.

Mieni Komisia premietnuť odporúčania, ktoré uvedená štúdia obsahuje, do svojej legislatívy v oblasti migrácie?

Odpoveď pani Malmströmovej v mene Komisie
(22. februára 2012)

Uvedená štúdia o EÚ a migrácii je Komisii známa a Komisia sa vždy zaujíma o príspevky k politickej debate o prisťahovalectve na úrovni EÚ.

Komisia kontinuálne prehodnocuje svoju politiku a právny rámec v oblasti migrácie s cieľom komplexne riešiť relevantné aspekty migrácie. V roku 2011 predložila správy o uplatňovaní smernice o osobách s dlhodobým pobytom ([1]), smernice o študentoch ([2]) a smernice o výskumných pracovníkoch ([3]). V nadväznosti na tieto správy môžu byť predložené návrhy na zmenu a doplnenie existujúceho právneho rámca.

Komisia sa okrem toho v rámci v súčasnosti prebiehajúcej verejnej konzultácie venuje otázke práva na zlúčenie rodiny a po tejto konzultácii zváži vhodné nadväzujúce opatrenia.

Pokiaľ ide o posilnenie schengenského priestoru bez vnútorných hraničných kontrol, Komisia poukazuje na legislatívne návrhy prijaté 16. septembra 2011 a sprevádzané oznámením, v ktorom sú vysvetlené politické súvislosti a dôvody návrhov. Navrhované reformy majú za cieľ posilniť správu schengenského systému, umožniť lepšie riešenie interných nedostatkov a vonkajších tlakov, a to najmä pokiaľ ide o kontrolu vonkajších hraníc. V súčasnosti prebiehajú rokovania v Rade a Európskom parlamente.

V oblasti medzinárodných vzťahov Komisia navrhla globálny prístup k migrácii a mobilite a v tejto súvislosti plánuje systematicky využívať partnerstvá v oblasti mobility ako nástroj pre udržateľné, vyvážené a účinné zapojenie kľúčových krajín, ktoré nie sú členmi EÚ, do dialógu a spolupráce v otázkach migrácie.

([1]) 2003/109/ES.
([2]) 2004/114/ES.
([3]) 2005/71/ES.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000280/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: EU and migration: a call for action

The Centre for European Reform published a study entitled 'The EU and migration: A call for action'. In this document, the Centre calls on the European Union to be more active in the field of migration policy. The study states that the reasons for such action are several, whether in respect of loss of control of Greece over its north-eastern border with Turkey, the events of the Arab spring and the enormous growth of nationalism, populism and anti-immigrant sentiment in the manifestos of some political parties. According to the Centre, the problem is illegal immigration, which is made possible by an inefficient system and confusing criteria. The purpose of the changes should be to adjust the rules in the areas of the main reasons for migration into the EU, which are employment, study, family and political asylum, to strengthen the Schengen area's borders, to adopt a new approach to relations with direct neighbours, to repatriate illegal immigrants to fight against human trafficking and to change visa policy.

Does the Commission intend to reflect the recommendations contained in the study in its legislation on migration?

Answer given by Ms Malmström on behalf of the Commission
(22 February 2012)

The Commission is aware of the mentioned study on the EU and migration and is always interested to read contributions to the policy debate on immigration at EU level.

The Commission is continually evaluating its policy and legal framework on migration in order to address all relevant aspects of migration in a comprehensive manner. In 2011 it presented reports on the implementation of the Long term Residents' Directive ([1]) , the Students' Directive ([2]) and the Researchers' Directive ([3]). This may be followed up with proposals to amend the existing legal framework.

Furthermore, the Commission currently addresses the right to family reunification through an ongoing public consultation, after which the Commission will consider what policy follow-up might be appropriate.

Moreover, as regards the strengthening of the Schengen area without internal border controls, the Commission would point to the legislative proposals adopted on 16 September 2011, accompanied by a communication explaining the political background to, and rationale for, the proposals. The proposed reforms aim to strengthen governance of the Schengen system, to allow it to better cope with internal failures and external pressures, in particular as regards control of the external borders. Negotiations are ongoing in the Council and in the European Parliament.

In the area of international relations, the Commission proposed a Global Approach on Migration and Mobility, and in this context it envisages making systematic use of the Mobility Partnership as a tool to engage in a sustainable, balanced and effective manner key non-EU countries in a dialogue and cooperation on migration matters.

([1]) 2003/109/EC.
([2]) 2004/114/EC.
([3]) 2005/71/EC.

(Nederlandse versie)

Vraag met verzoek om schriftelijk antwoord E-000281/12
aan de Commissie
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(25 januari 2012)

Betreft: Frans-Turkse betrekkingen

In Frankrijk is onlangs een wet aangenomen waarin openlijke ontkenning van genocide strafbaar wordt gesteld, met inbegrip van de genocide door de legers van het Ottomaanse rijk tegen de Armenen bijna een eeuw geleden. Het huidige Turkije, waarvan de wortels in het oude Ottomaanse rijk liggen, is sterk gekant tegen deze wet.

Volgens de bepalingen van deze wet kan openlijke ontkenning van genocide leiden tot een boete van 45 000 EUR of een gevangenisstraf van maximaal één jaar.

Is de Commissie van plan in te grijpen in deze kwestie om de Frans-Turkse betrekkingen te verbeteren?

Vraag met verzoek om schriftelijk antwoord E-000746/12
aan de Commissie
Frank Vanhecke (EFD)
(31 januari 2012)

Betreft: Nieuwe Negationismewet in Frankrijk

In Frankrijk heeft de Assemblée nationale in eerste lezing een wet goedgekeurd die het ontkennen en/of minimaliseren van de genocide door de Turken op de Armeniërs tijdens de Eerste Wereldoorlog verbiedt en bestraft met hoge boetes en gevangenisstraffen. De wet moet nog door de Senaat, maar algemeen wordt aangenomen dat hij ook daar zal worden goedgekeurd.

De Turkse regering protesteert fel tegen deze Franse wet omdat ze er een belediging in ziet van de Turkse identiteit. Turkije ontkent immers officieel de genocide op de Armeniërs. Ankara heeft zijn ambassadeur uit Parijs teruggeroepen voor overleg en dreigt bij monde van zijn buitenlandminister met o.a. economische sancties tegen het Franse bedrijfsleven, mocht de wet definitief in voege treden.

Afgezien van het feit dat men terecht vragen kan stellen bij het wettelijk vastleggen van de geschiedenis en het sanctioneren van dissidente historische meningen, roept de houding van de Turkse regering toch vragen op. Dreigen met sancties komt immers neer op chantage. Turkije is kandidaat-lidstaat van de EU.

1. Veroordeelt de Commissie de officiële Turkse dreigementen van economische sancties tegenover Frankrijk?

2. Meent de Commissie niet dat het historisch onderzoek over de genocide op de Armeniërs in Turkije tijdens de Eerste Wereldoorlog vrij moet zijn en niet beperkt mag worden door enige wettelijke bepaling, zowel in EU-lidstaat Frankrijk als in kandidaat-lidstaat Turkije?

3. Zal de Commissie hier een officieel standpunt over formuleren?

Antwoord van de heer Füle namens de Commissie
(6 maart 2012)

Het aannemen van de maatregel waarnaar het geachte Parlementslid verwijst, is een initiatief van het Franse parlement.

De Commissie wil niet speculeren over mogelijke reacties van Turkije op deze kwestie.

De Commissie kan slechts handelen binnen de grenzen van de bevoegdheden die haar door de Verdragen zijn toegekend.

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000281/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(25. januára 2012)

Vec: Turecko — francúzske vzťahy

Vo Francúzsku bol schválený zákon o trestoch za verejné popieranie genocídy, vrátane tej, ktorú pred takmer sto rokmi spáchali na Arménoch vojská Osmanskej ríše, predchodkyne dnešného Turecka. Turecko proti tomuto zákonu ostro protestuje. Francúzski poslanci rozhodli, že popieranie arménskej genocídy sa bude súdne trestať. V súlade s prijatým zákonom je za takéto konanie možné uvaliť trest odňatia slobody až na jeden rok alebo uložiť peňažnú sankciu vo výške 45 000 eur. Turecký premiér sa teraz vyhráža vyhostením francúzskych diplomatov z Turecka a obmedzením vzájomných diplomatických, kultúrnych a hospodárskych vzťahov. Ankara zároveň kategoricky odmieta termín genocída.

Mieni byť Komisia v tomto smere určitým spôsobom aktívna a mieni prispieť k zlepšeniu turecko — francúzskych vzťahov?

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000746/12
Komisii
Frank Vanhecke (EFD)
(31. januára 2012)

Vec: Nový zákon o popieraní genocídy vo Francúzsku

Francúzske národné zhromaždenie schválilo v prvom čítaní zákon, na základe ktorého je popieranie a/alebo minimalizovanie arménskej genocídy Turkmi počas prvej svetovej vojny nezákonné a trestá sa vysokými pokutami a trestami odňatia slobody. Zákon ešte musí prejsť senátom, ale všeobecne sa očakáva, že ho senát schváli.

Turecká vláda sa ostro ohradila voči tomuto francúzskemu zákonu považujúc ho za urážku tureckej identity, pretože Turecko oficiálne popiera, že došlo k spáchaniu genocídy na Arménoch. Ankara povolala svojho veľvyslanca z Paríža na konzultácie a slovami ministra zahraničných vecí hrozí, že zavedie sankcie vrátane hospodárskych sankcií voči francúzskym spoločnostiam, ak zákon nakoniec nadobudne účinnosť.

Aj keď by sa dalo spochybniť legislatívne kodifikovanie histórie a trestanie disidentských názorov na historické udalosti, napriek tomu postoj tureckej vlády vyvoláva otázky. Hrozby sankciami sa napokon obmedzili na vydieranie. Turecko sa uchádza o členstvo v EÚ.

1. Odsudzuje Komisia oficiálne hrozby tureckej strany, že voči Francúzsku zavedie hospodárske sankcie?

2. Nedomnieva sa Komisia, že historický výskum genocídy spáchanej na Arménoch v Turecku počas prvej svetovej vojny by mal byť slobodný a neobmedzený žiadnymi štatutárnymi pravidlami, či už vo Francúzsku ako členskom štáte EÚ alebo v Turecku ako krajine, ktorá požiadala o členstvo v EÚ?

3. Zamýšľa Komisia sformulovať oficiálne stanovisko k tejto otázke?

Spoločná odpoveď pána Füleho v mene Komisie
(6. marca 2012)

Prijatie opatrenia, ktoré spomína vážená pani poslankyňa, je iniciatívou francúzskeho parlamentu.

Komisia si nemôže domýšľať, aká bude reakcia Turecka.

Komisia môže konať len v medziach právomocí, ktoré jej boli zverené na základe zmlúv.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000281/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(25 January 2012)

Subject: Franco-Turkish relations

A law has recently been passed in France that makes public denial of genocide a punishable offence, including the genocide carried out by the Ottoman Empire's armies against the Armenians almost a century ago. Modern-day Turkey, which is the descendant of the Ottoman Empire, fiercely opposes this law.

Under the provisions of this law, public denial of genocide could result in a fine of EUR 45 000 or a prison sentence of up to one year.

Does the Commission intend to take action in this matter with a view to improving Franco-Turkish relations?

Question for written answer E-000746/12
to the Commission
Frank Vanhecke (EFD)
(31 January 2012)

Subject: New genocide denial law in France

The French National Assembly has passed at first reading a law which makes it illegal and punishable by heavy fines and prison sentences to deny and/or minimise the Armenian genocide by the Turks during the First World War. The law still needs to go to the Senate but it is generally assumed that it will approve it.

The Turkish Government has reacted strongly against this French law, seeing it as an insult to the Turkish identity since Turkey officially denies that there was genocide committed against the Armenians. Ankara has recalled its ambassador from Paris for consultations and is threatening, in the words of its foreign minister, to impose sanctions, including economic sanctions against French companies, if the law finally comes into force.

Even though one should be able to question the legislative codifying of history and the penalisation of dissident opinions about historical events, the stance of the Turkish Government nevertheless raises questions. After all, threats of sanctions boil down to blackmail. Turkey is applying to become an EU Member Sate.

1. Does the Commission condemn the official threats on the Turkish part of imposing economic sanctions against France?

2. Is it not the Commission's opinion that historical research into the genocide against the Armenians in Turkey during the First World War should be free and not limited by any statutory rules, either in EU Member State France or in applicant country Turkey?

3. Is the Commission going to formulate an official position on this issue?

Joint answer given by Mr Füle on behalf of the Commission
(6 March 2012)

The adoption of the measure referred to by the Honourable Member is an initiative of the French Parliament.

The Commission cannot speculate on possible reactions of Turkey on the referred issue.

The Commission can act only within the limits of the powers conferred to it by the Treaties.

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000282/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Žaloby proti EÚ

V roku 2011 bolo na Európsku úniu podaných v súvislosti so zákazom udelenia víz alebo príkazom na zmrazenie aktív podaných 82 žalôb. Toto číslo predstavuje oproti minulým obdobiam enormný nárast. Za celé obdobie od roku 1999 do roku 2009 bolo totiž proti Európskej únii podaných v tejto súvislosti iba 7 žalôb a v roku 2010 15 žalôb. 37 žalôb podaných v roku 2011 pochádza z africkej Republiky Pobrežia Slonoviny, 14 z Iránu a väčšina zo zvyšku pochádza z arabských krajín, konkrétne zo Sýrie (11), Líbye (6), Tuniska (6) a Egypta (3).

Aký má Komisia názor na enormne rastúce počty žalôb proti EÚ v tejto oblasti?

Odpoveď podpredsedníčky Komisie a vysokej predstaviteľky Ashtonovej v mene Komisie
(10. apríla 2012)

Komisia si je vedomá rastúceho počtu žalôb, ktoré boli podané na EÚ v súvislosti s reštriktívnymi opatreniami. Ako uvádza vážená pani poslankyňa, Komisia usudzuje, že ide predovšetkým o dôsledok enormného nárastu v počte reštriktívnych opatrení, ktoré sa zavádzajú v reakcii na medzinárodné dianie, či už je to Arabská jar, občianska vojna v Republike Pobrežia Slonoviny, ako aj rastúce obavy v súvislosti s jadrovým programom Iránu. Reštriktívne opatrenia ukladané v rámci týchto mechanizmov, a to najmä zmrazenie finančných prostriedkov a aktív, majú vplyv na práva niektorých presne špecifikovaných osôb a subjektov, ktoré sú tak motivované, aby sa usilovali o súdnu ochranu.

Okrem toho treba uviesť, že počet otázok v spojitosti s týmito opatreniami vzrástol len pred nedávnom a súdy v súvislosti s nimi ešte nedospeli ku konečnému rozhodnutiu.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000282/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Actions against the EU

In 2011, 82 actions were filed against the European Union in connection with visa prohibitions or orders to freeze assets. This number shows an enormous increase compared to previous periods. During the whole period from 1999 to 2009, only seven actions were filed against the European Union in this regard, and only 15 in 2010. Thirty-seven of the actions filed in 2011 came from the African Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, 14 from Iran and most of the rest come from Arab countries, namely Syria (11), Libya (six), Tunisia (six) and Egypt (three).

What is the Commission's opinion on the rapidly increasing number of actions being brought against the EU in this area?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(10 April 2012)

The Commission is well aware of the increasing number of actions brought against the EU in the area of restrictive measures. As noted by the Honourable Member, the Commission considers that this is primarily due to the remarkable increase in the number of restrictive measures introduced in response to international developments, such as the Arab spring, the civil war in Côte d'Ivoire and the increasing concerns regarding Iran's proliferation programme. The restrictive measures imposed under those regimes, and in particular the freezing measures, affect the rights of certain targeted individuals and entities and therefore prompt them to seek judicial protection.

Moreover, a number of issues relating to these measures have only arisen recently and have not yet been fully settled by the courts.

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000283/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Účasť Litvy v eurozóne

Litva vstúpila do Európskej únie v roku 2004 a spoločnú menu chcela pôvodne zaviesť už v roku 2007. Nepodarilo sa jej však splniť predvstupové kritériá. Hospodársku situáciu v krajine výrazne zhoršila finančná kríza v roku 2009, keď jej ekonomika zaznamenala prepad o 14,6 %. Rásť začala opäť v roku 2010. Ministerstvo financií odhaduje na rok 2012 rast 2,5 %, čo predstavuje v porovnaní s minulým rokom, kedy bolo toto číslo 5,8 %, výrazné spomalenie. To bude mať vplyv na rozpočtový schodok krajiny, ktorý bude vyšší ako 3 % HDP. Práve udržanie deficitu pod touto úrovňou je však jednou z kľúčových podmienok pre prijatie Litvy do eurozóny. Litovská vláda nedávno vyhlásila, že krajina sa drží svojho plánu a chce euro prijať v roku 2014.

Plánuje Komisia v najbližšej dobe podnikať nejaké kroky v súvislosti s prijatím Litvy do eurozóny?

Ak áno, budú tieto kroky v prospech, alebo naopak proti zavedeniu eura v Litve?

Odpoveď pána Rehna v mene Komisie
(8. marca 2012)

Litva pri svojom vstupe do EÚ v roku 2004 súhlasila, že zavedie euro. Aby mohol členský štát, pre ktorý platí výnimka, prijať euro ako oficiálnu menu, musí dosiahnuť „vysoký stupeň konvergencie" vymedzený splnením kritérií uvedených v článku 140 ods. 1 Zmluvy o fungovaní Európskej únie. Podľa článku 140 ods. 2 zmluvy sa od Komisie vyžaduje, aby posúdila splnenie podmienok plnej účasti v hospodárskej a menovej únii zo strany členských štátov, pre ktoré platí výnimka, aspoň raz za dva roky alebo na žiadosť členského štátu.

Za posledné roky sa litovské hospodárstvo rýchle zotavilo z vážnej hospodárskej recesie. Po poklese o takmer 15 % v roku 2009 sa hospodársky výstup zvýšil o 1,4 % v roku 2010 a v prognóze Komisie z jesene 2011 sa odhaduje rast o 6,1 % v roku 2011. Na Litvu sa vzťahuje postup pri nadmernom deficite a odporučilo sa jej, aby najneskôr do roku 2012 vykonala korekciu nadmerného deficitu. V rozpočte na rok 2012 prijatom litovským parlamentom v decembri 2011 sa plánuje dosiahnuť deficit na úrovni 3 % hrubého domáceho produktu (HDP). Komisia bude naďalej sledovať plnenie rozpočtu vo všetkých členských štátoch, na ktoré sa v súčasnosti vzťahuje postup pri nadmernom deficite. Nasledujúce súhrnné posúdenie sa uskutoční v rámci prognózy útvarov Komisie z jari roku 2012, ktorá sa uverejní v máji 2012.

Euro už prinieslo a bude naďalej prinášať výhody pre eurozónu. Komisia posúdi pripravenosť Litvy na prijatie spoločnej meny v nadchádzajúcej správe o konvergencii, ktorá sa má uverejniť v máji 2012.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000283/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Lithuania's participation in the euro area

Lithuania joined the European Union in 2004 and originally wanted to introduce the common currency in 2007. However, it failed to meet the accession criteria. The economic situation in the country was significantly impaired by the financial crisis in 2009, when the economy recorded a fall of 14.6 %. It began to grow again in 2010. The Ministry of Finance predicts growth of 2.5 % for 2012, which is, — compared to last year when the figure was 5.8 %, — a significant slowdown. This will affect the country's budget deficit, which will be higher than 3 % of GDP. Maintenance of the deficit below this level is one of the key conditions for Lithuania's admission to the euro area. The Lithuanian government recently announced that the country is adhering to its plan and wants to adopt the euro in 2014.

Does the Commission intend to take any action in the near future in connection with the adoption of the euro by Lithuania?

If so, will these steps be in favour of or against the introduction of the euro in Lithuania?

Answer given by Mr Rehn on behalf of the Commission
(8 March 2012)

Lithuania agreed to eventually introduce the euro when it joined the EU in 2004. To adopt the euro as the official currency, a Member State with derogation must achieve a 'high degree of sustainable convergence' as defined by the fulfilment of the criteria listed in Article 140(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. According to Article 140(2) of the Treaty, the Commission is required to assess the fulfilment of the conditions for full participation in the Economic and Monetary Union by Member States with derogation at least once every two years or at the request of a Member State.

Over the last years, the Lithuanian economy has quickly recovered from a deep economic recession. Following a contraction of nearly 15 % in 2009, economic output expanded by 1.4 % in 2010 and according to the Commission' 2011 Autumn Forecast, it is estimated to have grown by 6.1 % in 2011. Lithuania is subject to an Excessive Deficit Procedure and was recommended to correct the excessive deficit by 2012 at the latest. The 2012 budget, which was adopted by the Lithuanian parliament in December 2011, targets a deficit of 3 % of Gross domestic product (GDP). The Commission will continue to monitor budgetary implementation in all Member States currently in excessive deficit procedure. The next comprehensive assessment will be made in the context of the Commission services' 2012 Spring Forecast, which will be published in May 2012.

The euro has brought and will continue to bring advantages to the euro area. The Commission will assess Lithuania's preparedness to adopt the common currency in the upcoming Convergence report to be published in May 2012.

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000284/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Záťažové testy jadrových elektrární

Po havárií atómovej elektrárne vo Fukušime v marci 2011 prijala Európska komisia rozhodnutie vykonať komplexné posúdenie rizík a odolnosti atómových elektrární v extrémnych podmienkach. Do konca roku 2011 zaslalo Komisii svoje záverečné správy o záťažových testoch 16 národných regulačných úradov v oblasti jadrovej bezpečnosti, z toho 14 členských štátov, Ukrajina a Švajčiarsko. Zo správy Úradu jadrového dozoru SR vyplýva, že všetky bloky na Slovensku zvládnu testované udalosti. Úrad uviedol, že nebola spochybnená ďalšia bezpečná prevádzka pracujúcich blokov, ani pokračujúca výstavba nových blokov. Koordinátorka energetickej a klimatickej kampane Greenpeace Slovensko spochybňuje prezentované výsledky testov. Tvrdí, že cieľ zistiť, či môže nastať podobná situácia, aká sa stala v japonskej Fukušime aj v Európe, sa vytráca a testy sa zmenili skôr na manipuláciu verejnej mienky o tom, že reaktory sú bezpečné.

Bude sa Komisia tvrdeniami Greenpeace zaoberať?

Považuje Komisia záverečné správy národných regulačných úradov za dostatočne objektívne?

Odpoveď pána Oettingera v mene Komisie
(6. februára 2012)

Akékoľvek závery o výsledkoch záťažových testov by boli v tejto chvíli predčasné. Záverečné správy členských štátov, ktoré boli všetky predložené k 31. decembru 2011, v súčasnosti na základe partnerského preskúmania hodnotia odborníci z členských štátov (z jadrovej i nejadrovej oblasti) a Komisia. Prostredníctvom partnerských preskúmaní sa budú kontrolovať výsledky vnútroštátnych správ s cieľom potvrdiť ich konzistentnosť a objektívnosť. Komisia predloží záverečné výsledky Európskej rade na jej zasadnutí, ktoré je naplánované na jún 2012.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000284/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Stress tests of nuclear power plants

Following the nuclear power plant accident in Fukushima in March 2011, the Commission adopted a decision to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the risks and durability of nuclear power plants under extreme conditions. At the end of 2011, the Commission published its final report on stress tests carried out by 16 national regulatory authorities in the field of nuclear safety, including 14 Member States, Ukraine and Switzerland. The report of the Slovak Nuclear Regulatory Authority showed that all facilities in Slovakia passed the said tests. The authority said that there were no doubts regarding the continued safe operation of working facilities, or the continued construction of new ones. The coordinator of the energy and climate campaign, Greenpeace Slovakia, questioned the presented test results. It argues that the purpose — to find out whether a situation similar to that which occurred at Japan's Fukushima can happen in Europe — has vanished, and the tests were altered in an attempt to manipulate public opinion towards the view that the plants are safe.

Will the Commission deal with the allegations made by Greenpeace?

Does the Commission consider the final report of the national regulatory authorities to be sufficiently objective?

Answer given by Mr Oettinger on behalf of the Commission
(6 February 2012)

Any conclusion on the stress test results at this moment would be premature. The final reports from Member States, which were all submitted by 31 December 2011, are currently being peer-reviewed by experts from Member States (both nuclear and non-nuclear) and the Commission. The peer reviews will scrutinise the results of the national reports, to validate their consistency and objectivity. The Commission will present the final results to the European Council scheduled for June 2012.

(Slovenské znenie)

Otázka na písomné zodpovedanie E-000285/12
Komisii
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19. januára 2012)

Vec: Zmeny legislatívy o ovzduší

Dvanásť regiónov zo siedmych členských krajín vydalo iniciatívu s názvom Iniciatíva regiónov za kvalitu ovzdušia. Ide o veľké priemyselné regióny, ktoré svojím ťažkým priemyslom ovzdušie samy znečisťujú. Pochádza z nich až 22 % HDP Európskej únie a žije nich 18 % európskej populácie. Cieľom Iniciatívy je, aby Komisia naplnila svoj sľub o prepracovaní súčasnej smernice o kvalite okolitého ovzdušia z roku 2008. Predstavitelia regiónov zdôrazňujú, že riešenie treba hľadať v rovnováhe medzi podporou priemyslu a systematickým skvalitňovaním životného prostredia. V Iniciatíve je uvedené, že nová smernica by mala byť viac flexibilná v tom, ako bude pristupovať k zvláštnym potrebám niektorých území v Európskej únii a ako sa postaví k snahám regionálnych samospráv nájsť rovnováhu medzi rozvojom a udržateľnosťou.

Bude Komisia pri prepracovávaní súčasne platnej legislatívy o ovzduší prihliadať aj na požiadavky uvedené v Iniciatíve regiónov za kvalitu ovzdušia?

Odpoveď pána Potočnika v mene Komisie
(27. februára 2012)

Komisia vie o Iniciatíve regiónov za kvalitu ovzdušia (AIR) a bola zastúpená na diskusii Výboru regiónov, ktorá sprevádzala začiatok iniciatívy 10. novembra 2011. Komisia si je vedomá úsilia, ktoré regióny vyvinuli, aby dodržiavali hraničné hodnoty stanovené v smernici o kvalite okolitého ovzdušia 2008/50/ES ([1]) a snaží sa pracovať s členskými štátmi, aby čo najviac uľahčili jej vykonávanie, a to aj posilnením opatrení EÚ zameraných na zdroje, ako sú emisné kontroly vozidiel. Pri preskúmaní tematickej stratégie o znečistení ovzdušia naplánovanom na rok 2013 sa zaujímavým názorom iniciatívy AIR k tejto aj k iným témam bude venovať osobitná pozornosť. Pri preskúmaní sa samozrejme budú musieť zohľadniť nielen potreby dvanástich regiónov zastúpených v iniciatíve AIR, ale aj potreby EÚ ako celku.

Možno by bolo užitočné objasniť, že Komisia nesľúbila, že prepracuje smernicu 2008/50/ES ani žiadne iné právne predpisy. O potrebe akejkoľvek revízie existujúcich právnych predpisov a jej načasovaní sa bude uvažovať pri preskúmaní, a neradi by sme predbiehali jeho výsledok.

([1]) Ú. v. EÚ L 152, 11.6.2008.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000285/12
to the Commission
Monika Flašíková Beňová (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Changes in legislation on air quality

Twelve regions from seven Member States have published an initiative entitled Air-Quality Initiative of Regions. These are major industrial regions which, with their heavy industries, are themselves a source of air pollution. Together they represent 22 % of EU GDP and are home to 18 % of the European population. The aim of the initiative is for the Commission to fulfil its promise to recast the existing Air Quality Directive of 2008. Regional representatives stressed that a solution must be sought in the balance between supporting industry and systematically improving the environment. The initiative states that the new Directive should be more flexible in how it treats the particular needs of certain territories in the European Union and how it positions itself regarding the efforts of regional governments to find a balance between development and sustainability.

When recasting the current legislation on air quality, will the Commission also take into account the requirements of the Air-Quality Initiative of Regions?

Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(27 February 2012)

The Commission is aware of the Air-Quality Initiative of Regions (AIR) and was represented at the debate in the Committee of the Regions accompanying the launch of the initiative on 10 November 2011. The Commission is conscious of the efforts being made at regional level to comply with the limit values established in the Ambient Air Quality Directive 2008/50/EC ([1]), and aims to work with Member States to facilitate implementation as far as possible, also by reinforcing EU source-based measures such as vehicle emission controls. The AIR initiative's interesting views on this and other topics will be considered carefully in the review of the Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution scheduled for 2013. The review must of course consider the needs not only of the twelve regions represented in AIR, but of the EU as a whole.

It is perhaps useful to clarify that there has been no promise on the part of the Commission to recast Directive 2008/50/EC or any other legislation. The need for, and timing of, any revision of existing legislation will be considered in the review, and we would not wish to pre-empt the outcome.

([1]) OJ L 152, 11.6.2008.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000288/12
alla Commissione
Cristiana Muscardini (PPE)
(19 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Iniezioni antirughe e gonfia labbra

L'allarme per le protesi al seno è giunto dalla Francia. Quello per gonfiare le labbra o per spianare le rughe proviene dalla Gran Bretagna, dove gli esperti fanno notare gli scarsi controlli su sostanze (filler) che vengono utilizzate nella chirurgia estetica. Il numero di questi prodotti sul mercato in Gran Bretagna — a detta del ministero competente che ammette la non rigidità della regolamentazione della chirurgia estetica — corrisponde a 160 circa, mentre in Italia sono 137. È facile che tra le sostanze innocue ce ne siano di pericolose. Lo ammettono gli stessi chirurghi estetici. Per mettere in commercio un filler basta solo il marchio «CE», mentre negli USA questi prodotti sono equiparati ai farmaci e devono passare gli stessi controlli e sperimentazioni. Sul loro mercato infatti i filler sono solo 7 e possono essere iniettati soltanto da infermieri professionali. In Italia solo i medici sono autorizzati per legge a praticare le iniezioni, mentre in Gran Bretagna per legge, non è necessario che sia un medico.

La Commissione, che conosce certamente questa situazione:

1. Non ritiene che questa situazione disparata, tanto per il numero dei filler sul mercato, che per la legittimità della pratica delle iniezioni, sia nociva all'interesse obiettivo degli utenti?

2. Non considera opportuno, a tutela della sicurezza sanitaria degli utenti, proporre regole e controlli rigidi, tanto per l'immissione sul mercato di filler affidabili, quanto per vietare l'uso improprio del botulino?

3. Non ritiene che l'Agenzia europea dei farmaci potrebbe intervenire presso gli Stati membri per collaborare a questa necessaria rigidità commerciale e combattere l'uso di filler sintetici, che non sono riassorbibili, a differenza di quelli fisiologici?

4. Non ritiene opportuna un'armonizzazione delle normative nazionali in questo settore?

Risposta data da John Dalli a nome della Commissione
(15 febbraio 2012)

Purché abbiano una finalità medica, i filler devono essere considerati o come dispositivi medici ai sensi della direttiva 93/42/CEE ([1]), o come medicinali ai sensi della direttiva 2001/83/CE ([2]) a seconda delle loro caratteristiche, e in particolare del loro meccanismo di azione.

Ove sia applicabile la legislazione farmaceutica, i prodotti debbono avere un'autorizzazione di immissione sul mercato per garantire la loro qualità, sicurezza ed efficacia prima dell'immissione stessa.

Ove sia applicabile la legislazione concernente i dispositivi medici, i prodotti sono classificati nelle classi di rischio più elevato dei dispositivi medici, e di conseguenza un organismo notificato partecipa sistematicamente alla procedura di valutazione della conformità prima dell'immissione sul mercato, in modo da garantire la loro sicurezza.

Entrambi i quadri normativi contengono disposizioni in merito alla sorveglianza successiva all'immissione sul mercato e prevedono procedure per ritirare dal mercato prodotti non sicuri.

Nella sua revisione della legislazione concernente i dispositivi medici, la Commissione prevede di proporre l'inclusione soltanto per i filler destinati ad uso estetico. Ciò garantirà che i prodotti non siano disciplinati in modo diverso negli Stati membri e, grazie ad un regime armonizzato, che si giunga ad un livello uniforme di sicurezza nell'Unione europea.

Conformemente all'articolo 168 del trattato, gli Stati membri sono responsabili dell'organizzazione e della prestazione di servizi sanitari e di cure mediche.

L'Agenzia europea per i medicinali è responsabile soltanto della valutazione scientifica dei medicinali.

([1]) Direttiva 93/42/CEE, del 14 giugno 1993, concernente i dispositivi medici, GU L 169 del 12.7.1993, nella versione modificata.
([2]) Direttiva 2001/83/CE, del 6 novembre 2001, recante un codice comunitario relativo ai medicinali per uso umano, GU L 311 del 28.11.2001, nella versione modificata.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000288/12
to the Commission
Cristiana Muscardini (PPE)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Anti-wrinkle and lip augmentation injections

The breast implant scare originated in France, while warnings about lip augmentation and anti-wrinkle treatments have been issued in Great Britain, where experts have pointed out that only a very limited number of checks are carried out on substances (fillers) used in cosmetic surgery. There are around 160 such products on the British market (137 in Italy), according to the ministry responsible, which admitted that the rules on cosmetic surgery were too lax. Cosmetic surgeons themselves admit that it is likely that among the harmless substances are a number of dangerous ones. To put a filler on the market, the 'CE' mark alone is sufficient, while in the US such products are treated as medicines and have to undergo the same checks and pass the same tests. Indeed, there are only seven fillers on the US market, which can only be injected by professional nurses. In Italy, only doctors are legally authorised to administer these injections, while in Great Britain there is no legal requirement for them to be administered by a doctor.

Can the Commission, which is surely aware of this situation, answer the following questions:

1. Does it not think that this lack of uniformity, with regard to both the number of fillers on the market and the legal requirements governing the administration of injections, is detrimental to the objective interests of users?

2. Does it not agree that it would be appropriate, in order to protect consumer health, to propose strict rules and controls on the marketing of reliable fillers and to ban the improper use of Botox?

3. Does it not agree that the European Medicines Agency could make representations to the Member States to ask them to collaborate in this necessary tightening up of trade regulations and help combat the use of synthetic fillers, which, unlike physiological fillers, are non-absorbable?

4. Does it not think it might be appropriate to harmonise national laws in this sector?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission
(15 February 2012)

Provided that they have a medical purpose, filling products are to be considered either as medical device within the scope of Directive 93/42/EEC ([1]), or as medicinal product within the scope of Directive 2001/83/EC ([2]) depending on their characteristics, and in particular their mode of action.

As far as the pharmaceutical legislation applies, these products must have a marketing authorisation to ensure their quality, safety and efficacy prior to their placing on the market.

As far as the medical device legislation applies, these products are classified in the highest risk classes of medical devices, and therefore a Notified Body is systematically involved in their conformity assessment procedure before their placing on the market to ensure their safety.

Both regulatory frameworks contain provisions on post-marketing surveillance and lay down procedures to withdraw unsafe products from the market.

In its revision of the medical devices legislation, the Commission envisages proposing the inclusion of filling products intended for aesthetic use only. This would ensure that these products are not regulated differently in the Member States and, through a harmonised regime, would secure a uniform level of safety in the European Union.

According to Article 168 of the Treaty, the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care are the responsibility of Member States.

The European Medicines Agency is responsible only for the scientific evaluation of medicinal products.

([1]) Directive 93/42/EEC of 14 June 1993 concerning medical devices, OJ L 169, 12.7.1993, as amended.
([2]) Directive 2001/83/EC of 6 November 2001on the Community code relating to medicinal products for human use, OJ L 311, 28.11.2001, as amended.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000289/12
alla Commissione
Vincenzo Iovine (ALDE) e Cristiana Muscardini (PPE)
(19 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Provvedimento della Commissione che obbliga i produttori di tabacco a vendere solo «sigarette antincendio»

In seguito alla decisione di esecuzione della Commissione 2011/496/UE, del 9 agosto 2011, sulla conformità della norma EN 16156:2010 e della norma EN ISO 12863:2010 all'obbligo di sicurezza della direttiva 2001/95/CE del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio e sulla pubblicazione dei riferimenti della norma EN 16156:2010 «Sigarette — Valutazione della propensione all'innesco — Prescrizioni di sicurezza» e della norma EN ISO 12863:2010 «Metodo di prova normalizzato per la valutazione della propensione all'innesco delle sigarette», nei 27 Stati membri si potranno acquistare solamente sigarette a ridotta propensione di combustione.

L'obiettivo è quello di trovare una soluzione tecnica che impedisca alle sigarette non attivamente fumate di consumarsi e bruciare in tutta la loro lunghezza, rappresentando una fonte di calore e quindi un potenziale pericolo d'incendio.

Nel cilindro delle sigarette sono state posizionate tre bande di carta più spessa che rallentano la combustione, lasciando passare meno aria, inducendo così una sorta di autospegnimento se non vengono aspirate.

1. Dal momento che i prodotti di combustione della carta aggiungono ulteriori componenti tossici, può la Commissione certificare che le «sigarette antincendio» non comportano alcun rischio aggiuntivo per la salute dei consumatori?

2. Può la Commissione fornire dati scientifici sull'impatto di tali misure sul sistema respiratorio?

Risposta data da John Dalli a nome della Commissione
(27 febbraio 2012)

Per quanto concerne i rischi per la salute della ridotta propensione alla combustione delle sigarette, la Commissione prega di consultare la risposta data all'interrogazione E-11408/2011 ([1]).

La Commissione non è a conoscenza di dati scientifici né di altre informazioni che possano indurre a pensare che la ridotta propensione alla combustione delle sigarette possa nuocere al sistema respiratorio.

(1) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/it/parliamentary-questions.html

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000289/12
to the Commission
Vincenzo Iovine (ALDE) and Cristiana Muscardini (PPE)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Commission measure requiring tobacco producers to sell only sell 'fireproof cigarettes'

Following the adoption of Commission Decision 2011/496/EU, of 9 August 2011 on the compliance of standards EN 16156:2010 and EN ISO 12863:2010 with the general safety requirement of Directive 2001/95/CE of the European Parliament and the Council and the publication of the references of standard EN 16156:2010 'Cigarettes: Assessment of the ignition propensity — Safety requirement' and of standard EN ISO 12863:2010 'Standard test method for assessing the ignition propensity of cigarettes', only cigarettes with a reduced ignition propensity may be sold in the 27 Member States.

The aim is to find a technical solution which prevents cigarettes which are not being actively smoke from burning down to the filter, creating a heat source and, therefore, a potential fire hazard.

The cigarette paper includes three thicker bands which slow down combustion, creating a kind of cut-off mechanism when the cigarettes are not being smoked.

1. Given that the added paper also gives off toxic fumes when it burns, can the Commission certify that 'fireproof cigarettes' do not pose an added health risk to consumers?

2. Can the Commission supply scientific data regarding the impact of such measures on the respiratory system?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission
(27 February 2012)

With regard to the health risks of reduced ignition propensity (RIP) cigarettes, the Commission would refer to its answer to Question E-11408/2011 ([1]).

The Commission is not aware of any scientific data or other information that would suggest that the reduced ignition propensity of RIP cigarettes has an effect on the respiratory system.

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/plenary/en/parliamentary-questions.html

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000290/12
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto rappresentante)
Gianluca Susta (S&D)
(19 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: VP/HR — Fine della guerra civile nello Sri Lanka, legislazione di emergenza e tutela dei diritti umani

Considerata la guerra civile che dal 1983 ha insanguinato lo Sri Lanka e ha causato numerosi morti e sofferenze in entrambi i fronti coinvolti, in particolar modo tra le fila delle popolazioni civili;

Considerato che l'accordo di cessate il fuoco raggiunto nel 2002 è stato unilateralmente recesso nel 2008 dal governo nazionalista dello Sri Lanka;

Viste le conclusioni del recente rapporto delle Nazioni Unite sui crimini commessi nelle fasi finali della guerra civile dello Sri Lanka;

1. Può il Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante far sapere quali azioni l'UE ha finora dispiegato o intende mettere in campo in futuro al fine di indurre il governo dello Sri Lanka a porre fine alle misure legislative emergenziali, discriminatorie e restrittive dei diritti civili e politici, misure tutt'oggi in vigore nonostante la dichiarazione unilaterale della tregua da parte dell'organizzazione delle Tigri Tamil e della cessazione de facto della guerra civile?

2. Quali iniziative intende intraprendere per garantire il pieno rispetto dei diritti umani nel Paese ed il ripristino del godimento dei diritti civili e politici della popolazione Tamil e di tutte le minoranze nello Sri Lanka, che non possono pagare in via esclusiva le conseguenze del conflitto?

3. Quali iniziative intende intraprendere per garantire la liberazione di tutti i prigionieri politici che siano detenuti senza formali accuse ed in assenza di regolari processi e garanzie?

4. Quali iniziative intende intraprendere affinché il governo dello Sri Lanka impedisca il perpetrarsi, a tutt'oggi, di episodi di violenza nei confronti di popolazioni inermi, come quelli perpetrati da parte dei cosiddetti «diavoli unti» che assaltano villaggi nel nord del Paese, terrorizzando i civili?

5. Quali iniziative intende intraprendere, anche in sede internazionale, per contribuire a fare piena luce sulle ultime fasi della guerra civile?

Risposta data dall'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione
(14 marzo 2012)

L'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente (AR/VP) sta seguendo da vicino la situazione in Sri Lanka (SL), dove un processo inclusivo di riconciliazione e il rispetto dei valori democratici e dello Stato di diritto sono di fondamentale importanza. Gli aiuti dell'Unione europea (mezzi di sostentamento, acqua e strutture igienico-sanitarie, abitazioni, etc.) sono indirizzati alla popolazione colpita dal conflitto residente nel Nordest dello Sri Lanka.

L'UE ha incoraggiato importanti iniziative al fine di assicurare il rispetto dei diritti umani, ad esempio la revoca nel 2011 dello stato di emergenza. L'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente ha sottolineato come siano necessarie ulteriori iniziative da parte del governo dello Sri Lanka per assicurare un futuro di stabilità e democrazia. L'Unione europea solleva tali questioni presso le sedi competenti (ad es. il Consiglio per i diritti umani), riferendo inoltre della situazione delle persone ancora detenute, della reintegrazione delle persone rilasciate dai campi di detenzione e del bisogno di fare chiarezza sugli eventi occorsi durante le ultime fasi del conflitto. Ai fini della riconciliazione, è importante determinare la responsabilità delle azioni commesse durante il conflitto. L'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente ha incoraggiato il governo dello Sri Lanka ad aprire il dialogo con il Segretario generale delle Nazioni Unite riguardo alla relazione del comitato consultivo. Un processo indipendente che faccia luce sulle accuse estremamente gravi di pesanti violazioni dei diritti umani internazionali e del diritto umanitario dovrebbe contribuire a rilanciare il processo di riconciliazione e garantire la sicurezza e una pace duratura in Sri Lanka. Nel dicembre 2011, l'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente ha inoltre espresso la speranza che l'attuazione delle raccomandazioni della «commissione per la riconciliazione e l'esame degli insegnamenti tratti dal passato» possa contribuire al processo di riconciliazione nello Sri Lanka.

Al fine di mantenere il dialogo con il governo dello Sri Lanka e le altre parti è stata concordata per il 2012 l'organizzazione di una riunione della commissione mista UE-Sri Lanka, dove sarà possibile affrontare e discutere problematiche come quelle descritte in dettaglio dall'onorevole parlamentare.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000290/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Gianluca Susta (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — End of the civil war in Sri Lanka: emergency legislation and the safeguarding of human rights

The civil war which has ravaged Sri Lanka since 1983 has caused many deaths and much suffering on both sides, particularly among civilians. The cease-fire agreement reached in 2002 was unilaterally withdrawn by the nationalist government in 2008.

In the light of the conclusions of the recent UN report on crimes committed in the final stages of the civil war in Sri Lanka;

1. Can the Vice-President/High Representative state what action the EU has taken to date or intends to take with the aim of forcing the Sri Lankan Government to repeal the discriminatory emergency legislation which restricts civil and political rights, measures which are still in force despite the unilateral truce declared by the Tamil Tigers and the de facto ending of the civil war?

2. What steps does she plan to take in order to guarantee full respect for human rights in Sri Lanka and the restoration of the civil and political rights of the Tamil population and all minorities in Sri Lanka, who cannot be the only people to bear the consequences of the conflict?

3. What steps does she plan to take to secure the release of all political prisoners who have been detained without charge and denied due process and legal safeguards?

4. What steps she plans to take to force the Sri Lankan Government to halt the continuing acts of violence against defenceless people, such as those committed by the so-called 'grease devils', who attack villages in the north of the country, terrorising civilians?

5. What steps she plans to take, also internationally, in order to ensure that full light is shed on events in the final stages of the civil war?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(14 March 2012)

The High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) follows closely the situation in Sri Lanka (SL), where an inclusive reconciliation process and the respect of democratic values and the rule of law are key. EU aid focuses on conflict-affected people (livelihoods, water and sanitation, housing, etc.) benefitting the population in the North and East of SL.

The EU has encouraged serious steps to ensure respect of human rights, including the 2011 lifting of the Emergency Regulations. The HR/VP stressed that further initiatives by the Government of SL (GoSL) are necessary in order to ensure a democratic and stable future. The EU raises these issues in relevant fora (e.g. Human Rights Council), including the situation of the remaining detainees, the reintegration of those released from camps and the need to clarify the events during the last stages of the conflict. Accountability for actions committed during the conflict is important for reconciliation. The HR/VP has encouraged the GoSL to engage with the UN Secretary-General on the report of his Advisory Panel. An independent process to address the extremely serious allegations of major violations of international human rights and humanitarian law should contribute to strengthening the process of reconciliation and ensuring lasting peace and security in SL. In December 2011, she also expressed the hope that implementation of Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission report's recommendations will contribute to the process of reconciliation in SL.

In order to continue the dialogue with the GoSL and other parties, it has been agreed to hold a meeting of the EU-SL Joint Commission in the course of 2012. This provides a forum during which concerns such as those detailed by the Honourable Member can be addressed.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-000292/12
an die Kommission
Hermann Winkler (PPE)
(19. Januar 2012)

Betrifft: Streichung der Finanzierung von EU-Kulturerbeforschung im Vorschlag HORIZON 2020

Im Vorschlag der Europäischen Kommission zum neuen Rahmenprogramm für Forschung und Innovation HORIZON 2020 scheint die Finanzierung der Kulturerbeforschung nicht mehr möglich zu sein.

Die EU hat eine lange Tradition der Förderung von Kulturerbe in Europa. Bereits 1974 wurden die ersten Initiativen auf diesem Gebiet unterstützt. Die Forschung in diesem Bereich wird von der EU seit 1986 unterstützt, und dies mit großem Erfolg. Im Rahmen des aktuellen FP7 ist eine Förderung mithilfe des Programmteils Kooperation möglich. Erst 2009 hat die Europäische Kommission eine Broschüre zu den Erfolgen der EU-Förderung auf diesem Gebiet herausgegeben und im Mai 2010 hat der Ministerrat für Wettbewerbsfähigkeitsfragen die Bedeutung dieses Themas unterstrichen und im Oktober 2011 das Projekt JPI Cultural heritage gestartet. Die Bedeutung dieses Themas für die EU lag also bisher immer auf der Hand.

1. Kann die Kommission die oben genannte These bestätigen und, wenn ja, kann die Kommission die Überlegungen erläutern, die zu dieser Entscheidung geführt haben?

2. Kann die Kommission darstellen, welche Möglichkeiten der Förderung seitens der EU im Bereich Kulturerbe und speziell Kulturerbeforschung stattdessen von der Kommission vorgeschlagen werden?

3. Kann die Kommission darstellen, wie die Zukunft der „Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural heritage & global change" seitens der Kommission geplant ist, welche gerade erst im Oktober 2011 gestartet wurde, und welche Erfolge man sich hiervon verspricht?

Antwort von Frau Geoghegan-Quinn im Namen der Kommission
(15. Februar 2012)

Die Kulturerbeforschung ist tatsächlich Bestandteil aller Forschungsrahmenprogramme der EU seit 1986 gewesen, vor allem in Bezug auf die Umweltforschung. Ziel war es, die wissenschaftliche und technische Grundlage für den Schutz und die Sanierung europäischer Kulturdenkmäler zu stärken und gemeinsame Methoden, Technologien und Instrumente zu schaffen. Ergänzend zur Forschung können im Rahmen des Kulturprogramms auch grenzübergreifende Projekte mit Kulturerbebezug gefördert werden.

Das kulturelle Erbe kann mithilfe des neuen Rahmenprogramms für Forschung und Innovation „HORIZONT 2020" auf unterschiedliche Weise im Rahmen der drei sich gegenseitig verstärkenden Prioritäten „Wissenschaftsexzellenz", „Führende Rolle der Industrie" und „Gesellschaftliche Herausforderungen" und vor allem der Herausforderung „Klimaschutz, Ressourceneffizienz und Rohstoffe" gefördert werden.

Im Rahmen des derzeitigen Rahmenprogramms für Forschung und Entwicklung (7. RP) hat die Kommission bereits verstärkte Partnerschaften gefördert, sowohl mit den Mitgliedstaaten (durch eine ERA-NET-Maßnahme zum Kulturerbe) als auch mit dem privaten Sektor (durch die öffentlich-private Partnerschaft „Energieeffiziente Gebäude", mit der die Energieeffizienz historischer Gebäude verbessert und Maßnahmen zur Begrenzung des Klimawandels gefördert werden sollen).

Bei der neuen, von den Mitgliedstaaten getragenen Initiative für die gemeinsame Planung (JPI) zu „Kulturerbe und globale Veränderungen: Eine neue Herausforderung für Europa", die durch Ratsbeschluss vom 26. Mai 2010 gebilligt wurde, handelt es sich um einen anderen partnerschaftlichen Ansatz, der zu einer verstärkten Koordinierung zwischen den Mitgliedstaaten im Hinblick auf die Schaffung des Europäischen Forschungsraums (EFR) auf dem Gebiet des Kulturerbes beitragen dürfte. In Abhängigkeit von ihrer Strategischen Forschungsagenda (SRA) und den Prioritäten der EU kann die Kommission diese JPI im Rahmen von HORIZONT 2020 unterstützen.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000292/12
to the Commission
Hermann Winkler (PPE)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Reduction in funding for EU cultural heritage research in the HORIZON 2020 proposal

In the proposal of the European Commission for the new framework programme for research and innovation, HORIZON 2020, it appears that the funding of cultural heritage research is no longer possible.

The EU has a long tradition of promoting cultural heritage in Europe. The first initiatives in this field were being promoted as early as 1974. Research in this sector has been supported by the EU with considerable success since 1986. The current FP7 programme allows for funding on the basis of the cooperation element of the programme. It was not until 2009 that the European Commission published a pamphlet detailing the successes of EU funding in this field; the Competitiveness Council emphasised the importance of this issue in May 2010 and initiated the JPI Cultural Heritage project in October 2011. The importance of this issue for the EU has therefore always been obvious.

1. Can the Commission confirm the foregoing and, if so, can it explain the considerations which have led to this decision?

2. Can the Commission clarify what alternative funding options on the part of the EU are proposed by the Commission in cultural heritage and in particular the cultural heritage research sector?

3. Can the Commission clarify the future of the 'Joint Programming Initiative on Cultural Heritage and Global Change', launched as recently as October 2011, and identify in what ways it anticipates the initiative being a success?

Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission
(15 February 2012)

Cultural heritage research has indeed featured in all EU Research Framework Programmes since 1986, especially regarding environmental research, with the aim of reinforcing the scientific and technical basis for protecting and rehabilitating the European patrimony and setting up joint methodologies, technologies and tools. Complementary to research, cross-border projects addressing cultural heritage issues can also be supported in the framework of the Culture Programme.

Cultural heritage may be addressed in the new Framework Programme for research and innovation 'Horizon 2020' in different ways under its three mutually reinforcing priorities 'Excellent Science', 'Industrial Leadership' and 'Societal Challenges', in particular the challenge 'Climate action, resource efficiency and raw materials'.

Within the current Framework Programme for Research and Development (FP7), the Commission has already fostered stronger partnerships with Member States through an ERA-NET action on cultural heritage, as well as with the private sector, through the Private-Public Partnership 'Energy efficient Buildings' to tackle the challenge of improving energy efficiency in historic buildings and promoting mitigation actions facing climate change.

The new Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) on 'Cultural Heritage and Global Change: a new challenge for Europe', a Member State driven initiative, endorsed by the Council Decision on 26 May 2010, constitutes another partnership approach that is expected to ensure a reinforced coordination between Member States to achieve the European Research Area (ERA) in the field of cultural heritage. Depending on its Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) and EU priorities, this JPI may be supported by the Commission in Horizon 2020.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-000293/12
an die Kommission
Jürgen Creutzmann (ALDE)
(19. Januar 2012)

Betrifft: Vergabe der österreichischen Lotteriekonzession

Am 10.10.2011 gab das österreichische Bundesministerium für Finanzen (BMF) bekannt, dass die einzige Lotteriekonzession in Österreich an das öffentliche Unternehmen „Österreichische Lotterien GmbH" (ÖLG) vergeben wurde. Die anderen drei Bewerber waren an einem oder mehreren Mindestkriterien des Glücksspielgesetzes gescheitert. Die dem Auswahlverfahren zugrunde liegende Verfahrensunterlage gibt Grund zu der Annahme, dass das Verfahren in mehrfacher Hinsicht gegen EU-Vertragsrecht verstoßen hat, insbesondere bezüglich der Niederlassungsfreiheit und des freien Dienstleistungsverkehrs. Zur Erfüllung dieser Vorschriften muss die Vergabe von Konzessionen den Grundsätzen der Gleichbehandlung, Transparenz und Verhältnismäßigkeit genügen.

Das Transparenzgebot erscheint in diesem Fall missachtet, weil die Absicht zur Konzessionsvergabe nicht in angemessener Art und Weise bekannt gegeben, die Zuschlagskriterien zu vage formuliert und ihre Gewichtungen willkürlich gewählt wurden.

Das Gleichbehandlungsgebot wurde verletzt, weil es potenziellen Bewerbern aus anderen Mitgliedstaaten durch die unzureichende Bekanntmachung wesentlich erschwert wurde, sich um die Lotteriekonzession zu bewerben, die Antragsfrist unangemessen kurz angesetzt war und von den Bewerbern Kenntnisse, Erfahrungen und Nachweise verlangt wurden, die nur vom österreichischen Monopolisten ÖLG erfüllt werden können.

Dem Grundsatz der Verhältnismäßigkeit widerspricht schließlich die Anforderung, bereits bei der Antragstellung ein Eigenkapital von 109 Mio. EUR nachzuweisen, die für private Bewerber innerhalb der Antragsfrist nicht zu erfüllen war und unverhältnismäßige finanzielle Belastungen zur Folge gehabt hätte.

1. Welche Auffassung vertritt die Kommission zu den oben geäußerten Bedenken?

2. Erwägt die Kommission, auf der Grundlage ihrer Untersuchungen ein Vertragsverletzungsverfahren gegen Österreich einzuleiten?

Antwort von Herrn Barnier im Namen der Kommission
(20. Februar 2012)

Die Kommission kennt den von dem Herrn Abgeordneten angesprochenen Sachverhalt und bestätigt, dass ihre Dienststellen derzeit eine Beschwerde prüfen, in der es um die Übereinstimmung des Vergabeverfahrens für die in Rede stehende Konzession mit dem EU-Vergaberecht geht. Die Kommission wird gegebenenfalls die Maßnahmen treffen, die erforderlich sind, um alle verfügbaren Informationen zur Klärung der dargestellten Angelegenheit zu erhalten.

Sollte der Herr Abgeordnete detailliertere Informationen zu diesem Verfahren vorlegen wollen, würde die Kommission auch diese Informationen bei der Prüfung der Frage, ob gegen EU-Recht verstoßen wurde, berücksichtigen.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000293/12
to the Commission
Jürgen Creutzmann (ALDE)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Awarding of the Austrian lottery concession

On 10 October 2011 the Austrian Ministry of Finance (BMF) announced that Austria's only lottery concession was awarded to the public enterprise 'Austrian Lottery GmbH' (ÖLG). The three other applicants did not meet one or more minimum criteria of the gaming law. The procedure used in the selection process gives reason to assume that it violated EU contract law in several respects, especially as regards right of establishment and freedom to provide services. To meet these requirements, the awarding of concessions must satisfy the principles of equal treatment, transparency and proportionality.

The transparency rule appears to have been violated in this case because the intention to award the concession was not made public appropriately, the additional award criteria were formulated too vaguely, and their weightings were random.

The rule on equal treatment was violated because inadequate notification significantly impeded applicants from other Member States from applying for the lottery concession, the application period was inappropriately short, and the applicants were required to provide knowledge, experience and evidence that only the Austrian monopoly ÖLG can supply.

Finally, the principle of proportionality contradicts the requirement to furnish proof of own resources in the amount of EUR 109 million at the time of filing the application. Private applicants were unable to comply with this requirement within the application period and it would have caused them disproportional financial burdens.

1. What is the Commission's assessment of the concerns mentioned above?

2. Is the Commission considering infringement proceedings against Austria based on its findings?

Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission
(20 February 2012)

The Commission is aware of the facts mentioned by the Honourable Member, and confirms that its services are currently examining a complaint relating to the consistency with EU public procurement law of the procedure followed to award the concession at issue. If appropriate, the Commission will take the necessary measures to obtain all available elements in order to clarify the matter described.

Should the Honourable Member wish to provide more detailed information on this procedure, the Commission would take into account also this information in order to assess whether a breach of EC law has occurred.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000295/12
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante)
Fiorello Provera (EFD)
(19 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: VP/HR — Crescenti minacce da parte del gruppo radicale islamico Boko Haram

Il 7 gennaio 2012 il quotidiano britannico Guardian ha reso noto che negli stati del nord e del centro della Nigeria si starebbero verificando degli attacchi a chiese e stazioni della polizia con un'incidenza settimanale. Tali attacchi sono stati organizzati in larga parte dal gruppo islamico radicale Boko Haram. Il 25 dicembre il gruppo ha attaccato una chiesa nei pressi della capitale Abuja, uccidendo 37 persone. All'inizio di gennaio il gruppo ha lanciato un ultimatum ai cristiani affinché abbandonassero il nord della Nigeria entro tre giorni. A seguito degli attacchi dei giorni precedenti, il 31 dicembre il presidente della Nigeria, Goodluck Jonathan, ha dichiarato lo stato di emergenza. Ciononostante, gli attacchi settari sono continuati con la stessa violenza.

Il Guardian rende noto che il 5 gennaio 2012 il gruppo ha sferrato un attacco contro una chiesa durante lo svolgimento delle funzioni religiose nella città di Gomble mentre il giorno seguente nella città di Mubi uomini armati hanno acceso il fuoco sui fedeli mentre venivano celebrati i funerali di tre persone uccise la notte precedente. Il gruppo si è scontrato anche con le forze governative, prendendo di mira locali e saloni di bellezza.

Il gruppo è attivo dal 2003 e ha le sue basi principalmente negli stati del nord della Nigeria, quali Yobe, Kano, Bauchi, Borno e Kaduna. Si ispira a gruppi come i talebani dell'Afghanistan e al-Qaeda. Il significato letterale del suo nome è «l'educazione occidentale è un peccato». Uno dei suoi obiettivi è l'introduzione della sharia nei tribunali della Nigeria. La maggior parte del gruppo è costituita da studenti e religiosi islamici del nord e da studenti universitari e altri professionisti. Il gruppo è stato fondato nel 2002 da un religioso radicale nello stato nord-orientale di Borno.

Nella sua comunicazione relativa all'attacco sferrato contro la chiesa nei pressi di Abuja il 25 dicembre, il Vicepresidente/Alto rappresentante ha dichiarato che l'Unione europea «appoggerà le autorità nigeriane nella loro lotta contro il terrorismo».

1. Intende il Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante coordinarsi con i propri colleghi in Nigeria nell'offrire un supporto pratico alle autorità nigeriane per arrestare il numero crescente di attacchi riconducibili a Boko Haram?

2. Il VP/AR ha già adottato delle iniziative in tal senso? In caso di risposta affermativa, di che tipo di iniziative si tratta?

3. Prenderebbe in considerazione il VP/AR la possibilità di lavorare con le autorità nigeriane per creare programmi efficaci volti ad affrontare il tema dell'islamismo radicale negli istituti religiosi e d'istruzione presenti nel nord della Nigeria?

Risposta data dall'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione
(21 marzo 2012)

L'UE è seriamente preoccupata dagli attentati e dai recenti sviluppi in Nigeria. La delegazione dell'UE ad Abuja segue con attenzione l'evolversi della situazione. Nella dichiarazione del 26 dicembre 2011 l'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente ha condannato gli attentati terroristici e ha affermato che l'Unione è pronta ad assistere le autorità nigeriane.

Gli attentati alle chiese cristiane del giorno di Natale e quelli che li hanno seguiti hanno innescato un'escalation di violenza che ha ulteriormente radicalizzato la situazione. Oltre a estendere l'area geografica in cui opera e a perpetrare attentati suicidi, Boko Haram prende ora di mira in modo aperto e diretto la comunità cristiana. Sebbene in buona parte del paese prevalgano la tolleranza religiosa, i matrimoni misti e la pacifica coesistenza di diverse confessioni, la Nigeria rischia di cadere in una spirale di violenza interreligiosa che può minare alle basi l'unità nazionale.

Negli ultimi mesi del 2011 il coordinatore della strategia per il Sahel e il coordinatore antiterrorismo dell'UE si sono recati in visita in Nigeria per capire come organizzare il sostegno dell'Unione nell'ambito della strategia UE per il Sahel. Un'analisi della situazione all'indomani degli ultimi attentati è stata condotta dalla delegazione e dalle missioni UE ad Abuja. Attualmente sono in corso discussioni al Consiglio per valutare la situazione e convenire in che modo l'Unione e gli Stati membri possano meglio assistere le autorità nigeriane. La questione è stata affrontata nel corso della riunione ministeriale UE-Nigeria l'8 febbraio 2012. Le discussioni permetteranno all'Unione di individuare misure concrete per sostenere gli sforzi delle autorità nigeriane. La prossima relazione finale del 10° FES e la disamina delle priorità programmatiche dell'11° FES potranno anch'esse rappresentare un'ulteriore opportunità per sostenere questi sforzi.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000295/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Fiorello Provera (EFD)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Increased threats from the Islamic radical group Boko Haram

On 7 January 2012, the UK's Guardian newspaper reported that attacks on churches and police stations were occurring on a weekly basis in states across northern and central Nigeria. The attacks have been largely orchestrated by the radical Islamist group Boko Haram. On 25 December, the group attacked a church near the capital Abuja, leaving 37 people dead. In early January, the group issued an ultimatum telling Christians that they had three days to get out of northern Nigeria. In response to the earlier attacks, on 31 December Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan declared a state of emergency. In spite of this, sectarian attacks have continued unabated.

The Guardian reports that, on 5 January 2012, the group attacked a church service in the town of Gombe, while the following day, gunmen opened fire on people attending a church service in the town of Mubi, who were mourning the deaths of three people killed the previous night. The group also has fought with government forces, and targeted bars and beauty parlours.

The group has been active since 2003 and is mostly based in the northern Nigerian states of Yobe, Kano, Bauchi, Borno and Kaduna. It takes its inspiration from groups such as the Taliban in Afghanistan and al-Qaeda. The group's name translates as 'western education is sinful'. One of the group's aims is to introduce sharia courts across Nigeria. Most of the group consist of northern Islamic students and clerics, as well as university students and other professionals. It was created in 2002 by a radical cleric based in the north-eastern state of Borno.

The Vice-President/High Representative noted in her statement regarding the attack on the church near Abuja on 25 December that the European Union will 'stand behind the Nigerian authorities in their fight against terrorism'.

1. Does the Vice-President/High Representative plan to coordinate with her colleagues in Nigeria in offering practical support to the Nigerian authorities in stemming the growing number of attacks attributed to Boko Haram?

2. Has the VP/HR already taken steps to address this issue? If so, what are they?

3. Would the VP/HR consider working with the Nigerian authorities to create effective programmes to deal with the subject of radical Islamism in religious and educational institutions across Northern Nigeria?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(21 March 2012)

The EU is concerned by the latest attacks and developments in Nigeria. The EU Delegation in Abuja is closely monitoring the situation. The HR/VP issued a statement on 26 December 2011 condemning the terrorist attacks and expressing the EU's readiness to assist the Nigerian authorities.

The church attacks on Christmas day and those since mark an escalation of violence and a further radicalisation. Beyond expanding its geographical area of activity and making use of suicide attacks, it now includes the open and direct targeting by Boko Haram of the Christian community. Notwithstanding the high degree of religious tolerance, mixed marriages and peaceful religious coexistence over most of Nigeria, there is a risk that the country could be dragged into a spiral of inter-religious violence and national unity endangered.

Late 2011, the coordinator for the Sahel Strategy and the EU CTC visited Nigeria to identify ways in which the EU could support Nigeria, in the framework of the EU Sahel Strategy. Following the latest attacks, an assessment of the situation was conducted by the EU Delegation and EU Missions in Abuja. Discussions are currently being held in the Council to analyse the situation and agree on ways in which the EU and its Member States could best assist the Nigerian authorities. The matter has been discussed at the EU-Nigeria ministerial meeting on 8t February 2012. These discussions should allow the EU to identify concrete actions it can take to support the efforts of the Nigerian authorities. The upcoming end-of-term review of the 10th EDF and discussions on programming priorities for the 11th EDF may also provide the opportunity to support such efforts.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000296/12
alla Commissione
Fiorello Provera (EFD)
(18 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Uccisioni intertribali in Sudan Meridionale

Il 9 gennaio, diverse fonti mediatiche hanno riferito che gli appartenenti a una tribù sudanese, i Murle, che a dicembre erano stati oggetto di aggressioni di massa, avevano ucciso almeno 22 persone, feritone 20 e bruciato tre villaggi di una tribù rivale. In dicembre, alcuni giovani appartenenti alla tribù Lou Nuer, prevalentemente animista, avevano sferrato una serie di attacchi contro gli appartenenti alla tribù dei Murle nello stato di Jonglei. Le Nazioni Unite stimano che centinaia di persone siano state uccise e migliaia siano fuggite dalle proprie case a causa degli scontri tra comunità.

Il 5 gennaio, in risposta a questa serie di attacchi di rappresaglia, il governo del Sudan Meridionale ha dichiarato lo stato di Jonglei area disastrata. La BBC riferisce che il cibo scarseggia e l'ONU ha lanciato una «massiccia operazione di emergenza» per aiutare le 50 000 persone fuggite dagli scontri tra vari gruppi etnici. Il lavoro realizzato da gruppi umanitari quali Médecins Sans Frontières è stato vanificato, poiché due delle due strutture sanitarie appartenenti a tale organizzazione sono state saccheggiate e danneggiate.

Il Sudan Meridionale ha ottenuto l'indipendenza a luglio, ma sta affrontando numerosi problemi interni ed è una delle regioni più povere al mondo. Il governo tenterà di avviare un'operazione di disarmo dei civili entro la fine del mese, poiché il paese è letteralmente inondato di armi acquisite durante la guerra civile. Ciò al fine di arginare le razzie di bestiame e le ribellioni organizzate da ex-comandanti delle forze armate del Sudan Meridionale.

L'Unione Europea ha offerto sostegno al Sudan Meridionale tramite programmi come l'IfS (strumento per la stabilità), cui sono stati stanziati 18 000 000 di EUR nel 2011 per sostenere la prevenzione dei conflitti, il consolidamento della pace e gli sforzi di stabilizzazione, in particolare nelle aree al confine con il Sudan. Al Sudan Meridionale sono inoltre stati destinati finanziamenti UE mediante il programma tematico sulla sicurezza alimentare e quello sul sostegno agli attori non statali previsti dallo strumento per la cooperazione allo sviluppo (DCI), nonché tramite lo Strumento europeo per la democrazia e i diritti umani (EIDHR).

1. In risposta all'escalation di violenza in Sudan Meridionale, può la Commissione fornire informazioni circa le modalità in cui i programmi finanziari summenzionati vengono messi in atto al fine di sostenere le iniziative di costruzione della pace e di stabilizzazione?

2. Intende la Commissione intende sostenere il governo del Sudan Meridionale nell'operazione proposta di disarmo dei civili, prevista per la fine di gennaio?

3. Alla luce dei processi di riconciliazione promossi dalla missione ONU di mantenimento della pace nel Sudan Meridionale (UNMIS), intende la Commissione assumere un ruolo nel contribuire a sostenere un processo di riconciliazione tra le varie comunità del Sudan Meridionale?

Risposta data da Andris Piebalgs a nome della Commissione
(27 febbraio 2012)

La Commissione è profondamente preoccupata per le tensioni nel Sudan del Sud, dove scontri intercomunitari hanno causato vittime e fenomeni di sfollamento su vasta scala, segnatamente nello Stato di Jonglei. Il 23 gennaio 2012 il Consiglio «Affari esteri» dell'UE ha sollecitato il governo del Sudan del Sud a intensificare gli sforzi per affrontare le cause primarie dei conflitti e la questione delle armi leggere e di piccolo calibro nonché a promuovere la riconciliazione.

L'UE sostiene la risposta umanitaria dell'ONU che prevede anche cure sanitarie, assistenza alimentare, fornitura d'acqua e di servizi igienico-sanitari.

L'UE contribuisce in modo significativo alla costruzione della pace e alla stabilizzazione nella regione. Attraverso lo strumento europeo per la democrazia e i diritti umani, il programma degli attori non statali e lo strumento per la stabilità, dal 2005 l'UE sostiene lo sviluppo di legami forti tra le comunità locali promuovendo, in risposta alle loro richieste, il dialogo e l'attuazione di progetti di impatto rapido in risposta alle richieste delle comunità locali, al fine di mitigare le tensioni e le crisi, anche nelle zone di frontiera come lo stato di Jonglei. Attraverso il programma tematico sulla sicurezza alimentare, l'UE sostiene inoltre le comunità locali nel passaggio dall'agricoltura di sussistenza alla

produzione destinata al mercato, creando in tal modo opportunità di occupazione e favorendo uno sviluppo sostenibile. Tali misure di sostegno usufruiranno nel 2012 di un finanziamento aggiuntivo di 14,5 milioni di euro.

La Commissione accoglie con favore la decisione del Sudan del Sud di procedere al disarmo civile e affiancherà il paese in tale impegno nella veste di partner affidabile. Nell'ambito dello strumento per la stabilità, la Commissione collabora con l'ONU e con l'ufficio nazionale per la sicurezza della comunità e il controllo delle armi di piccolo calibro per tutelare i civili, le famiglie e le comunità locali.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000296/12
to the Commission
Fiorello Provera (EFD)
(18 January 2012)

Subject: Intertribal killings in South Sudan

On 9 January, various media sources reported that members of a South Sudanese tribe, the Murle, who were targeted in mass attacks in December, had killed at least 22 people, wounded 20 and burned down three villages of an opposing tribe. In December, youths from the predominantly animist Lou Nuer tribe had launched a series of attacks against Murle tribespeople in the state of Jonglei. The United Nations estimates that hundreds of people have been killed and thousands of people have fled their homes due to intercommunal violence.

On 5 January, in response to this series of retaliatory attacks, the South Sudanese government declared the state of Jonglei a disaster area. The BBC reports that there are food shortages, and the UN has launched a 'massive emergency operation' to help 50 000 people who have fled clashes between various ethnic groups. Work carried out by aid groups such as Médecins Sans Frontières has been disrupted, as two of their medical facilities have been looted and damaged.

South Sudan gained its independence in July, but faces numerous internal problems and is one of the poorest regions in the world. The government will attempt to introduce a civilian disarmament exercise by the end of the month, as the country is awash with weapons acquired during the civil war. This is in order to stem the number of cattle raids and rebellions launched by former commanders of South Sudan's armed forces.

The European Union has offered assistance to South Sudan through programmes such as the IfS (Instrument for Stability), which was allocated EUR 18 million in 2011, to support conflict prevention, peace building and stabilisation efforts, especially in the border areas with Sudan. The country has also benefited from EU financing through the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) programme on food security, support to non-state actors and the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR).

1. In response to the increased violence in South Sudan, can the Commission provide details as to how the financial programmes listed above are implemented in order to support peace building and stabilisation efforts?

2. Does the Commission intend to support the South Sudanese government in its proposed civilian disarmament exercise, which is scheduled for the end of January?

3. In light of the reconciliation processes brokered by the UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan (UNMIS), does the Commission intend to play a role in helping to support a reconciliation process between the various South Sudanese communities?

Answer given by Mr Piebalgs on behalf of the Commission
(27 February 2012)

The Commission is deeply concerned by tensions within South Sudan. Inter-communal clashes, particularly in Jonglei, have caused large-scale death and displacement. On 23 January 2012, the EU Council of Foreign Ministers urged the Government of South Sudan to intensify its efforts to address the root causes of conflicts, the issue of small arms and light weapons, and to promote reconciliation.

The EU supports the UN-led humanitarian response, including emergency healthcare, food assistance and water and sanitation.

The EU significantly contributes to peace building and stabilisation. Since 2005, the EU, through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights, the Non-State Actors programme and the Instrument for Stability, has been supporting strong links among communities, promoting dialogue, and delivering quick impact projects in response to local communities' requests so as to mitigate tensions and crises including in border areas such as Jonglei. With the Food Security thematic programme, the EU supports local communities to move from subsistence farming to market production, hence creating employment opportunities and sustainable development. This range of support will continue in 2012 through an additional EUR 14.5 million.

The Commission welcomes South Sudan's decision to proceed with civilian disarmament, and will be a reliable partner in its efforts. Under the Instrument for Stability, the Commission works with the UN, and the National Bureau for Community Security and Small Arms Control to secure civilians, families and communities.

(English version)

Question for written answer P-000299/12
to the Commission
Brian Simpson (S&D)
(17 January 2012)

Subject: Legal clarity over towing a car on an A-frame

I am writing to you on behalf of a constituent, who was recently issued with a fine for towing a car on an A-frame behind a motorhome while travelling on holiday in Germany. As I understand it, the UK's Department for Transport finds that where an A-frame is attached to a vehicle (e.g. a motor car) and towed by a motor vehicle, the A-frame and the car become a single unit and as such are classified in legislation as a trailer. The UK Department for Transport concludes that the car and the A-frame satisfy the legal requirements for trailers both under UK law and EC law. However the German authorities refute that this is legal in Germany, arguing that it is not legal to tow a car behind a motorhome in Germany and that this is fully compatible with EC law.

For the sake of clarity, could the Commission clarify whether or not it is legal for a UK citizen to tow a car on an A-frame in Germany, as well as in the rest of the EU?

Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission
(6 February 2012)

The specific technical provisions for passenger cars that may freely circulate on public roads in the European Union are not defined by EU legislation but by an agreement under the auspices of the UN-ECE, the so-called 'Vienna Convention on Road Traffic' ([1]) to which the individual Member States are contracting party.

According to this Convention the vehicle combinations admitted to circulation in international traffic must be made up of a motor vehicle and a trailer designed to be coupled to a motor vehicle.

As this is not the case in the situation described by the Honourable Member, a vehicle combination of two motor vehicles attached to each other by an A-frame may only circulate in those Member States where the relevant national legislation contains respective provisions.

([1]) United Nations Convention on Road Traffic done at Vienna on 8 November 1968 (http://www.unece.org/trans/conventn/Conv_road_traffic_EN.pdf).

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta P-000300/12
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto rappresentante)
Claudio Morganti (EFD)
(17 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: VP/HR — Violenze contro i cristiani in Nigeria

A partire dalla fine dello scorso anno si sono intensificati in Nigeria gli attacchi contro la popolazione cristiana, tra i quali hanno destato notevole scalpore, anche per il loro particolare significato, gli attentati coordinati contro diverse chiese cristiane nel giorno di Natale, che hanno causato oltre trenta vittime.

Gli estremisti islamici di Boko Haram stanno compiendo quella che pare essere una sistematica opera di pulizia etnica e religiosa, come dimostrato anche dal continuo e crescente numero di azioni violente che hanno portato alla morte e al ferimento di decine e decine di persone. Inoltre, per sfuggire alla carneficina, centinaia di persone stanno lasciando le loro abitazioni nei territori più a rischio nel nord del Paese, per cercare rifugio in altre zone della Nigeria, creando così anche una grave emergenza sfollati.

L'Alto rappresentante/vicepresidente della Commissione europea è a conoscenza di questa gravissima situazione che dura oramai da diversi mesi?

Quali misure sta attuando per bloccare tali episodi di violenza etnica e religiosa contro la popolazione cristiana in Nigeria?

Risposta data dall'Alta rappresentante/Vice presidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione
(9 marzo 2012)

L'Unione è al corrente degli attentati e dei recenti sviluppi in Nigeria; la delegazione di Abuja segue attentamente l'evoluzione della situazione. Nella dichiarazione del 26 dicembre 2011 l'Alta rappresentate/Vice presidente ha condannato gli attentati terroristici e ha affermato che l'Unione è pronta ad assistere le autorità nigeriane.

Gli attentati alle chiese cristiane del giorno di Natale hanno innescato un'escalation di violenza che ha ulteriormente radicalizzato la situazione. Oltre ad estendere l'area geografica in cui opera e a perpetrare attentati suicidi, Boko Haram prende ora di mira in modo aperto e diretto la comunità cristiana. Sebbene in buona parte del paese regnino la tolleranza religiosa, i matrimoni misti e la pacifica coesistenza di diverse confessioni, la Nigeria rischia di cadere in una spirale di violenza interreligiosa che può minare alle basi l'unità nazionale.

Negli ultimi mesi del 2011 il coordinatore della strategia per il Sahel e il coordinatore antiterrorismo dell'UE si sono recati in visita in Nigeria per capire come organizzare il sostegno dell'Unione nell'ambito della strategia UE per il Sahel. Un'analisi della situazione all'indomani degli ultimi attentati è stata condotta dalla delegazione e dalle missioni UE a Abuja. Attualmente sono in corso discussioni al Consiglio (COAFR) per valutare la situazione e convenire in che modo l'Unione e gli Stati membri possono meglio assistere le autorità nigeriane. La questione verrà ulteriormente affrontata nella prossima riunione ministeriale UE-Nigeria e nella riunione degli alti funzionari prevista a febbraio 2012. Le discussioni permetteranno all'Unione di individuare misure concrete per sostenere gli sforzi delle autorità nazionali. La prossima relazione finale del 10° FES e la disamina delle priorità programmatiche dell'11° FES saranno anch'esse un'ulteriore opportunità per sostenere questi sforzi.

(English version)

Question for written answer P-000300/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Claudio Morganti (EFD)
(17 January 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Violence against Christians in Nigeria

Since the end of last year the Christian population in Nigeria has been subjected to a growing wave of attacks, including — the case is particularly appalling, given the special significance of the timing — the coordinated bombing of several Christian churches on Christmas Day, which claimed a toll of more than thirty victims.

The Boko Haram Islamic extremists are carrying out what appears to be systematic ethnic and religious cleansing, as can be seen from the ever increasing acts of violence in which dozens have been killed or wounded. In addition, to escape the carnage, hundreds are leaving their homes in areas most at risk in the North in order to seek refuge in other parts of Nigeria, thus creating an emergency in terms of displaced persons.

Is the High Representative/Commission Vice-President aware of this very serious situation, which has been continuing for months?

What measures is she taking to stop the ethnic and religious violence against the Christian population in Nigeria?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(9 March 2012)

The EU is aware of the latest attacks/developments in Nigeria. The EU Delegation in Abuja is closely monitoring the situation. High Representative/Vice-President (HR/VP) issued a statement on 26 December 2011 condemning the terrorist attacks and expressing the EU's readiness to assist the Nigerian authorities.

The church attacks on Christmas day mark an escalation of violence and a further radicalisation. Beyond expanding its geographical area of activity and making use of suicide attacks it now includes the open and direct targeting by Boko Haram of the Christian community. Notwithstanding the high degree of religious tolerance, mixed marriages and peaceful religious coexistence over most of Nigeria, there is a risk that the country could be dragged into a spiral of inter-religious violence and national unity endangered.

Late 2011, the coordinator for the Sahel Strategy and the EU CTC visited Nigeria to identify ways in which the EU could support Nigeria, in the framework of the EU Sahel Strategy. Following the latest attacks, an assessment of the situation was conducted by the EU Delegation and EU Missions in Abuja. Discussions are currently being held at the Council's (COAFR) level to analyse the situation and agree on ways in which the EU and its Member States could best assist the Nigerian authorities. The matter will further be discussed at the forthcoming EU-Nigeria ministerial meeting and the preceding Senior Officials' meeting that should in principle be held in February 2012. These discussions should allow the EU to identify concrete actions it can take to support the efforts of the Nigerian authorities. The upcoming end-of-term review of the 10th EDF and discussions on programming priorities for the 11th EDF will also provide the opportunity to support such efforts.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-000301/12
à la Commission
Gaston Franco (PPE)
(19 janvier 2012)

Objet: La Forêt dans l'Union pour la Méditerranée

Les forêts méditerranéennes ont de nombreuses caractéristiques communes mais surtout très spécifiques, que ce soit au niveau de leur diversité biologique ou des conditions climatiques qui s'imposent à elles. Même si elles ne représentent qu'1,5 % de la superficie totale boisée de la planète, le caractère multifonctionnel de ces forêts a été et reste essentiel pour le développement des civilisations euro-méditerranéennes.

Dès 1911, les pays du pourtour méditerranéen ont reconnu le besoin de travailler ensemble sur les mêmes problématiques forestières et ont décidé de créer Silva Mediterranea, seul forum international sur les forêts méditerranéennes devenu organe statutaire de la FAO en 1948 et auquel participent les pays de l'UE.

Quelle suite a apporté la Commission européenne aux recommandations des experts forestiers réunis à Antalya en avril 2010 pour la Semaine forestière méditerranéenne organisée par la Silva Mediterranea et Efimed (le bureau régional méditerranéen de l'Institut européen de la Forêt)? Pour rappel, ces experts ont demandé à cette occasion à l'Union pour la Méditerranée de prendre des actions visant à protéger et à améliorer le rôle des forêts méditerranéennes en matière de sécurité alimentaire et de développement durable des territoires ruraux.

1. Le feu étant l'une des plus graves menaces qui pèsent sur les écosystèmes forestiers méditerranéens, quels projets sont prévus dans le cadre de l'Union pour la Méditerranée pour la prévention et la lutte contre les incendies?

2. Quels projets euro-méditerranéens existent ou sont envisagés pour lutter contre les espèces envahissantes et les insectes destructeurs qui ravagent les arbres méditerranéens?

3. Enfin, qu'envisage la Commission pour soutenir le développement de l'agroforesterie et de l'industrie forestière dans le cadre euro-méditerranéen?

Réponse donnée par M. Cioloș au nom de la Commission
(28 février 2012)

Le Feader ([1]) accorde des aides aux mesures forestières par l'intermédiaire des programmes de développement rural pour la période 2007-2013. Les États membres peuvent choisir parmi différentes mesures, selon leurs besoins spécifiques, pour renforcer le rôle des forêts dans la région méditerranéenne. La Commission a proposé un nouveau règlement sur le développement rural, qui est actuellement en cours de négociation avec le Conseil et le Parlement européen ([2]). Ce règlement propose d'une part des améliorations et des innovations dans le domaine de la prévention et de la réparation des dommages causés aux forêts par les feux de forêt/incendies, les catastrophes naturelles et autres, y compris les invasions d'organismes nuisibles et les maladies, et d'autre part des mesures d'aide en faveur des systèmes agroforestiers.

Les États membres disposent également de la politique de cohésion pour les aider à améliorer la prévention des catastrophes naturelles, y compris les incendies de forêt. Au cours de la période de programmation 2007-2013, environ 5,8 milliards d'euros devraient être consacrés à la «prévention des risques».

Dans le cadre de Silva Mediterranea, la Commission est en train d'étendre le système européen d'information sur les feux de forêts aux pays d'Afrique du Nord et du Moyen-Orient (http://www.fao.org/Foresterie/silvamed).

Comme indiqué dans sa communication sur la stratégie de l'UE en faveur de la biodiversité à l'horizon 2020 ([3]), la Commission entend élaborer un instrument législatif spécifique relatif aux espèces exotiques envahissantes.

([1]) Règlement (CE) n° 1698/2005 du Conseil du 20 septembre 2005 concernant le soutien au développement rural par le Fonds européen agricole pour le développement rural (Feader) (JO L 277 du 21.10.2005, p. 1).
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/legal-proposals/index_fr.htm
([3]) COM(2011) 244 final.

En ce qui concerne les aspects industriels de la sylviculture, la coupe, l'enlèvement et l'utilisation du bois pour la transformation industrielle et la production d'énergie réduisent l'accumulation de biomasse forestière inflammable et, par conséquent, le risque d'incendie. La Commission a publié une brochure ([4]), qui comprend des études de cas portant sur la zone méditerranéenne et d'autres régions qui pourraient être appliquées aux forêts de la région.

([4]) Voir: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/fore/index_fr.htm 'Good practice guidance on the sustainable mobilisation of wood in Europe' (guide de bonnes pratiques pour l'exploitation durable du bois en Europe).

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000301/12
to the Commission
Gaston Franco (PPE)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: The forest in the Union for the Mediterranean

Mediterranean forests have many common characteristics but also very specific ones, whether this be in terms of their biological diversity or the climatic conditions that they have to endure. Even if these forests only represent 1.5 % of the planet's total forested area, their multifunctional nature remains essential to the development of Euro-Mediterranean civilisations.

Since 1911, the countries in the Mediterranean region have recognised the need to work together on the same forestry-related problems and decided to create Silva Mediterranean, the only international forum for Mediterranean forests, which became an FAO statutory body in 1948 and involves participation from EU countries.

What action has the European Commission taken in response to the recommendations from forestry experts meeting in Antalya in April 2011 for the Mediterranean Forest Week organised by Silva Mediterranean and EFIMED (the Mediterranean Regional Office of the European Forest Institute)? As a reminder, on this occasion these experts called on the Union for the Mediterranean to take action to protect and enhance the role of Mediterranean forests in terms of food safety and the sustainable development of rural areas.

1. As fire is one of the most serious threats for Mediterranean forest ecosystems, what projects are planned in the context of the Union for the Mediterranean for fire prevention and control?

2. Which Euro-Mediterranean projects exist or are planned to combat invasive species and destructive insects which ravage Mediterranean trees?

3. Finally, what does the Commission plan to support agroforestry development and the forestry industry within the Euro-Mediterranean framework?

Answer given by Mr Cioloş on behalf of the Commission
(28 February 2012)

The EAFRD ([1]) provides support for forestry measures through the rural development programmes for 2007-13. Different measures can be chosen by the Member States according to their specific needs to enhance the role of forests in the Mediterranean region. The Commission proposed a new rural development regulation, currently being negotiated with the Council and the European Parliament ([2]), which includes improved and new measures for prevention and restoration of damage to forests from forest fires, natural disasters, and catastrophic events including pests and diseases and support for agroforestry systems.

The cohesion policy is also available to assist the Member States in improving the prevention of natural disasters, including forest fires. In the 2007-2013 programming period, about EUR 5.8 billion are planned to be spent on 'risk prevention'.

In the context of FAO/Silva Mediterranea, the Commission is currently extending the European Forest Fire Information System to MENA countries (http://www.fao.org/forestry/silvamed).

As outlined in the communication on an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 ([3]), the Commission intends to develop a dedicated legislative instrument on invasive alien species.

([1]) Council Regulation (EC) No 1698/2005 of 20 September 2005 on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), OJ L 277, 21.10.2005, p. 1.
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/cap-post-2013/legal-proposals/index_en.htm
([3]) COM(2011)244 final.

Concerning industrial aspects of forestry, the cutting, removal and use of wood for industrial processing and energy reduces the build-up of flammable forest biomass and hence the risk of fire. The Commission has published a booklet ([4]), which includes case studies from the Mediterranean zone and others which could be applied to forests there.

([4]) See: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/fore/publi/index_en.htm; 'Good Practice Guidance on the Sustainable Mobilisation of Wood in Europe'.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000302/12
alla Commissione
Marco Scurria (PPE)
(20 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Natura giuridica della proprietà dell'euro

In risposta ad un'interrogazione scritta sul medesimo tema presentata dall'on. Borghezio fornita il 16 giugno 2011, la Commissione informa il collega che «al momento dell'emissione, le banconote in euro appartengono all'Eurosistema e che, una volta emesse, sia le banconote che le monete in euro appartengono al titolare del conto su cui sono addebitate in conseguenza».

Può la Commissione chiarire quale sia la base giuridica su cui si basa questa affermazione?

Risposta data da Olli Rehn a nome della Commissione
(12 marzo 2012)

L'articolo 128 del trattato sul funzionamento dell'Unione europea costituisce la base giuridica per la disciplina dell'emissione di banconote e monete in euro da parte dell'Eurosistema (costituito dalla Banca centrale europea e dalle banche centrali nazionali). La proprietà delle banconote e delle monete in euro dopo l'emissione da parte dell'Eurosistema è disciplinata dalla legislazione nazionale vigente al momento del trasferimento delle banconote e monete al nuovo proprietario, ossia al momento dell'addebito del conto corrente bancario o dello scambio delle banconote o monete.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000302/12
to the Commission
Marco Scurria (PPE)
(20 January 2012)

Subject: Legal nature of euro ownership

In its reply of 16 June 2011 to a Written Question on the above subject by Mr Borghezio, the Commission stated: 'at the moment of issuance, euro banknotes (…) belong to the Eurosystem (…). Once issued, euro banknotes/coins belong to the holder of such notes and coins — whose account has been debited accordingly'.

Could the Commission clarify the legal basis of this statement?

Answer given by Mr Rehn on behalf of the Commission
(12 March 2012)

Article 128 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union is the legal basis governing the issuance of euro banknotes and coins by the Eurosystem (European Central Bank and the national central bank). The ownership of the euro banknotes and coins after issuance by the Eurosystem is governed by the national law applying at the moment of transfer of the banknotes and coins to the new owner, e.g. at the moment of bank account debiting or exchange of banknotes or coins.

(Wersja polska)

Pytanie wymagające odpowiedzi pisemnej E-000303/12
do Komisji
Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska (PPE)
(19 stycznia 2012 r.)

Przedmiot: Agroturystyczne gospodarstwa edukacyjne

Francuskie gospodarstwa rolne jako dodatkowe źródło dochodu zdecydowały się w latach 90-tych poszerzyć swoją działalność o skierowane do dzieci i młodzieży nowe formy edukacyjne w zakresie rolnictwa i życia wiejskiego. Obecnie idea agroturystycznych gospodarstw edukacyjnych sprawdza się w krajach Unii Europejskiej, zwłaszcza we Francji, gdzie funkcjonuje około 740 tego typu ośrodków.

Najbardziej profesjonalne ośrodki występują we Francji, Szwajcarii, Austrii i Niemczech. Gospodarstwa posiadają różne profile m.in.: rolnictwo ekologiczne, ochrona środowiska, hodowla bydła mlecznego i mięsnego, winiarstwo, przetwórstwo czy odkrywanie produktów z gospodarstwa. Wszystkie gospodarstwa przystosowane są do prowadzenia zajęć edukacyjnych.

Występuje ścisła współpraca rolników z nauczycielami, a zakres realizowanych tematów określa rodzina rolnika, która prowadzi zajęcia. Grupy dzieci i młodzieży dzięki takim zajęciom wzbogacają swoją wiedzę na temat przyrody, ekologii, zdrowia, zapoznają się z różnymi formami produkcji i jej specjalizacją. Obserwując te doświadczenia, można zauważyć, że jest to interesująca forma świadczenia usług i promocji.

W związku z powyższym zwracam się z zapytaniem do Komisji:

1. Czy Komisja zamierza poprzez różne formy wsparcia i pomocy prowadzić promocję, programy informacyjne tego typu gospodarstw, zwłaszcza w tych krajach europejskich, w których nie ma jeszcze rozpowszechnionych agroturystycznych gospodarstw edukacyjnych?

2. Czy rolnicy mogą ubiegać się o wsparcie finansowe na prowadzenie tego typu gospodarstwa?

Odpowiedź udzielona przez komisarza Daciana Cioloşa w imieniu Komisji
(16 lutego 2012 r.)

Europejski Fundusz Rolny na rzecz Rozwoju Obszarów Wiejskich (EFRROW) umożliwia rolnikom uzupełnienie prowadzonej działalności rolniczej o działalność pozarolniczą. Jest to jeden z celów europejskiej polityki rozwoju obszarów wiejskich. W tym kontekście wspomniany fundusz może służyć do finansowania gospodarstw edukacyjnych i działalności edukacyjnej gospodarstw agroturystycznych na obszarach wiejskich. Wsparcie dla tego rodzaju działań można uzyskać ze środka „Różnicowanie w kierunku działalności pozarolniczej" lub środka „Wspieranie agroturystyki", pod warunkiem że państwo członkowskie lub region uwzględniły te środki w swoim programie rozwoju obszarów wiejskich. Wsparcie można również uzyskać na rozwój lub marketing usług turystycznych związanych z turystyką wiejską oraz na szkolenia w tej dziedzinie dla podmiotów gospodarczych. Dofinansowanie na działalność gospodarstw edukacyjnych i jej marketing można też uzyskać w ramach programu Leader, o ile lokalna strategia rozwoju uznała te dziedziny za wymagające wsparcia. Niemniej finansowanie EFRROW nie może obejmować kosztów operacyjnych, które są niekwalifikowalne.

W odniesieniu do nowego okresu programowania 2014-2020 Komisja przedstawiła wniosek o utrzymanie wymienionego wsparcia inwestycyjnego na rzecz różnicowania działalności i agroturystyki. Zaproponowała ponadto możliwość udzielania przez EFRROW pomocy na rozpoczęcie działalności inwestorom, którzy chcą wprowadzać na obszarach wiejskich nowe rodzaje działalności pozarolniczej. W tym kontekście istnieje możliwość pokrywania kosztów operacyjnych. Możliwości wsparcia w ramach programu Leader również zostaną zachowane.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000303/12
to the Commission
Elżbieta Katarzyna Łukacijewska (PPE)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Educational farm tourism

In the 1990s, as a way of expanding their business and supplementing their income, a number of French farmers began to offer new educational activities designed to help children and young people learn about agriculture and life in the countryside. The concept of educational farm tourism is now a successful one in European Union countries, particularly in France, where there are around 740 farm education centres.

The most professional centres are in France, Switzerland, Austria and Germany. The farms involved focus on different aspects of agriculture, including organic farming, environmental protection, dairy and beef cattle breeding, wine production, and processing and showcasing farm products. All of the farms involved are well adapted to provide educational activities.

There is close cooperation between farmers and teachers, and the range of subjects on offer is determined by the farming family running the activities. These activities help groups of children and young people learn more about nature, ecology and health, and help teach them about different forms of production and specialised production. This is clearly an interesting approach to service provision and promotion.

1. Is the Commission intending to provide various forms of support and assistance with a view to promoting and providing information on these kinds of farms, in particular in European countries in which educational farm tourism has not yet taken off?

2. Can farmers apply for financial support to operate this type of farm?

Answer given by Mr Cioloş on behalf of the Commission
(16 February 2012)

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) provides farmers with the possibility to diversify their agricultural activities into non-agricultural activities. This is one of the objectives of the European rural development policy. In this context, it is possible to fund investments in educational farms and educational farm tourism activities in rural areas. Such activities can be supported under Measure 'Diversification into non-agricultural activities' and/or Measure 'Encouragement of rural tourism' provided that Member States or regions include these measures in their rural development programme. The development and/or marketing of tourism services relating to rural tourism as well as training for economic actors operating in this field could also be supported. Support for educational farm activities and their marketing could also be provided under Leader if the local development strategy recognises this field as an area that needs to be developed. Operating costs, however, remain ineligible for EAFRD funding.

For the new programming period 2014-2020, the Commission has proposed to maintain its investment support for diversification and rural tourism activities. Moreover, it has proposed the possibility for the EAFRD to provide a start-up aid for those who invest in new non-agricultural activities in rural areas. In this context, operating costs could be potentially covered. The support possibilities under Leader will also be maintained.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000304/12
to the Commission
Sir Graham Watson (ALDE)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Infringement penalties imposed on Member States

The Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union allows the Commission to bring before the Court of Justice of the European Union the case of a Member State which has failed to comply with a ruling of the Court. Under these infringement proceedings, the Court may under Article 260 impose a lump sum or penalty payment on a Member State which it considers appropriate in the circumstances.

Notwithstanding the information contained in the Court of Justice's Annual Report of 2010, could the Commission state:

1. whether any infringement proceeding fines/penalties are outstanding and remain unpaid? If so, could the Commission clarify the amount, and identify the relevant Member States?

2. the financial size of the fine that could currently be imposed on Member States, providing details of the fine per Member State?

3. the total amount of the fines/penalties imposed on each Member State through 2010 (by amount per Member State)?

Answer given by Mr Lewandowski on behalf of the Commission
(4 April 2012)

The Commission is sending directly to the Honourable Member and to Parliament's Secretariat a table containing the data requested.

This table informs about the amounts which have been paid by the Member States as imposed by the Court of Justice, following infringement procedures introduced by the Commission under Article 260, para. 2, in its role of guardian of the Treaty.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000305/12
alla Commissione
Marco Scurria (PPE)
(19 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Conformità al diritto comunitario della legge finanziaria italiana 2011

La legge finanziaria italiana per l'anno 2011 (L.13.12.2011 n. 220), all'art. 1, comma 51 ha statuito che «al fine di assicurare il regolare svolgimento dei pagamenti dei debiti in oggetto della ricognizione (…) non possono essere intraprese o proseguite azioni esecutive nei confronti delle aziende sanitarie locali ed ospedaliere delle regioni fino al 31 dicembre 2011», termine che è stato prorogato al 31.12.2012 dall'art. 17, comma 4, punto 2 del decreto legge 6.7.2011 n. 98, convertito in legge n. 111 il 15.7.2011.

In riferimento alla richiesta di disapplicazione della norma sul divieto di intraprendere o proseguire azioni esecutive, va rilevato che l'art. 47 della Carta di Nizza garantisce quale diritto fondamentale dell'Unione la possibilità da parte di ogni individuo di avviare un ricorso effettivo dinanzi ad un giudice indipendente ed imparziale ed entro un termine ragionevole.

Può la Commissione dire se tale norma inibisca l'accesso alla giustizia in un termine ragionevole e se, di conseguenza, sia in contrasto con il diritto comunitario?

Risposta data da Viviane Reding a nome della Commissione
(8 marzo 2012)

La Commissione desidera informare l'onorevole parlamentare che la Carta dei diritti fondamentali dell'Unione europea, come sancito all'articolo 51, si applica agli Stati membri esclusivamente nell'attuazione del diritto dell'Unione. Ai sensi dell'articolo 47, comma 1, della Carta dei diritti fondamentali, ogni individuo i cui diritti e le cui libertà garantiti dal diritto dell'Unione siano stati violati ha diritto a un ricorso effettivo dinanzi a un giudice per la verifica di tale violazione. Poiché tale ricorso è inteso a chiarire se i diritti o le libertà garantiti dal diritto dell'Unione siano stati effettivamente violati, si acquisisce il diritto a un ricorso effettivo dal momento in cui viene denunciata una violazione in termini plausibili. Nella situazione riferita dall'onorevole parlamentare, non ci sono elementi che inducano a pensare che un diritto o una libertà garantita dal diritto dell'Unione siano stati lesi nell'ambito delle procedure nazionali. Inoltre, il diritto dell'Unione ([1]) prevede che le sentenze emesse in uno Stato membro, entro certe condizioni, possano essere applicate in un altro Stato membro, conformemente alla legislazione di quest'ultimo.

In conclusione, va detto che la situazione descritta nell'interrogazione non permette di desumere se la Carta dei diritti fondamentali o il diritto dell'Unione europea siano stati violati. Tuttavia, una volta esaurite tutte le vie di ricorso a livello nazionale, tale situazione può essere valutata nel contesto della Convenzione europea dei diritti dell'uomo dall'istituzione internazionale preposta, ovvero la Corte europea dei diritti dell'uomo.

([1]) Regolamento (CE) n. 44/2001 concernente la competenza giurisdizionale, il riconoscimento e l'esecuzione delle decisioni in materia civile e commerciale; regolamento (CE) n. 805/2004 che istituisce il titolo esecutivo europeo per i crediti non contestati; regolamento (CE) n. 1896/2006 che istituisce un procedimento europeo d'ingiunzione di pagamento; regolamento (CE)861/2007 che istituisce un procedimento europeo per le controversie di modesta entità.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000305/12
to the Commission
Marco Scurria (PPE)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Compliance of the Italian Financial Act of 2011 with Community law

Article 1(51) of the Italian Financial Act (budget) for 2011 (Law No 220 of 13 December 2011) states that, 'to ensure the correct payment of debts subject to recognition (…) no debt recovery action may be taken or pursued in relation to the regions' local healthcare facilities and hospitals until 31 December 2011', a deadline which was extended to 31 December 2011 under Article 17(4)(2) of Decree Law No 98 of 6 July 2011, converted into Law No 111 on 15 July 2011.

With reference to requesting non-application of the law prohibiting the launch or pursuit of debt recovery proceedings, it should be noted that Article 47 of the Nice Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union establishes that everyone has the right to seek an effective remedy before an independent and impartial tribunal and within a reasonable time.

Would the Commission state whether the legislation in question law hinders access to justice within a reasonable time and, consequently, is contrary to Community law?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(8 March 2012)

The Commission would like to inform the Honourable Member that the Charter of the Fundamental Rights of the European Union, according to its Article 51, is addressed to the Member States only when they are implementing Union law. Under Article 47(1) of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, everyone whose rights and freedoms guaranteed by the law of the European Union are violated has the right to an effective remedy before a tribunal in order to review that violation. Because that remedy is intended to clarify whether rights or freedoms actually guaranteed by the law of the European Union are violated, this right to an effective remedy arises from the time that an arguable complaint relating to the infringement is made. In the situation referred to by the Honourable Member, there is no indication that a right or freedom actually guaranteed by the law of the European Union was at stake in the domestic proceedings. Moreover, Union law ([1]) ensures that the judgments issued in one Member State, upon meeting prescribed conditions, can be enforced in another Member State, according to the law of the latter.

In conclusion it has to be said, that the situation described in the question does not allow to infer that the Charter of Fundamental Rights nor European Union law has been infringed. It may however be assessed in the context of European Convention of Human Rights by the appropriate international institution, i.e. the European Court of Human Rights once all domestic remedies have been exhausted.

([1]) Regulation (EC) 44/2001 on jurisdiction, and the recognition and enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters; Regulation (EC) 805/2004 on the European Enforcement Order for uncontested claims; Regulation (EC) 1896/2006 creating a European Order for Payment procedure; Regulation (EC) 861/2007establishing a European Small Claims Procedure.

(Dansk udgave)

Forespørgsel til skriftlig besvarelse E-000309/12
til Kommissionen
Morten Messerschmidt (EFD)
(19. januar 2012)

Om: Sikkerhedsprojektet INDECT

Vil Kommissionen orientere om INDECT-sikkerhedsprojektet generelt og herunder besvare følgende spørgsmål:

1. Hvad er formålet med INDECT?

2. Hvilken rolle spiller eller har Kommissionen spillet i udviklingen af INDECT?

3. Hvilke personer og myndigheder, i EU såvel som nationalt, er involveret i INDECT?

4. Hvor længe har udviklingen af INDECT stået på, og hvor længe forventes det atfortsætte?

5. Hvor langt er udviklingen af INDECT fremskredet til dato?

6. Hvad har INDECT kostet indtil nu, og hvad forventes de samlede omkostninger at blive?

7. Kan Kommissionen bekræfte, at det tyske Bundeskriminalamt (BKA) har afvist INDECT på grund af den »totale overvågning«, der ligger i systemet?

Svar afgivet på Kommissionens vegne af Antonio Tajani
(20. februar 2012)

For så vidt angår spørgsmål 1 til 4 vil Kommissionen gerne henvise det ærede medlem til sine svar på skriftlige forespørgsler E-6084/09, E-3190/10 og E-3191/10 fra Alexander Alvaro, E-1004/10, E-6842/10, E-6912/10 og E-7521/10 fra Martin Ehrenhauser, E-1332/10 fra Franz Obermayr, E-1385/10 fra Andreas Mölzer, E-2186/10 fra Syed Kamall og E-4739/10 fra Jim Higgins, der alle vedrører INDECT-projektet ([1]).

For så vidt angår spørgsmål 5 og 6 vil Kommissionen gerne oplyse det ærede medlem om, at INDECT-forskningsprojektet netop er nået halvvejs. Yderligere oplysninger kan findes på projektets netsted ([2]). Det maksimale EU-bidrag til projektet udgør 10,9 mio. EUR, hvoraf 6 mio. EUR hidtil er blevet overført til konsortiet.

For så vidt angår det ærede medlems sidste spørgsmål vedrørende Forbundsrepublikken Tysklands kriminalpoliti (BKA) kan Kommissionen bekræfte, at BKA ikke er en del af INDECT-konsortiet. Kommissionen er imidlertid ikke klar over grundene til, at BKA ikke er medlem af konsortiet. Det spørgsmål bør rettes direkte til BKA.

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB
([2]) http://www.indect-project.eu

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000309/12
to the Commission
Morten Messerschmidt (EFD)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: The INDECT security project

Would the Commission explain the INDECT project in general and answer the following questions:

1. What is the purpose of INDECT?

2. What role does the Commission play, or has it played, in the development of INDECT?

3. What persons and authorities, in the EU as well as at national level, are involved in INDECT?

4. How long has the development of INDECT been under way, and how long is it expected to continue?

5. How far has the development of INDECT progressed up to the present date?

6. What has INDECT cost up to now and what are the expected total costs?

7. Can the Commission confirm whether the German Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA) has rejected INDECT because of the 'total surveillance' inherent in the system?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(20 February 2012)

With regard to questions 1 to 4, the Commission would like to refer the Honourable Member to its answers given to written questions E-6084/09, E-3190/10 and E-3191/10 by Mr Alexander Alvaro, E-1004/10, E-6842/10, E-6912/10 and E-7521/10 by Mr Martin Ehrenhauser, E-1332/10 by Herr Franz Obermayr, E-1385/10 by Mr Andreas Mölzer, E-2186/10 by Mr Syed Kamall, and E-4739/10 by Mr Jim Higgins, all relating to the INDECT project ([1]).

As to questions 5 and 6, the Commission would like to inform the Honourable Member that the INDECT research project has just reached its mid-term. More information can be found on the project's website ([2]). The maximum EU contribution for the project is EUR 10.9 million, of which EUR 6 million has been transferred to the consortium so far.

As to the Honourable Member's last question regarding the German Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA), the Commission can confirm that the BKA is not part of the INDECT consortium. The Commission is, however, not aware of the reasons why the BKA is not a member of the consortium. The question should be put directly to the BKA.

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB
([2]) http://www.indect-project.eu

(Dansk udgave)

Forespørgsel til skriftlig besvarelse E-000310/12
til Kommissionen
Morten Messerschmidt (EFD)
(19. januar 2012)

Om: Den danske krone og bindingen til euroen

Som det er velkendt for Kommissionen, har Danmark et af de højeste pris- og lønniveauer i EU, hvilket har medvirket til et meget betydeligt tab af danske arbejdspladser. Der er således direkte tale om, at danske virksomheder flytter både investeringer og ordrearbejde ud af Danmark for at kunne konkurrere. Det vil samtidig være kendt for Kommissionen, at Danmarks statslige budgetunderskud overstiger EU's anbefalinger, til trods for at Danmark har EU's højeste skattetryk.

Det må i denne forbindelse bemærkes, at den danske krone er bundet til euroen i et bånd på +/- 2,25 pct. Den danske krone er således en meget stærk valuta, hvilket er medvirkende til svækkelsen af Danmarks konkurrenceevne.

Det er bemærkelsesværdigt, at den svenske krone ligger på en kurs, der i øjeblikket er ca. 86 pct. af den danske krones. Svensk økonomi er afgørende stærkere end Danmarks, og den svenske krone er som bekendt flydende. Hvis Danmark valgte at lade kronen flyde, måtte det forventes at dens kurs ville tilnærme sig den svenske krones eller endog blive lavere, hvilket ville udligne Danmarks konkurrencemæssige underskud.

Vil Kommissionen oplyse, hvad den mener ville være følgen af, at Danmark opsagde bindingen til euroen, herunder hvilke forholdsregler af finanspolitisk art Kommissionen mener, at Danmark skulle træffe i den forbindelse?

Svar afgivet på Kommissionens vegne af Olli Rehn
(16. februar 2012)

Efter folkeafstemnigen i 1992 forhandlede Danmark sig frem til fire forbehold til Maastrichttraktaten, heriblandt deltagelse i Den Økonomiske og Monetære Union (ØMU). Efter den egentlige indførelse af euroen i 1999 gik Danmark med i det europæiske valutasamarbejde (ERM II) for at sikre, at kurssvingninger mellem euroen og de andre europæiske valutaer ikke ville påvirke den økonomiske stabilitet på det indre marked. Hovedelementet i den økonomiske politik, der føres af Danmarks Nationalbank, har siden været at opretholde en fastkurspolitik overfor euroen omkring centralkursen på 7,46038 EUR/DKK og inden for et snævert udsvingsbånd på 2,25 %.

Angående spørgsmålet om de mulige følger ved at opsige samarbejdet i ERM II, vil Kommissionen ikke spekulere i en fremtidig udvikling i valutakursen, der kunne være resultatet af rent hypotetiske politiske beslutninger.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000310/12
to the Commission
Morten Messerschmidt (EFD)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: The Danish krone and links to the euro

As the Commission knows, Denmark has some of the highest prices and salaries in the EU and this has contributed to a very significant loss of Danish jobs. This is a simple matter of Danish companies moving both investments and order work away from Denmark in order to be able to compete. At the same time the Commission will be aware that Denmark's national budget deficit exceeds EU recommendations, despite Denmark having the EU's highest tax burden.

In this connection it should be noted that the Danish krone is linked to the euro, fluctuating within a 2.25 % range. The Danish krone is thus a very strong currency and this contributes to the weakening of Denmark's competitiveness.

It is worth noting that the Swedish krona is at a rate that is currently approximately 86 % of the Danish krone. The Swedish economy is distinctly stronger than Denmark's, and the Swedish krona is, we know, a floating currency. If Denmark chose to allow the krone to fluctuate, it might be expected that its rate would approach that of the Swedish krona or fall below it, which would smooth out Denmark's competitive disadvantage.

Can the Commission say what it thinks would be the result of Denmark renouncing the link to the euro and what financial policy measures the Commission thinks Denmark would have to take in this case?

Answer given by Mr Rehn on behalf of the Commission
(16 February 2012)

Following the 1992 referendum, Denmark negotiated four opt-outs from the Maastricht Treaty, including participation in monetary and economic union (EMU). With the introduction of the euro in its virtual form in 1999 the Danish krone joined the Exchange Rate Mechanism (ERM II) to ensure that exchange rate fluctuations between the euro and other EU currencies do not disrupt economic stability within the single market. The central element of Danmarks Nationalbank's monetary policy has since been maintaining the fixed-exchange-rate policy vis-à-vis the euro around the central rate of 7.46038 EUR/DKK and within narrow fluctuation bands of 2.25 %.

Regarding the question on possible effects of abandoning ERM II, the Commission does not speculate on future exchange-rate developments that could result of hypothetical political decisions.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-000311/12
προς την Επιτροπή
Michail Tremopoulos (Verts/ALE)
(19 Ιανουαρίου 2012)

Θέμα: Η νομοθεσία της Βραζιλίας ανοίγει το δρόμο για την εντατικοποίηση της αποψίλωσης των δασών του Αμαζονίου

Η Γερουσία της Βραζιλίας μόλις ψήφισε ένα νομοσχέδιο το οποίο οδηγεί σε μεγαλύτερη καταστροφή του τροπικού δάσους του Αμαζονίου. Σύμφωνα με το BBC ([1]), αυτή η νέα νομοθεσία ανοίγει το δρόμο για την εντατικοποίηση της αποψίλωσης των δασών του Αμαζονίου, καθώς μειώνει τη δασική έκταση που πρέπει να προστατεύουν οι καλλιεργητές.

Σύμφωνα με το Παγκόσμιο Ταμείο για τη Φύση (WWF) ([2]), ο νόμος θα ισχύσει αναδρομικά για παράνομες αποψιλώσεις που διενεργήθηκαν πριν από το 2008. Εκτάσεις οι οποίες πρωτύτερα φυλάσσονταν ως υπερβολικά απόκρημνες ή ζωτικές για την προστασία των λεκανών απορροής και των υδάτινων οδών περιλαμβάνονται σε εκείνες που στην παρούσα φάση βρίσκονται υπό την απειλή καταστροφής. Και ενώ, σύμφωνα με έρευνες, το ποσοστό αποψίλωσης των τροπικών δασών του Αμαζονίου βαίνει μειούμενο, αυτό το νέο σχέδιο νόμου έρχεται να αναιρέσει όλη την πρόοδο που έχει σημειωθεί κατά τα τελευταία χρόνια.

Παρόλο που η αποψίλωση δασικών εκτάσεων για τη δημιουργία βοσκότοπων για βοοειδή εξακολουθεί να αποτελεί την πρώτη αιτία μεταποίησης δασών, η μηχανοποιημένη καλλιέργεια σόγιας στις συνοριακές πολιτείες Παρά και Μάτο Γκρόσο κερδίζει ολοένα και περισσότερο έδαφος. Η ανάπτυξη στην περιοχή έχει προωθηθεί τόσο λόγω οικονομικών κινήτρων όσο και χάρη στο «Σχέδιο για την επιτάχυνση της ανάπτυξης» (PAC) της Βραζιλίας. Βάσει του σχεδίου PAC, θα αξιοποιηθούν μεγάλες δασικές εκτάσεις του Αμαζονίου, γεγονός που θα έχει ως αποτέλεσμα τη βελτίωση της βιωσιμότητας της παραγωγής σόγιας, φοινικέλαιου, ξυλείας και βοδινού κρέατος σε περιοχές που ήταν απομονωμένες κατά το παρελθόν. Οι λόγοι εκχέρσωσης δασικών εκτάσεων του Αμαζονίου είναι επιτακτικοί: φθηνή γη και εκρηκτική ζήτηση για αγαθά ως απάντηση στην ταχέως αναπτυσσόμενη Κίνα και στο αυξανόμενο ενδιαφέρον για βιοκαύσιμα. Οι παράγοντες αυτοί έχουν συνδράμει στην ανάδειξη της Βραζιλίας ως γεωργικής υπερδύναμης σε διάστημα μικρότερο από μία γενιά. Οι ιδιοκτήτες δασικών εκτάσεων του Αμαζονίου διαπιστώνουν ότι η αξία των δασικών τους εκτάσεων διπλασιάζεται κάθε τέσσερα με πέντε χρόνια σε περιοχές οι οποίες μόλις πριν από μία δεκαετία αποτελούσαν παρθένα τροπικά δάση ([3]).

Τι σκοπεύει να πράξει η Επιτροπή προκειμένου να δείξει στις αρχές της Βραζιλίας τη σημασία που πρέπει να δοθεί στο θέμα της προστασίας των τροπικών δασών του Αμαζονίου, ως ευθύνη σε παγκόσμιο επίπεδο; Με ποιο τρόπο θα μπορούσε η Επιτροπή να ασκήσει πίεση ώστε να πείσει τους νομοθέτες της Βραζιλίας ότι το εν λόγω νομοσχέδιο δεν θα πρέπει να ψηφιστεί;

Απάντηση της κας Hedegaard εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(21 Φεβρουαρίου 2012)

Η Επιτροπή είναι ενήμερη σχετικά με την προταθείσα αναθεώρηση του δασικού κώδικα της Βραζιλίας, που ψηφίστηκε στη γερουσία της Βραζιλίας και θα εξεταστεί πλέον από το κοινοβούλιο. Η Επιτροπή παρατηρεί με ανησυχία κάθε τροποποίηση του δασικού κώδικα της Βραζιλίας με την οποία θα ήταν δυνατό να αποδυναμωθεί το ισχύον σύστημα υποχρεωτικής διατήρησης δασών.

Η ΕΕ και η Βραζιλία πραγματοποιούν τακτικές συναντήσεις για διάλογο επί θεμάτων πολιτικής όσον αφορά περιβαλλοντικά θέματα και την κλιματική αλλαγή. Τα δασικά θέματα περιλαμβάνονται στο θεματολόγιο των διμερών συζητήσεων ΕΕ-Βραζιλίας και σε τεχνικές ανταλλαγές σε επίπεδο ειδικών. Κατά την πορεία του πρόσφατου διαλόγου που πραγματοποιήθηκε το 2011, η Επιτροπή εξέφρασε ανησυχίες σχετικά με τις ενδεχόμενες συνέπειες ορισμένων από τις προτεινόμενες τροποποιήσεις του δασικού κώδικα. Επί του παρόντος διεξάγεται ζωηρή συζήτηση για αυτό το θέμα στη Βραζιλία, ενδεικτική των δυσκολιών συγκερασμού των ανταγωνιζόμενων συμφερόντων.

Η Επιτροπή θα εξακολουθήσει να παρακολουθεί προσεκτικά την κατάσταση.

([1]) http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-16065069
([2]) http://wwf.panda.org/?uNewsID=202721
([3]) http://news.mongabay.com/2008/0801-amazon.html

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000311/12
to the Commission
Michail Tremopoulos (Verts/ALE)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Brazilian legislation permits increases in Amazon deforestation

The Brazilian Senate has just passed a bill that allows more destruction of the Amazon Rainforest. According to the BBC ([1]), this new legislation would allow more deforestation because it would reduce the amount of rainforest that farmers are required to preserve.

According to the WWF ([2]), amnesties will be extended to illegal deforestation conducted prior to 2008. Areas formerly held to be too steep or vital to the protection of watersheds and watercourses are among those now open to destruction. While there is research that indicates that deforestation of the Amazon Rainforest is declining, this new bill would undo all the progress that has been made in recent years.

Although clearing for cattle pasture continues to be the largest cause of forest conversion, mechanised soy agriculture in the frontier states of Pará and Mato Grosso is also becoming increasingly important. Expansion in the region has been promoted both by financial incentives and Brazil's 'Programme for the Acceleration of Growth' (PAC). Under the PAC, large areas of the Amazon are opened up to development, improving the viability of soy, oil palm, logging and beef production in once remote areas. The reasons for land-clearing in the Amazon are compelling: cheap land and booming demand for commodities driven by a surging China and a growing interest in biofuels. These factors have helped Brazil become an agricultural superpower in less than a generation. Amazon landowners have seen their land values double every four to five years in areas that just a decade ago were pristine rainforests ([3]).

What is the Commission willing to do in order to show the Brazilian authorities the importance that should be placed on the protection of the Amazon Rainforest, as a global responsibility? How could the Commission bring pressure to bear in order to convince Brazilian legislators that this bill should not be passed?

Answer given by Ms Hedegaard on behalf of the Commission
(21 February 2012)

The Commission is aware of the proposed revision of Brazil's Forest Code, which was voted in the Brazilian Senate and will now be examined by Parliament. The Commission views with concern any modification of Brazil's Forest Code that would weaken the current system of compulsory forest conservation.

The EU and Brazil hold regular policy dialogue meetings on environmental issues and on climate change. Forestry issues feature in the agenda of EU-Brazil bilateral discussions and in technical exchanges at expert level. In the course of the last dialogue which took place in 2011 the Commission has raised concerns about possible implications of some of the proposed amendments to the Forest Code. There is currently a lively debate on this issue in Brazil, which shows that a difficult balance has to be drawn between competing interests.

The Commission will continue to follow the situation carefully.

([1]) http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-16065069
([2]) http://wwf.panda.org/?uNewsID=202721
([3]) http://news.mongabay.com/2008/0801-amazon.html

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-000315/12
à la Commission
Gaston Franco (PPE)
(19 janvier 2012)

Objet: Les soldes dans l'Union européenne

En période de crise économique, les soldes dans les États membres et les pays voisins de l'Union européenne rencontrent un fort intérêt commercial, aussi bien de la part des consommateurs que des commerçants. Pour les consommateurs, les soldes permettent de faire des économies ou d'accéder à des biens trop onéreux en période classique. Les comportements commerciaux ont fortement évolué ces dernières années avec l'avènement d'internet, l'élargissement et l'intégration européenne. La législation sur la protection des consommateurs a été renforcée dans les États membres, particulièrement en matière d'achat transfrontalier (2011/83/UE) et par internet, mais l'information adressée au grand public est encore insuffisante.

Pour les commerçants, la période des soldes est l'occasion de vendre plus facilement le stock restant en fin de saison. Le volume de ce stock est de plus en plus variable chaque année, compte tenu du contexte économique, mais dépend également des aléas climatiques. Aujourd'hui, les États membres fixent librement les périodes de soldes sur leur territoire, entraînant une concurrence accrue entre territoires voisins. Cette situation crée un environnement économique faussé entre commerçants frontaliers, puisque le début des périodes de soldes peut varier d'une année sur l'autre (avec des écarts de quelques jours à plusieurs semaines).

1. La Commission a-t-elle l'intention de lancer une campagne d'information en vue de promouvoir le droit des consommateurs, en particulier pour les acheteurs transfrontaliers et pour le commerce en ligne?

2. La Commission envisage-t-elle de mettre en place une période réservée aux soldes au niveau communautaire en tenant compte éventuellement des spécificités locales (région possédant des frontières avec des pays tiers ou soumises à une forte saisonnalité)?

Réponse donnée par Mme Reding au nom de la Commission
(27 février 2012)

1. La Commission considère comme essentiel d'informer et d'éduquer efficacement les consommateurs pour les rendre forts et confiants. La future stratégie de protection des consommateurs abordera expressément la question de leur information. En ce qui concerne les achats sur internet, la Commission a, dès 2009, publié le «eYouGuide» sur les droits en ligne des consommateurs, et travaille actuellement à l'élaboration d'un «code» résumant en termes clairs les droits essentiels dont les citoyens européens bénéficient dans un environnement en ligne. La communication relative au commerce électronique énonce elle aussi des mesures destinées à améliorer le contenu des informations en ligne et la protection des consommateurs.

Dans tous les pays ayant adhéré à l'UE depuis l'année 2004, la Commission a mené des campagnes d'information sur les droits des consommateurs ou en prépare actuellement le lancement.

Pour ce qui est des achats transfrontières, le site internet «L'Europe est à vous», le service «L'Europe vous conseille» et le réseau des centres européens des consommateurs fournissent des informations. Sur leur site internet respectif, la direction générale de la santé et des consommateurs et celle de la justice informent également les consommateurs de leurs droits.

2. Actuellement la Commission n'envisage pas de réglementer à l'échelle de l'UE la période des soldes dans les États membres.

Elle n'ignore pas, cependant, que les dispositions légales en la matière diffèrent d'un État membre à l'autre. La question des périodes de soldes a été évoquée dans le rapport établi au titre de l'exercice de surveillance du marché du commerce et de la distribution, adopté au mois de juillet 2010. Aucune recommandation sur la politique à mener n'a cependant été formulée à cet égard.

Les instruments législatifs de l'Union en matière de protection des consommateurs ne réglementent pas les périodes pendant lesquelles les soldes sont autorisés ou restreints. En revanche, les dispositions de la directive 2005/29/CE relative aux pratiques commerciales déloyales protègent expressément les consommateurs contre les informations trompeuses et les pratiques commerciales déloyales durant les soldes (par exemple, des indications trompeuses ou incomplètes concernant une réduction).

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000315/12
to the Commission
Gaston Franco (PPE)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Sales in the European Union

In a period of economic crisis, sales in Member States and countries bordering the European Union are very popular with consumers and traders alike. Consumers can make savings or purchase goods that would otherwise be too expensive. Commercial practices have changed massively in recent years following the advent of the Internet, enlargements and European integration. Legislation on the protection of consumers has been strengthened in Member States, particularly as regards cross-border purchases (2011/83/EU) and Internet purchases, but the information available to the general public is still inadequate.

For traders, sales offer an opportunity to sell remaining stock more easily at the end of the season. The volumes involved vary increasingly each year, according to the economic situation, but also depend on weather conditions. Currently Member States are free to fix sales periods on their territory, resulting in heightened competition between neighbouring areas. Equally, this situation distorts competition between cross-border traders, since the start of the sales can vary from year to year (with differences of between several days and several weeks).

1. Does the Commission intend to launch an information campaign in order to promote the rights of consumers, in particular as regards cross-border and online purchases?

2. Is the Commission planning to set aside a period for sales at Community level, taking account of any specific local features (region bordering countries outside the European Union or with a strongly seasonal economy)?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(27 February 2012)

1. The Commission considers that informing and educating consumers in an effective way is essential to make them feel empowered and confident. The upcoming Consumer Agenda will specifically address the issue of consumer information. As regards online purchases, already in 2009 the Commission issued the 'eYouGuide', and is currently working on a 'Code' summarising in clear terms the key rights enjoyed by European citizens online. The e-commerce Communication also includes actions to improve online information and consumer protection.

Information campaigns about consumer rights have been undertaken by the Commission, or are in preparation, in all countries that joined the EU since 2004.

For cross-border purchases 'Your Europe', 'Your Europe Advice' and the Network of European Consumer Centres provide information. Additionally, the Directorates-General for Health and Consumers and Justice inform consumers on their rights on their web pages.

2. The Commission does currently not have any plans to regulate at EU level the period under which sales are allowed in the Member States.

However, the Commission is well aware of the existence of diverging legal rules across different Member States. The issue of sales periods was raised in the Retail Market Monitoring Report adopted in July 2010. Nevertheless, no policy recommendations were made in this respect.

EU consumer protection laws do not regulate periods during which sales are allowed or restricted. However, consumers are specifically protected against misleading information and unfair commercial practices occurring during the sales (misleading or incomplete information on the discount for example) by the provisions of Directive 2005/29/EC on Unfair Commercial Practices.

(Nederlandse versie)

Vraag met verzoek om schriftelijk antwoord E-000316/12
aan de Commissie
Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (ALDE)
(19 januari 2012)

Betreft: Kaderrichtlijn Water: Afbouw kostenterugwinning voor waterdiensten in Nederland

Zoals blijkt uit berichtgeving van de Commissie worden diverse lidstaten momenteel aangesproken op onjuiste implementatie van artikel 9 van de Kaderrichtlijn Water (KRW). Het gaat daarbij om de terugwinning van de kosten voor waterdiensten. De door Nederland aan de Commissie verstrekte gegevens suggereren dat kosten voor grondwaterbeheer vrijwel volledig worden teruggewonnen. Dit is inmiddels niet meer het geval. Door de intrekking van de nationale belasting op grondwater (179 miljoen euro/jr) zal dit terugwinningpercentage in 2012 terugvallen van 95 % naar ongeveer 7 %. In 2013 wordt ook de belasting op leidingwater (126 miljoen euro/jr) ingetrokken.

Is het correct dat het onderzoek naar de Nederlandse implementatie van art. 9 van de Kaderrichtlijn Water zich niet richt op kostenterugwinning van de waterdiensten grondwaterwinning en productie en levering van water?

Is de Commissie ervan op de hoogte dat Nederland recent de belastingen op grond- en leidingwater heeft ingetrokken en dat dit ingaat per 1 januari 2012 resp. 1 januari 2013?

Is de Commissie bereid het intrekken van deze belastingen alsnog te betrekken in het onderzoek dat tegen Nederland loopt inzake de uitvoering van artikel 9?

Is de Commissie ervan op de hoogte dat het hierbij gaat om bedragen die qua orde van grootte vergelijkbaar zijn met de bezuinigingen van Nederland op de ingediende maatregelenprogramma's 2010-2015?

Hoe ziet de Commissie de Nederlandse bezuinigingen in deze context?

Welke stappen zal de Commissie ondernemen indien blijkt dat Nederland waterdiensten onvoldoende terugwint en tegelijkertijd bezuinigt op maatregelen die al zijn neergelegd in stroomgebiedbeheerplannen met het argument dat er onvoldoende financiën zijn?

Neemt de Commissie in acht dat veel watermaatregelen van de KRW ook noodzakelijk zijn voor het voldoen aan verplichtingen op grond van de Vogel- en Habitatrichtlijnen?

Op welke wijze betrekt de Commissie dit in haar oordeel over verzoeken van Nederland over uitstel van watermaatregelen, in het bijzonder die een relatie hebben met register beschermde gebieden?

Welke actie zal de Commissie ondernemen indien uitstel van KRW-maatregelen leidt tot achteruitgang van de staat van instandhouding van de soorten en habitats van de Habitat en Vogelrichtlijnen?

Antwoord van de heer Potočnik namens de Commissie
(12 maart 2012)

Op 27 oktober 2011 heeft de Commissie een aanvullend aanmaningsschrijven verstuurd in zaak 2006/4644 over de interpretatie van waterdiensten uit hoofde van artikel 9 van de kaderrichtlijn Water (KRW). Hierin betoogt de Commissie onder meer dat onttrekking van (grond)water moet worden beschouwd als een waterdienst waarop in de regel kostenterugwinning van toepassing is.

Voorts is de Commissie bezig met de beoordeling van Nederlandse stroomgebiedbeheersplannen (SGBP). Hierbij wordt gekeken naar kostenterugwinningsmaatregelen in verband met de gevolgen van door de mens veroorzaakte pressiefactoren en, indien relevant, naar vraagstukken in verband met de vogelrichtlijn ([1]) en de habitatrichtlijn ([2]). Tevens wordt nagegaan of voldaan wordt aan de voorwaarden om uitstel te krijgen voor het bereiken van de doelstellingen (art. 4, lid 4, KRW).

Wijzigingen in het belastingstelsel kunnen in dit verband vanzelfsprekend van belang zijn. In dit stadium van de beoordeling kan de Commissie echter geen commentaar geven over de specifieke, door het geachte Parlementslid genoemde belastingverlagingen.

([1]) Richtlijn 2009/147/EG inzake het behoud van de vogelstand, PB L 20 van 26.1.2010.
([2]) Richtlijn 92/43/EEG inzake de instandhouding van de natuurlijke habitats en de wilde flora en fauna, PB L 206 van 22.7.1992.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000316/12
to the Commission
Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy (ALDE)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Water Framework Directive: Phasing out of cost recovery for water services in the Netherlands

As appears from reports by the Commission, various Member States are currently being called to account for the incorrect implementation of Art. 9 of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). It concerns the recovery of costs for water services. According to the data provided to the Commission by the Netherlands, the cost of groundwater management is almost fully recovered. This is no longer the case. Following the abolition of the national tax on groundwater (EUR 179 million/year) the recovery percentage will fall in 2012 from 95 % to approximately 7 %. In 2013, the tax on tap water (EUR 126 million/year) will also be abolished.

Is it correct that the investigation into the implementation by the Netherlands of Art. 9 of the Water Framework Direction does not focus on the recovery of the cost of the water services groundwater extraction and production and supply of water?

Is the Commission aware that the Netherlands has recently abolished the taxes on groundwater and tap water with effect from 1 January 2012 and 1 January 2013 respectively?

Is the Commission prepared to consider the abolition of these taxes in the context of the investigation underway against the Netherlands regarding compliance with Art. 9?

Is the Commission aware that the sums in question are comparable in size to the Dutch government's spending cuts set out in the submitted programme of action for 2010-2015?

How does the Commission regard the Dutch government's spending cuts in this context?

Which steps will the Commission take if it emerges that the Netherlands does not recover sufficiently the cost of water services while, at the same time, economising on measures already included in the river basin management plans, arguing that there is not enough money?

Does the Commission take into consideration that many of the water measures provided for by the WFD are also necessary in order to comply with obligations under the Wild Birds and Habitats Directives?

What role does this play in the Commission's consideration of Dutch requests for postponement of water measures, in particular those relating to the Register of Protected Sites?

Which action will the Commission take if the postponement of WFD measures results in a deterioration in the conservation status of species and habitats covered by the Wild Birds and Habitats Directives?

Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(12 March 2012)

On 27 October 2011 the Commission issued an additional letter of formal notice in Case 2006/4644 on the interpretation of water services under Article 9 of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). In this letter the Commission argued, *inter alia*, that abstraction of (ground) water qualifies as a water service for which, as a general rule, cost recovery should be applied.

Moreover, the Commission is in the process of assessing the Dutch river basin management plans (RBMP). Such assessment includes the cost recovery measures in relation to the impact of man made pressures and issues related to the Birds ([1]) and Habitats Directives ([2]) when relevant. It also includes an assessment of whether the conditions for delaying the attainment of the objectives are met (Article 4(4) WFD).

Changes to the taxation system can of course be relevant in this respect. However, at this stage of the assessment, the Commission cannot comment on the specific tax cuts mentioned by the Honourable Member.

([1]) Directive2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds, OJ L 20, 26.1.2010.
([2]) Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206, 22.7.1992.

(Nederlandse versie)

Vraag met verzoek om schriftelijk antwoord E-000317/12
aan de Commissie
Judith Sargentini (Verts/ALE)
(19 januari 2012)

Betreft: Noodhulp voor vrouwen en meisjes na de aardbeving in Haïti

In navolging van mijn schriftelijke vraag van 16 april 2011 (E-0680/2010) vraag ik opnieuw naar de mate van bescherming van meisjes binnen de noodhulp voor Haïti. Deze week is het twee jaar geleden dat de verwoestende aardbeving op Haïti plaatsvond. Vanuit de hele wereld stroomden hulporganisaties toe voor noodhulp en andere landen beloofden miljarden voor de wederopbouw. De EU stelde 130 miljoen euro beschikbaar. Oxfam Novib onderzocht hoe de wederopbouw verloopt ([1]), het blijkt nu dat van de bijna een miljoen mensen die dakloos werden, er nog 519 000 in tenten en onder dekzeilen wonen. De media in Nederland besteden aandacht aan de weerloosheid van meisjes in de tentenkampen. Een groot aantal jonge meisjes raakte zwanger door verkrachting. Ze kunnen zichzelf niet beschermen, zelfs douchen moet in het openbaar ([2]).

1. Mevrouw Georgieva gaf aan dat de pil en de „morning-afterpil" niet tot het noodhulppakket behoren, omdat ze niet worden beschouwd als noodzakelijke behoeften waarin lopende humanitaire hulp moet voorzien. De EC vond dat meer moest worden gedaan om seksueel geweld in Haïti tegen te gaan. Op welke manier heeft de Commissie erop toegezien dat de kwetsbare groepen, in het bijzonder vrouwen en kinderen, speciale aandacht krijgen bij het opzetten van humanitaire hulp?

2. Nog altijd wonen 519 000 mensen in tentenkampen. Op welke manier gaat de Commissie de komende tijd toezien op de bescherming van meisjes en vrouwen in de wederopbouw van Haïti?

3. Hebben de uitvoerende partners van de Commissie de relevante plaatselijke verenigingen zoals vrouwenorganisaties betrokken bij de hulpverlening aan meisjes en vrouwen ter plaatse? En heeft dat tot betere bescherming in de tentenkampen geleid?

4. Kan de Commissie aangeven hoe zij de in 2008 vastgestelde richtsnoeren inzake geweld tegen vrouwen en de bestrijding van alle vormen van discriminatie van vrouwen zal toepassen in haar activiteiten op Haïti bij de wederopbouw?

Antwoord van mevrouw Georgieva namens de Commissie
(13 maart 2012)

In het kader van de noodhulp na de aardbeving verstrekte de EU onder meer middelen voor de preventieve, medische en psychologische behandeling van slachtoffers van seksueel geweld. De EU ondersteunt lokale organisaties die eenvoudige maar efficiënte maatregelen hebben genomen om de bescherming in de kampen te verbeteren. Daarbij gaat het om projecten rond vrouwenrechten, het integreren van bescherming in alle aspecten van het beheer van de opvang, het verbeteren van de verlichting van openbare plaatsen en latrines, het plaatsen van afgesloten latrines en het inrichten van aparte wasgelegenheden, enz. Om seksueel geweld op Haïti echter breder en duurzamer aan te pakken, zijn acties op langere termijn nodig die verder gaan dan humanitaire noodmaatregelen.

De EU is ook actief in het terugdringen van geweld tegen vrouwen via twee projecten die door het Europees instrument voor democratie en mensenrechten worden gefinancierd. Het eerste project bevordert de rechten van de vrouw, in het bijzonder in de hoofdstad, het tweede pakt geweld tegen kinderen in Noordoost-Haïti aan.

Met deze acties heeft de EU ertoe bijgedragen dat gendervraagstukken hoog op de politieke agenda bleven staan en dat wetgeving op het gebied van vrouwenrechten is vastgesteld door het Haïtiaanse parlement. De Commissie blijft zich volledig inzetten om ervoor te zorgen dat de EU-richtsnoeren inzake geweld tegen vrouwen en meisjes worden toegepast bij de wederopbouwactiviteiten op Haïti.

([1]) http://www.oxfamnovib.nl/wederopbouw-Hati-met-slakkengang.html
([2]) http://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2012/01/07/verkracht-met-kind-en-zonder-toekomst/

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000317/12
to the Commission
Judith Sargentini (Verts/ALE)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Emergency aid for women and girls after the earthquake in Haiti

Following my written question of 16 April 2011 (E-0680/2010), I am asking once more about the extent of protection for girls provided within the emergency aid for Haiti. This week it is the second anniversary of the devastating earthquake on Haiti. Aid organisations poured in from all over the world to provide emergency aid, and other countries pledged billions for reconstruction. The EU allotted EUR 130 million. Oxfam Novib has examined the progress of the reconstruction ([1]). The media in the Netherlands are highlighting the defencelessness of girls in tent camps. A large number of young girls have become pregnant after being raped. They cannot defend themselves. They even have to shower in public ([2]).

1. Mrs Georgieva pointed out that the pill and the 'morning-after pill' are not part of the emergency aid package because they are not regarded as the first necessities which the ongoing humanitarian aid must provide. The Commission considered that more had to be done to combat sexual violence in Haiti. What has the Commission done to ensure that the vulnerable groups, in particular women and children, receive special attention in the context of humanitarian aid?

2. In Haiti, 519 000 people are still living in camps. How will the Commission ensure in the future the protection of girls and women during the reconstruction of Haiti?

3. Have the Commission's executive partners involved the relevant local groups, such as women's organisations, in providing help to girls and women on the spot? And has it resulted in better protection in the camps?

4. Can the Commission explain how it will apply the guidelines, adopted in 2008, on violence against women and combating of all forms of discrimination against women with regard to its reconstruction activities on Haiti?

Answer given by Ms Georgieva on behalf of the Commission:
(13 March 2012)

In its emergency response to the earthquake, EU funding has included measures to ensure preventive, medical and psychological treatment for victims of sexual violence. The EU support local organisations that have taken simple but efficient measures to enhance protection in the camps. This consists in projects on women's rights, mainstreaming protection in shelter management, promoting the lighting of public areas and latrines, setting up locked latrines and specific bathing areas. etc. However, addressing sexual violence in Haiti in a more comprehensive and sustainable way requires longer-term actions going beyond the scope of humanitarian emergency interventions.

The EU is also active in policies aimed at reducing violence against women through two projects funded by the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights. The first one promotes women's rights in particular in the capital and the other addresses violence against children in North-East Haiti.

Thanks to these actions, the EU has contributed to maintain the gender issue high on the political agenda and to the adoption of legal instruments by the Haitian parliament in the field of women's rights. The Commission remains fully committed to pursuing its efforts for the implementation of the EU guidelines on violence against women and girls in the reconstruction activities in Haiti.

([1]) http://www.oxfamnovib.nl/wederopbouw-Haiti-met-slakkengang.html
([2]) http://www.nrc.nl/nieuws/2012/01/07/verkracht-met-kind-en-zonder-toekomst/

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000319/12
alla Commissione
Claudio Morganti (EFD)
(19 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Lotta alle «smart drugs»

Nei giorni scorsi in Italia sono stati individuati e sanzionati numerosi «smart shop», ovvero negozi che distribuiscono vere e proprie sostanze stupefacenti sotto forma di normalissimi profumatori ambientali.

Il fenomeno delle cosiddette «smart drugs» — composti di origine naturale o sintetica non proibiti dalle legislazioni vigenti, ma in realtà dotati di pericolose proprietà psicoattive — sta sempre più prendendo piede in tutta Europa.

Queste sostanze vengono spesso lavorate, miscelate e collocate all'interno di confezioni di profumatori e aromatizzanti in Cina, per poi raggiungere i Paesi europei in diversi modi, tramite la vastissima e incontrollata rete di Internet o attraverso appunto negozi specializzati, i cosiddetti «smart shop». Questi punti vendita sono sovente provvisti anche di distributori automatici all'esterno, il che li rende di facile accesso per chiunque, minori compresi.

1. La Commissione è a conoscenza della proliferazione del commercio e dell'utilizzo di queste sostanze?

2. Quali misure intende adottare per tutelarsi e bloccare l'invasione di questi prodotti, spesso provenienti da Paesi terzi, che possono arrecare gravi danni a chi ne fa uso?

Risposta data da Viviane Reding a nome della Commissione
(9 febbraio 2012)

La Commissione rimanda l'onorevole parlamentare alla risposta fornita all'interrogazione scritta E-010409/2011 ([1]), che spiega come la Commissione intende reagire al problema delle nuove sostanze psicoattive.

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000319/12
to the Commission
Claudio Morganti (EFD)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: The battle against 'smart drugs'

In the last few days in Italy, a large number of 'smart shops' have been identified and subject to punitive measures. These are shops which sell narcotic substances in the guise of ordinary room fresheners.

'Smart drugs', which contain substances of natural or synthetic origin which are not illegal under existing law but have dangerous psychoactive properties, are becoming increasingly widespread throughout Europe.

These substances are often processed, blended and placed inside room fresheners and similar products in China. These reach European countries by various means, including the huge and uncontrolled network which is the Internet and specialised shops, the so-called 'smart shops'. These shops often also have automatic vending machines outside, which make it easy for anyone, including minors, to access their products.

1. Is the Commission aware of the increasing trade in, and use of, the substances in question?

2. What measures does the Commission intend to take to stop the market from being flooded with these products, which often originate from third countries and can cause serious harm to anyone who uses them?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(9 February 2012)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question E-010409/2011 ([1]), which explained the response that the Commission is planning to give to the challenge posed by new psychoactive substances.

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-000320/12
à Comissão
João Ferreira (GUE/NGL)
(19 de Janeiro de 2012)

Assunto: Acordo de Pescas UE-Gabão

As negociações do Acordo de Parceria no domínio das pescas entre a União Europeia e o Gabão foram interrompidas devido ao facto de as autoridades gabonesas não aceitarem a introdução no Protocolo de algumas das cláusulas propostas pela Comissão, nomeadamente as relativas às condições que determinam a suspensão da aplicação do Protocolo. Estas cláusulas existem noutros acordos de pescas celebrados com outros países.

Entre as cláusulas que têm levantado resistências por parte das autoridades gabonesas está a que determina a suspensão do Protocolo «na sequência de alterações significativas das orientações políticas» que conduziram à sua celebração.

Solicito à Comissão que me informe sobre o seguinte:

1. Qual o ponto da situação relativamente às negociações com o Gabão?

2. Qual o ponto da situação relativamente às embarcações europeias que exerciam atividade nas águas gabonesas ao abrigo deste acordo? Quantas eram essas embarcações e de que países?

3. Que iniciativas vai tomar a Comissão?

4. O que considera serem «alterações significativas das orientações políticas» que conduziram à celebração do protocolo?

Resposta dada por Maria Damanaki em nome da Comissão
(1 de Março de 2012)

Após duas rondas de negociações, ficaram por decidir duas questões. A primeira diz respeito à inclusão de uma cláusula sobre direitos humanos no texto do Protocolo, que permite a uma das Partes suspender a aplicação do mesmo, se a situação o exigir. A segunda refere-se às condições que regem o pagamento destinado ao apoio setorial. A posição da UE é de que essa contribuição seja subordinada à realização eficaz dos objetivos e ações acordadas conjuntamente.

A posição da Comissão sobre estas duas questões está em conformidade com as condições expressas do mandato que lhe foi confiado pelo Conselho. Também reflete as orientações da Comunicação da Comissão relativa à dimensão externa da política comum das pescas ([1]).

A Comissão está a envidar esforços no sentido de celebrar um acordo aceitável com o Gabão.

A não renovação do protocolo acarretou, para os navios de pesca da UE, a cessação da atividade da pesca desde 2 de dezembro de 2011, uma vez que a «cláusula de exclusividade» prevista no Acordo de parceria no domínio da pesca (APP) se mantém em vigor. O Protocolo abrange 40 navios (24 cercadores com rede de cerco com retenida e 16 palangreiros). Os Estados-Membros em causa são a Espanha, a França e Portugal.

As «alterações das orientações políticas» são mencionadas em todos os textos dos protocolos dos APP. Abrangem eventuais acontecimentos, tais como alterações das prioridades políticas de ambas as partes que possam afetar significativamente o quadro político no qual assenta a parceria, por exemplo, o encerramento da ZEE ou restrições gerais à atividade de pesca de navios estrangeiros.

([1]) (COM(2011)0424 final).

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000320/12
to the Commission
João Ferreira (GUE/NGL)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: EU-Gabon fishery agreements

The negotiations for the Fisheries Partnership Agreements between the European Union and Gabon have been suspended due to the fact that the Gabonese authorities did not accept the insertion of some of the clauses proposed by the Commission, in particular those on conditions under which the Protocol's application may be suspended. These clauses are found in other fisheries agreements concluded between the EU and third countries.

The clauses that have given rise to objections from the Gabonese authorities include one that provides for the suspension of the Protocol 'following significant changes in the policy guidelines' that led to its conclusion.

The Commission is asked to answer the following:

1. What is the current situation with regard to the negotiations with Gabon?

2. What is the current situation with regard to European vessels undertaking activities in Gabonese waters under this agreement? How many vessels are involved and from which countries are they?

3. What initiatives does the Commission intend taking?

4. What does it consider to be 'significant changes in the policy guidelines' that led to the conclusion of the Protocol?

Answer given by Ms Damanaki on behalf of the Commission
(1 March 2012)

After two rounds, two issues remain to be agreed. The first one is the inclusion of a 'human rights' clause in the text of the Protocol, allowing one of the two Parties to suspend the implementation of the Protocol if the situation so requires. The second concerns the conditions governing the payment earmarked for sectoral support. The EU position is that this contribution must be conditional on the effective implementation of the objectives and actions jointly agreed.

The position taken by the Commission on these two issues comply with the explicit terms of the mandate given by the Council. It also reflects the orientations of the communication on the External Dimension of the common fisheries policy ([1]).

The Commission is making every effort to conclude an acceptable agreement with Gabon.

Non-renewal of the protocol meant for EU vessels the cessation of fishing activity on 2 December 2011, since the 'exclusivity clause' provided for in the Fishery Partnership Agreement (FPA) remains in force. The protocol covered 40 vessels (24 purse seiners and 16 longliners). Member States concerned are Spain, France and Portugal.

'Change of political orientations' are mentioned in all the texts of the Protocols to the FPAs. It covers possible events like changes of political priorities from both Parties which could significantly affect the policy framework on which the partnership was built, such as a closure of the EEZ or general restrictions to the fishing activity for foreign vessels.

([1]) COM(2011) 424 final.

(Wersja polska)

Pytanie wymagające odpowiedzi pisemnej E-000321/12
do Komisji
Zbigniew Ziobro (EFD)
(20 stycznia 2012 r.)

Przedmiot: Wejście w życie przepisów o europejskiej inicjatywie obywatelskiej

1. W ilu państwach członkowskich istnieje już system certyfikacji zbierania podpisów on-line? Jaki jest przewidywany czas przyjęcia stosownych przepisów przez państwa, które jeszcze takiego systemu nie posiadają?

2. Czy istnieje określona forma prawna komitetu obywatelskiego, który organizuje inicjatywę?

3. Jakie istnieją ograniczenia źródeł finansowania takiej inicjatywy?

4. Jakie istnieją wymogi informacyjne, co do finansowania takiej inicjatywy?

Odpowiedź udzielona przez komisarza Maroša Šefčoviča w imieniu Komisji
(17 lutego 2012 r.)

1. Komisja nie została jeszcze formalnie powiadomiona o nazwach i adresach właściwych organów państw członkowskich oraz przepisach krajowych przyjętych przez państwa członkowskie. Wszystkie państwa członkowskie są jednak teraz w trakcie wprowadzania właściwych przepisów, a Komisja jest przekonana, że zakończą ten proces w terminie przewidzianym w rozporządzeniu Parlamentu Europejskiego i Rady (UE) nr 211/2011 w sprawie inicjatywy obywatelskiej ([1]) (1 marca na wyznaczenie krajowych organów i 1 kwietnia na przepisy wykonawcze).

2. Wymagania dotyczące komitetów obywatelskich zostały wymienione w art. 2 ust. 3 i art. 3 ust. 1-3 rozporządzenia (UE) nr 211/2011 w sprawie inicjatywy obywatelskiej.

3. Nie ma ograniczeń źródeł finansowania inicjatyw.

4. Organizatorzy muszą udostępnić, do rejestru Komisji i, w stosownych przypadkach, na własnej stronie internetowej, uaktualniane regularnie informacje dotyczące źródeł wsparcia i finansowania proponowanej przez nich inicjatywy wynoszących ponad 500 EUR na rok i na sponsora.

([1]) Rozporządzenie Parlamentu Europejskiego i Rady (UE) nr 211/2011 z dnia 16 lutego 2011 r. w sprawie inicjatywy obywatelskiej (http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:065:0001:0022:EN:PDF).

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000321/12
to the Commission
Zbigniew Ziobro (EFD)
(20 January 2012)

Subject: Entry into force of the provisions on the European Citizens' Initiative

1. How many Member States have an existing system for certification of online signature collection? What is the estimated time for countries which do not have such a system to adopt the relevant provisions?

2. Is there a set legal form for the citizens' committee organising the initiative?

3. What are the limitations on the sources of funding such an initiative?

4. What are the information requirements for the funding of such an initiative?

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the Commission
(17 February 2012)

1. The Commission has not yet been formally notified of the names and addresses of the competent authorities in the Member States and the national provisions adopted by the Member States. However, all Member States are in the process of putting in place the relevant provisions and the Commission is confident that they will have done so by the deadlines foreseen in the European Parliament and Council Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 on the citizens' initiative ([1]) (1 March for the designation of the national authorities and 1 April for the implementing provisions).

2. The requirements for the citizens' committee are set out in Articles 2(3) and 3(1) to (3) of Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 on the citizens' initiative.

3. There are no limitations on the sources of funding for an initiative.

4. Organisers are required to provide, for the Commission's register and where appropriate on their own website, regularly updated information on the sources of support and funding for their proposed initiative that are worth more than EUR 500 per year and per sponsor.

([1]) Regulation (EU) No 211/2011 of the Parliament and of the Council of 16 February 2011 on the citizens' initiative (http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:065:0001:0022:EN:PDF).

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-000323/12
a la Comisión
Francisco Sosa Wagner (NI)
(19 de enero de 2012)

Asunto: Campos de concentración y presos políticos en Corea del Norte

Informes de organizaciones privadas han revelado la existencia de grandes campos de concentración en Corea del Norte. Hay al menos seis, en los que se hacinan en condiciones inhumanas cerca de doscientas mil personas consideradas presos políticos.

Ante el cambio en la Jefatura del Estado de ese país, ¿ha remitido la Comisión Europea algún comunicado condenando esa situación, que atenta contra los derechos humanos? ¿Qué medidas piensa adoptar la Comisión Europea para presionar al Gobierno coreano y conseguir el desmantelamiento de esos campos de concentración?

Respuesta de la Alta Representante y Vicepresidenta Sra. Ashton en nombre de la Comisión
(13 de marzo de 2012)

La Unión Europea está profundamente preocupada por la situación de los derechos humanos en la República Popular Democrática de Corea (RPDC), incluida la cuestión de los campos de prisioneros. El Relator Especial de las Naciones Unidas (NU) sobre la situación de los derechos humanos en la RPDC también ha llamado la atención sobre este problema en sus informes.

La UE ha auspiciado, desde 2004, una resolución anual en la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas en la que se condenan las violaciones de los derechos humanos en la República Popular Democrática de Corea. En diciembre de 2011, la Asamblea General adoptó la Resolución más reciente auspiciada por la UE con un nivel de apoyo sin precedentes (123 votos a favor). Además, la Unión plantea con regularidad cuestiones relativas a los derechos humanos en el marco de su diálogo político con la República Popular Democrática de Corea. Sin embargo, la República Popular Democrática de Corea sigue expresando su rechazo a la propuesta de la UE de mantener un diálogo específico sobre derechos humanos.

En su declaración de 20 de diciembre de 2011, la Alta Representante/Vicepresidenta manifestó su esperanza de que los nuevos dirigentes trabajarán para mejorar la situación de los derechos humanos en la República Popular Democrática de Corea y subrayó la disposición de la UE a ayudar al país en la consecución de dicho objetivo.

La UE aplica actualmente una amplia gama de medidas restrictivas que afectan a la República Popular Democrática de Corea (también en lo que respecta a las exportaciones de material militar y las ventas de artículos de lujo) en aplicación de las Resoluciones 1718 y 1874 del Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000323/12
to the Commission
Francisco Sosa Wagner (NI)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Concentration camps and political prisoners in North Korea

Reports from private organisations have revealed the existence of large concentration camps in North Korea. There are at least six, in which nearly two hundred thousand people considered to be political prisoners are living in inhumane conditions.

In view of the change of leadership in that country, has the European Commission sent any communication condemning this situation, which constitutes an attack on human rights? What measures is the European Commission thinking of adopting in order to exert pressure on the North Korean Government to dismantle these concentration camps?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(13 March 2012)

The EU is deeply concerned about the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), including the issue of prison camps. The United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK has also drawn attention to this issue in his reports.

The EU has, since 2004, sponsored an annual Resolution at the UN General Assembly condemning violations of human rights in the DPRK. In December 2011, the General Assembly adopted the latest EU-sponsored resolution with an unprecedented level of support (123 votes in favour). In addition, the EU regularly raises human rights concerns as part of its political dialogue with the DPRK. However, the DPRK continues to reject the EU proposal to hold a specific human rights dialogue.

In her statement of 20 December 2011, the HR/VP expressed the hope that the new leadership will work to improve the human rights situation in the DPRK and underlined the EU readiness to assist the DPRK in the pursuit of that objective.

The EU currently applies a wide range of restrictive measures on the DPRK (including on military exports and on sales of luxury goods), in application of UN Security Council Resolutions 1718 and 1874.

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-000324/12
a la Comisión
Francisco Sosa Wagner (NI)
(20 de enero de 2012)

Asunto: Aprobación de leyes destructoras del sistema democrático en Hungría

El día 1 de enero de 2012 entró en vigor la nueva Constitución de Hungría, lo que ha provocado múltiples reacciones en el ámbito social y político debido a lo cuestionable de su contenido; la Comisión de Venecia se pronunció sobre ella antes de su entrada en vigor apuntando, por una parte, que el método seguido para su adopción, basado en la mayoría absoluta de Viktor Orban y alejado del consenso, no había sido el adecuado y, por otra, señalando que la vaguedad de sus términos podía generar interpretaciones limitativas en materia electoral, judicial y económica.

En mi opinión, las instituciones europeas no han actuado con la celeridad y la contundencia necesarias, permitiendo que el Gobierno del Sr. Orban haya llegado demasiado lejos, lo que podría poner en peligro el tejido democrático de su país; de acuerdo con la información de que dispongo, hasta la fecha, la única acción emprendida por la Comisión Europea ha sido el envío de dos cartas al Ejecutivo húngaro el pasado mes de diciembre, expresando su inquietud ante las reformas realizadas pero sin mencionar la posibilidad de recurrir al procedimiento previsto en el artículo 7 del Tratado de la Unión Europea (TUE) para proteger la democracia y los derechos fundamentales, lo que ahora se está intentando impulsar desde el Parlamento Europeo.

1. ¿Qué razón hay para que la Comisión haya obrado de manera tan poco contundente ante una vulneración tan clara de principios fundamentales de la UE?

2. ¿Tiene previsto la Comisión adoptar alguna medida concreta? ¿Se plantea acogerse a lo previsto en el artículo 7 del TUE e iniciar un procedimiento que lleve a emitir recomendaciones o adoptar sanciones?

Respuesta de la Sra. Reding en nombre de la Comisión
(13 de marzo de 2012)

Por lo que respecta a ambas preguntas, la Comisión remite a Su Señoría a su respuesta a la pregunta escrita P-000286/2012. En dicha respuesta, la Comisión destaca que su prioridad, como guardiana de los Tratados, es asegurar que la situación en Hungría sea compatible con el Derecho de la UE. Por esta razón, la Comisión decidió el 17 de enero incoar tres procedimientos de infracción contra Hungría. La Comisión también ha pedido nuevas explicaciones por lo que respecta a la independencia del poder judicial.

La Comisión también recordaba en dicha respuesta que considera que el mecanismo contemplado en el artículo 7 TUE es de último recurso y que los procedimientos de infracción incoados son la forma más apropiada de proceder.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000324/12
to the Commission
Francisco Sosa Wagner (NI)
(20 January 2012)

Subject: Approval of laws that will destroy Hungary's democratic system

On 1 January 2012, the new Constitution of Hungary came into effect, which has provoked multiple reactions in the social and political spheres due to its questionable content; the Venice Commission criticised it before it came into effect, pointing out, on the one hand, that the method used to adopt it, based on Viktor Orban's absolute majority and far from any consensus, had not been appropriate and, on the other hand, stating that the vagueness of its terms could create restrictive interpretations with regard to elections, the judiciary and the economy.

In my opinion, the European institutions have not acted with the necessary speed and forcefulness, allowing Mr Orban's Government to go too far, which could endanger the democratic fabric of the country. According to the latest information I have available, the only action taken by the European Commission has been to send two letters to the Hungarian Government last December, expressing its concern at the reforms carried out but without mentioning the possibility of using the procedure provided for in Article 7 of the Treaty on European Union (ETU) to protect democracy and fundamental rights, which the European Parliament is currently seeking to do.

1. Why has the Commission been so slow to act against such a clear violation of the European Union's fundamental principles?

2. Does the Commission plan to adopt any concrete measures? Will it take action on the basis of Article 7 ETU and initiate proceedings that will result in recommendations being issued or sanctions being adopted?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(13 March 2012)

As regards both questions, the Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its reply to Written Question P-000286/2012. The Commission has emphasised in that reply that its priority, as the guardian of the Treaties, is to ensure that the situation in Hungary is compatible with EC law. It is for this reason that the Commission decided on 17 January to launch three infringement proceedings against Hungary. The Commission has also asked for further explanations concerning the independence of the judiciary.

The Commission has also recalled in that reply that it considers the mechanism contained in Article 7 TEU a mechanism of last resort and that the launched infringement proceedings are the most appropriate way to move forward.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000326/12
to the Commission
John Stuart Agnew (EFD)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Weighing scale interference

Is the Commission the only international body to adopt the International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML) recommendation in IR76, modified in 2006, which raised the level of immunity from electrical/electronic interference relating to non-automatic weighing scales from 3 to 10v/metre, an increase of 333 % for compliance with Regulation 2009/23/EC, and why has the Commission chosen to 'go it alone' in this way'?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(29 February 2012)

The Non Automatic Weighing Instruments Directive (the NAWI) is a New Approach Directive. As such, its good functioning very much relies upon the European harmonised standards developed by the European Standards Organisations, notably CEN/CENELEC. Indeed, products which conform with these standards are given presumption of conformity with the Essential Requirements of the applicable Directive, in this case the NAWI. International standards, including recommendations by the International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML), are not recognised to give such presumption of conformity. The Commission does not adopt international standards, but, as it is generally the case, it may give a mandate to the European Standards Organisations, notably CEN/CENELEC, suggesting them to align the European standards with the international ones. This is what the Commission did in 2007 following the recommendation in IR76 modified in 2006 by the OIML.

The work in CEN/CENELEC has taken a long time, but the Commission has been assured that the new version of the standard will be available by August 2012.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000327/12
to the Commission
John Stuart Agnew (EFD)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Weighing scale interference: evidence

On what evidence, particularly of possible benefits, has the Commission adopted the International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML) recommendation in IR76, modified in 2006, which raised the level of immunity from electrical/electronic interference relating to non-automatic weighing scales from 3 to 10v/metre, an increase of 333 % for compliance with Regulation 2009/23/EC?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(28 February 2012)

The Commission does not adopt an international standard but it will publish the references to the revised European standard once it has been agreed by the European Standardisation Organisations. The benefits of having a voluntary European standard equal to the international standard are that EU instruments will conform to the state of the art which is recognised worldwide.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000328/12
to the Commission
John Stuart Agnew (EFD)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Weighing scale interference: legal basis

What is the legal basis on which the Commission has adopted the OIML recommendation to raise the level of immunity from electrical/electronic interference relating to non-automatic weighing scales from 3 to 10v/metre, an increase of 333 % for compliance with Regulation 2009/23/EEC?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(2 March 2012)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answers to Questions E-326/2012 and E-327/2012 ([1]). The Commission has not adopted the OIML recommendation, but has only given a mandate to CEN/CENELEC under the NAWI directive.

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000329/12
to the Commission
John Stuart Agnew (EFD)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Weighing scale interference: impact

Has the Commission carried out an impact assessment on the proposed adoption of the International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML) recommendation in IR76, modified in 2006, which raised the level of immunity from electrical/electronic interference relating to non-automatic weighing scales from 3 to 10v/metre, an increase of 333 % for compliance with Directive 2009/23/EC?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(28 February 2012)

The Commission has not yet received the standard and is not required to carry out an impact assessment on a European standard because it is voluntary and not a legal requirement. The decision making process of the European standardisation organisations involves consensus amongst their members which are the national standardisation organisations representing all stakeholders.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000330/12
to the Commission
John Stuart Agnew (EFD)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Weighing scale interference: consultation

What, if any, international industry consultations have been carried out in regard to the proposed adoption of the International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML) recommendation in IR76, modified in 2006, which raised the level of immunity from electrical/electronic interference relating to non-automatic weighing scales from 3 to 10v/metre, an increase of 333 % for compliance with Regulation 2009/23/EC?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(29 February 2012)

The Commission is in close contact with the European Weighing Industry (CECIP) and with some national sector associations, in order to insure a smooth and balanced passage from the current situation to the future one.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000331/12
to the Commission
John Stuart Agnew (EFD)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Weighing scale interference: UK consultation

Is it accurate that weighing scale manufacturers in the UK have only been consulted on the length of the derogation in the adoption of the International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML) recommendation in IR76, modified in 2006, which raised the level of immunity from electrical/electronic interference relating to non-automatic weighing scales from 3 to 10v/metre, an increase of 333 % for compliance with Regulation 2009/23/EC? If so, why were they not consulted on the measure itself?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(28 February 2012)

Industry in the United Kingdom, like in all Member States, has been and is being consulted through their European representative (CECIP) and, furthermore, it can be expected to be fully involved in the European standardisation process for updating the standard which has been ongoing since the acceptance of Mandate 412 by the European standardisation organisations in 2007.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000332/12
to the Commission
John Stuart Agnew (EFD)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Weighing scale interference: cost to manufacturers

To ask the Commission what, if any, work was done on the cost to manufacturers of adopting of the International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML) recommendation in IR76, modified in 2006, which raised the level of immunity from electrical/electronic interference relating to non-automatic weighing scales from 3 to 10v/metre, an increase of 333 % for compliance with Regulation 2009/23/EC?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(29 February 2012)

The Commission has not adopted the OIML recommendation. Nevertheless, it is currently evaluating, notably through intensive contacts with the Industry and Member States, the economic and social impact of the alignment to the state of the art.

The cost and benefits to manufacturers and other stakeholders will be been taken into account by the Commission when discussing with stakeholders about the appropriate implementation arrangements.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000334/12
to the Commission
Marina Yannakoudakis (ECR)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Commission funding for various EU orchestras

Can the Commission confirm how much it cumulatively spends annually on the various EU orchestras, *inter alia* the European Union Youth Orchestra, the European Union Baroque Orchestra, the European Union Chamber Orchestra, the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, the European Opera Centre Trust and the European Jazz Orchestra?

Please include grants from DG Education and Culture as well as any fees, travelling expenses and other payments made to these orchestras for Commission-sponsored performances or events in EU Member States or third countries.

Can the Commission also justify the seemingly unnecessary duplication of funding for both the European Union Chamber Orchestra and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe?

Answer given by Ms Vassiliou on behalf of the Commission
(6 March 2012)

Orchestras operating at EU level can be supported through the Culture Programme under the category 'Ambassadors' which also covers choirs, theatre groups and dance companies whose activities have a European dimension. Selections are made via a competitive call for proposals evaluated by independent experts. The results are published at: http://ec.europa.eu/culture/our-programmes-and-actions/projects-and-actions-supported_en.htm.

The total grants awarded to such orchestras from 2007 to 2011 amount approximately to EUR 11.2 million (details in the annexed table, sent directly to the Honourable Member and to Parliament's Secretariat).

Some orchestras are asked to perform during EU events, for example Info-days or Culture Forums. Such events are organised through external contractors and the orchestra's costs (artist fees, travel, accommodation) are part of a general budget for the whole event. Although costs will vary, they can be roughly estimated at around EUR 1 000 in total per artist.

Concerning possible funding of orchestras in the same genre, it should be noted that applications for funding are evaluated on the basis of quality against the criteria mentioned in the call for proposals. Best proposals are selected independently of the musical genre.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000335/12
alla Commissione
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(19 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Scoperta di mozzarelle blu a Frosinone

Varie partite di mozzarelle blu sono state sequestrate agli inizi di gennaio dagli agenti della Questura di Frosinone, nel corso di due blitz effettuati in due supermercati.

Gli interventi sono scattati a seguito della richiesta di un cittadino che aveva acquistato alcune mozzarelle che all'apertura del sacchetto sono diventate di colore blu.

Nei laboratori dell'Azienda sanitaria locale di Frosinone è in corso in queste ore l'analisi dei latticini sequestrati.

Alla luce dei fatti sopraesposti, può la Commissione far sapere:

1. se è a conoscenza dell'inchiesta della Questura di Frosinone,

2. quali misure intende assumere al riguardo per evitare altre frodi nel settore alimentare,

3. se ritiene opportuno istituire un tavolo di crisi per gestire questa emergenza, che in ordine di tempo non è la prima e presumibilmente non sarà purtroppo l'ultima?

Risposta data da John Dalli a nome della Commissione
(27 febbraio 2012)

Il 9 gennaio 2012 la Commissione ha chiesto alle autorità italiane informazioni a seguito della notizia, sulla stampa, della denuncia di un consumatore in Italia che si è trovato con mozzarelle blu. Il consumatore denunciava che il prodotto era diventato blu nel frigorifero, a sacchetto aperto. Le autorità hanno confermato l'avvio di indagini e il prelievo di campioni ufficiali nello stabilimento di origine, al fine di verificare le cause dell'accaduto.

La Commissione attenderà l'esito delle indagini; in questa fase non è sua intenzione adottare misure specifiche.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000335/12
to the Commission
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Discovery of blue Mozzarella in Frosinone

Several batches of blue mozzarella were seized at the beginning of January by Frosinone police when they raided two supermarkets.

The investigations stemmed from a request by a member of the public, who had bought some mozzarella which, when he opened the bag, had turned blue.

Confiscated cheese is currently being analysed at the local health authority laboratories in Frosinone.

1. Is the Commission aware of the investigation by the Frosinone police?

2. What measures will it take to prevent further food frauds?

3. Does it believe that it should set up a crisis unit to deal with this emergency, which is not the first such case to have occurred and, regrettably is unlikely to be the last?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission
(27 February 2012)

On 9 January 2012, the Commission requested information from the Italian authorities following reports in the news about a consumer's complaint on the finding of blue mozzarella from Italy. The consumer's complaint indicated that the product had turned blue in an open package in the fridge of the consumer. The authorities confirmed that investigations had been launched and official samples have been taken in the establishment of origin to verify the cause.

The Commission will await the outcome of the investigations and has no intention to take specific measures at this stage.

(English version)

Question for written answer P-000337/12
to the Commission
William (The Earl of) Dartmouth (EFD)
(17 January 2012)

Subject: Turkey

In view of the report on human rights published on 10 January 2012 by the Council of Europe which criticises Turkey's legal system for inadequate protection of defendants, are there any plans or intentions to exclude Turkey from the provisions of the European Arrest Warrant, should Turkey become a member of the EU?

Answer given by Mr Füle on behalf of the Commission
(7 March 2012)

The Commission is aware of the conclusions in the report by Council of Europe Human Rights Commissioner Hammarberg on the impact of the administration of justice on the protection of human rights in Turkey. The report echoes the Commission's concerns as expressed in its 2011 Progress Report on Turkey ([1]).

As laid down in the Negotiating Framework defining the principles governing accession negotiations with Turkey, progress in the negotiations is measured, amongst other things, against the stability of institutions guaranteeing democracy, the rule of law, human rights and respect for and protection of minorities. These include the right to liberty and security and the right to a fair trial in line with the European Convention on Human Rights and case law of the European Court of Human Rights. The Commission will continue to monitor Turkey's fulfilment of these criteria.

To date, the European Union has not concluded any extradition agreement with Turkey and decisions on extradition from Member States are governed entirely by the terms of bi- or multilateral arrangements.

([1]) SEC(2011) 1201 final.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-000338/12
an die Kommission
Evelyn Regner (S&D) und Othmar Karas (PPE)
(13. Januar 2012)

Betrifft: Überführung von Verstorbenen in Europa

Die innereuropäische Überführung von Verstorbenen gestaltet sich in der Praxis sowohl für die Hinterbliebenen als auch für die Bestattungsunternehmen äußerst schwierig. Zwar gilt der freie Personenverkehr als ein Grundpfeiler des EU-Binnenmarkts, bei verstorbenen Personen treten aber einige Probleme auf: Neben der langen Dauer sind vor allem die bürokratischen Hindernisse für die Hinterbliebenen problematisch — was einer schnellen Rückreise in das Herkunftsland des Verstorbenen entgegensteht.

Die Modalitäten der Sargüberführung sind im Berliner Abkommen von 1937 und im Straßburger Abkommen von 1973 geregelt. Aber nicht alle Mitgliedsländer haben diese Abkommen ratifiziert. Dies führt zum nicht wünschenswerten Umstand, dass sogar einzelne Dörfer in Europa Sonderregelungen und -bestimmungen haben können. Ein reibungsloser Ablauf mit minimalem bürokratischem Aufwand ist gerade in sensiblen Bereichen wie der Rückführung von Verstorbenen im Interesse aller Beteiligten. Hier besteht Bedarf für eine Vereinheitlichung der EU-Regelungen.

1. Inwieweit gedenkt die Kommission, eine Vereinfachung bei der Überführung von Verstorbenen voranzutreiben?

2. Wie können mögliche nächste Schritte aussehen?

Antwort von Herrn Barnier im Namen der Kommission
(2. März 2012)

Die Kommission möchte die Frau und den Herrn Abgeordneten auf ihre Antworten zu den Anfragen zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-10619/10, E-2731/10, E-1264/08, E-1573/02 und ihre gemeinsamen Antworten E-0923/02 und E-0073/02 verweisen.

Der Kommission ist bewusst, dass die Überführung der sterblichen Überreste von Personen, die in einem anderen als ihrem Heimatmitgliedstaat verstorben sind, in jeder Hinsicht schwierig ist und für die betroffenen Angehörigen sehr schmerzhaft sein kann.

Die Überführung Verstorbener ist in Europa in einer Reihe internationaler Übereinkünfte geregelt, vor allem Berliner Abkommen von 1937 ([1]) und im Straßburger Abkommen von 1973 ([2]). Das letztgenannte Abkommen zielt darauf ab, die Formalitäten zu vereinfachen und die Bestimmungen des Berliner Abkommens für die Unterzeichnerstaaten an die Entwicklungen im Kommunikationsbereich, in den internationalen Beziehungen und im grenzüberschreitenden Verkehr anzupassen.

Siebzehn Mitgliedstaaten der EU haben das Straßburger Abkommen, weitere vier das Berliner Abkommen ratifiziert, so dass in insgesamt 21 EU-Mitgliedstaaten schon seit vielen Jahrzehnten weitgehend die gleichen einschlägigen Regeln gelten.

Außerdem müssen alle EU-Mitgliedstaaten im Einklang mit dem geltenden EU-Recht (beispielsweise in Bezug auf den freien Dienstleistungsverkehr) handeln und alle Vorschriften in nicht diskriminierender Weise und unter Wahrung der Verhältnismäßigkeit anwenden. Die Kommission plant kurzfristig weder spezifische Harmonisierungsmaßnahmen noch andere Schritte in dieser Angelegenheit.

([1]) Internationales Abkommen über Leichenbeförderung, unterzeichnet in Berlin, 10. Februar 1937, League of Nations Treaty Series 1938, Band 4391, S. 315.
([2]) Übereinkommen des Europarates vom 26. Oktober 1973 („Übereinkommen über die Leichenbeförderung"), SEV Nr. 80.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000338/12
to the Commission
Evelyn Regner (S&D) and Othmar Karas (PPE)
(13 January 2012)

Subject: Transfer of corpses in Europe

The transfer of corpses within Europe is, in practice, an extremely difficult matter, both for the bereaved and for undertakers. Although free movement of persons is one of the principles underlying the single European market, a number of problems arise where corpses are concerned: in addition to long delays, bureaucratic obstacles pose the greatest difficulty for the bereaved, preventing a speedy return to the deceased's country of origin.

The rules governing the transport of coffins are laid down in the 1937 Berlin Arrangement and the 1973 Strasbourg Agreement. However, the fact that not all Member States have ratified those agreements has led to an undesirable situation in which even individual European villages might have their own special regulations and provisions. A smooth process with as little red tape as possible is in the interests of all involved, particularly in sensitive cases such as the return of corpses. This is one area in which EU regulations need to be standardised.

1. Does the Commission have any plans to simplify the transfer of corpses?

2. What kind of steps could be taken in the immediate future?

Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission
(2 March 2012)

The Commission refers the Honourable Members to its answers to Written Questions E-10619/10, E-2731/10, E-1264/08, E-1573/02 and joint replies E-0923/02 and E-0073/02.

The Commission recognises that the repatriation of the remains of a person who has died in a Member State other than his/her own is a sensitive and difficult issue which can cause great concern for the family involved.

The transfer of corpses in Europe is subject to a number of international agreements, above all those of the 1937 Berlin ([1]) and 1973 Strasbourg ([2]) Agreements. The latter Agreement aims at simplifying formalities and adapting the provisions of the Berlin Agreement to developments in communications, international relations and cross-border traffic for States bound by these agreements.

Seventeen EU Member States have ratified the Strasbourg Agreement, and a further four have ratified the Berlin Agreement, which means that a total of 21 EU Member States have been sharing for many decades basically the same rules on the same subject.

In addition, all EU Member States must act in conformity with applicable European law for instance in regard to free movement of services and have to apply all requirements in a non-discriminatory and proportionate manner. The Commission does not plan to propose any specific harmonisation measures nor to take any other steps on this subject in the immediate future.

([1]) International Arrangements concerning the conveyance of corpses. Signed at Berlin, February 10th, 1937, League of Nations Treaty Series 1938, No 4391, 315.
([2]) Council of Europe Agreement of 26 October 1973 entitled 'Agreement on the Transfer of Corpses', ETS No 80.

(Tekstas lietuvių kalba)

Klausimas, į kurį atsakoma raštu, Nr. E-000339/12
Tarybai
Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D)
(2012 m. sausio 20 d.)

Tema: Direktyvos dėl motinystės atostogų perspektyvos

Europos Parlamentas jau 2010 m. spalio 19 d. priėmė savo poziciją dėl direktyvos, iš dalies keičiančios Tarybos direktyvą 92/85/EEB dėl priemonių, skirtų skatinti, kad būtų užtikrinta geresnė nėščių ir neseniai pagimdžiusių arba maitinančių krūtimi darbuotojų sauga ir sveikata.

Kada Taryba planuoja persvarstyti direktyvą dėl motinystės atostogų, kurios tikslas užtikrinti geresnę nėščių ir neseniai pagimdžiusių arba maitinančių krūtimi moterų saugą ir sveikatą? Kokias konkrečias priemones šį pusmetį Tarybai pirmininkaujanti Danija planuoja siūlyti valstybėms narėms tam, kad pagaliau būtų pasiektas vieningas susitarimas dėl šios direktyvos?

Atsakymas
(2012 m. kovo 5 d.)

Po to, kai 2010 m. spalio mėn. Europos Parlamentas priėmė savo nuomonę, Taryboje nesusidarė reikiama kvalifikuota balsų dauguma. Diskusijos vyksta toliau, tačiau Taryba negali šiuo metu iš anksto numatyti jų rezultatų ar trukmės.

2011 m. gruodžio mėn. Taryba susipažino su pirmininkaujančios valstybės narės parengta pažangos ataskaita, kurioje apibūdinta esama padėtis ([1]).

([1]) Žr. dok. 17029/11.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000339/12
to the Council
Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D)
(20 January 2012)

Subject: Prospects for the directive on maternity leave

On 19 October 2010 the European Parliament adopted its position on the proposal for a directive, amending Council Directive 92/85/EEC concerning the implementation of measures to encourage improvements in the safety and health of pregnant workers, workers who have recently given birth and women who are breastfeeding.

When does the Council plan to revise Directive 92/85/EEC, as referred to above? What specific measures does Denmark, which holds the Council Presidency in the first half of 2012, intend to propose to the Member States with a view to finally reaching unanimous agreement on the revision of that directive?

Reply
(5 March 2012)

After the European Parliament adopted its Opinion in October 2010, the requisite qualified majority could not be reached within the Council. Discussions are continuing, but the Council is not in a position to anticipate at this stage their outcome or duration.

In December 2011, the Council took note of a progress report by the Presidency setting out the state of play ([1]).

([1]) See 17029/11.

(Tekstas lietuvių kalba)

Klausimas, į kurį atsakoma raštu, Nr. E-000340/12
Tarybai
Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D)
(2012 m. sausio 20 d.)

Tema: Kovos su diskriminacija direktyvos ateitis

Nors 2010 m. gruodžio 23 d. Europos Sąjunga oficialiai ratifikavo Jungtinių Tautų neįgaliųjų teisių konvenciją, kai kurios Europos Sąjungos valstybės narės vis dar nepritaria Tarybos direktyvai dėl vienodo požiūrio į asmenis, nepaisant jų religijos ar tikėjimo, negalios, amžiaus arba seksualinės orientacijos (KOM(2008)0426) (Kovos su diskriminacija direktyva) ir vis nepavyksta rasti bendro susitarimo. Kovos su diskriminacija direktyva yra vienas iš svarbiausių klausimų žmogaus teisių srityje, tačiau šį pusmetį Europos Sąjungos Tarybai pirmininkaujanti Lenkija savo programoje nemini, kokių veiksmų imsis dėl šios direktyvos priėmimo.

Kadangi Kovos su diskriminacija direktyva yra vienas iš svarbiausių klausimų žmogaus teisių srityje, ar Europos Sąjungos Tarybai šį pusmetį pirmininkaujanti Danija planuoja imtis veiksmų dėl šios direktyvos priėmimo?

Kokių konkrečių priemonių imsis Taryba tardamasi su valstybėmis narėmis dėl šios direktyvos ateities?

Atsakymas
(2012 m. vasario 27 d.)

Taryba dar nebaigė nagrinėti pasiūlymo, apie kurį gerbiamoji narė užsimena savo klausime. Siūlomai direktyvai priimti bus reikalinga vieninga valstybių narių pozicija, bet Taryba negali numatyti Taryboje vykstančių diskusijų rezultatų ar jų trukmės. Vadovaujantis Sutarties dėl Europos Sąjungos veikimo 19 straipsnio 1 dalimi, Europos Parlamentas taip pat turi duoti *sutikimą* prieš priimant aktą ([1]).

Taryba tęs pasiūlymo nagrinėjimą pirmininkaujant Danijai. Tarybos darbo, susijusio su pasiūlymu, pažangos ataskaita bus pateikta Tarybai birželio mėn.

([1]) 19 straipsnio 1 dalis: Nepažeisdama kitų Sutarčių nuostatų ir neviršydama Sąjungai jomis suteiktų įgaliojimų, Taryba spręsdama pagal specialią teisėkūros procedūrą ir Europos Parlamentui pritarus, gali vieningai imtis atitinkamų veiksmų, siekdama kovoti su diskriminacija dėl lyties, rasinės arba etninės kilmės, religijos ar tikėjimo, negalios, amžiaus arba seksualinės orientacijos.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000340/12
to the Council
Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D)
(20 January 2012)

Subject: Future of the Anti-Discrimination Directive

Although on 23 December 2010 the European Union formally ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, some Member States remain opposed to the proposed Council Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation (COM(2008) 0426) (the Anti-Discrimination Directive) and still cannot reach agreement. The Anti-Discrimination Directive is one of the most important human rights issues, yet, Poland did not include it in its programme for the Council Presidency with regard to action to be taken for its adoption.

Since the Anti-Discrimination Directive is one of the most important human rights issues, is Denmark, as holder of the Council Presidency for the next six months, planning to take action for adoption of the directive?

What specific steps will the Council take, in a dialogue with the Member States, about the directive's future?

Reply
(27 February 2012)

The Council is still engaged in the examination of the proposal alluded to in the question from the Honourable Member. Unanimity between the Member States will be required before the proposed directive can be adopted, and the Council is not in a position to anticipate the outcome or duration of the ongoing negotiations. Under Article 19(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the European Parliament must also give its *consent* before the act can be adopted ([1]).

The Council will continue the examination of the proposal during the Danish Presidency. A Progress Report on the Council's work on the proposal will be submitted to the Council in June.

([1]) Article 19(1): Without prejudice to the other provisions of the Treaties and within the limits of the powersconferred by them upon the Union, the Council, acting unanimously in accordance with a special legislative procedure and after obtaining the consent of the European Parliament, may take appropriate action to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation.

(Tekstas lietuvių kalba)

Klausimas, į kurį atsakoma raštu, Nr. E-000341/12
Komisijai
Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D)
(2012 m. sausio 20 d.)

Tema: Nepakankamas vietų skaičius Europos Komisijos darželiuose

Gerbiamas Komisijos nary M. Šefčovičiau, į mane kaip į Europos Parlamento narę kreipėsi Europos Komisijos darbuotojas iš valstybės narės, įstojusios į Europos Sąjungą 2004 m. Jis atkreipė dėmesį į tai, jog yra didelė problema dėl vietų Komisijos institucijų darbuotojų vaikams trūkumo Komisijos darželiuose.

Iš man pateiktų duomenų matyti, kad Komisijos darželiuose yra 1200 vietų, tačiau jų nepakanka, nes apie 600 vaikų yra laukiančiųjų darželio sąraše. Anot šio darbuotojo, naujų ES valstybių narių, prisijungusių prie Europos Sąjungos 2004 m. ir 2007 m., darbuotojų vaikai yra netiesiogiai diskriminuojami, nes daugumą vietų Komisijos darželiuose yra užėmę senbuvių valstybių narių darbuotojų vaikai.

Norėčiau paprašyti gerbiamo Komisijos nario pateikti konkrečius duomenis, vaikų, jau lankančių Komisijos darželius, sąrašą pagal ES valstybes nares ir vaikų, esančių laukiančiųjų sąraše, skaičių.

Beje, kokių neatidėliotinų priemonių imsis Komisija, kad išspręstų šią problemą?

M. Šefčovičiaus atsakymas Komisijos vardu
(2012 m. kovo 12 d.)

Komisijos darželių sistema buvo sukurta Bendrijos pareigūnų ir kitų tarnautojų vaikams, kaip apibrėžta Tarnybos nuostatų VII priedo 2 straipsnio 2 dalyje – 4 straipsnyje, ir išorės darbuotojų, kuriuos su Bendrijomis sieja tiesioginis sutartinis ryšys (ne trumpesnė kaip šešių mėnesių darbo visą darbo dieną sutartis), vaikams.

Siekiant užtikrinti nediskriminavimą, kad visi tėvai, nepriklausomai nuo jų pilietybės arba kilmės šalies, turėtų vienodas galimybes gauti vietą darželyje, laisvos vietos skirstomos kiekvieną ketvirtį griežtai laikantis Vaikų priežiūros centro taisyklių ([1]). Taisyklėse numatyta, kad pirmenybė teikiama vienišiems tėvams, taip pat tais atvejais, kai abu tėvai dirba institucijose. Vaikai, atitinkantys tam tikroje šių taisyklių dalyje nurodytus medicininius reikalavimus, atsižvelgiant į vietų skaičių ir nustatytus pirmenybės kriterijus į darželius priimami nuo aštuonių savaičių amžiaus iki kalendorinių metų, kuriais vaikui sukanka ketveri metai, rugsėjo 15 dienos. Taigi į darželį vaikus registruojantys tėvai negali būti diskriminuojami, nes remiantis taisyklėse nustatytais pirmenybės kriterijais nuolat vyksta rotacija, kitaip tariant, prašymai nagrinėjami pagal jų pateikimo eiliškumą.

Laukiančiųjų sąraše yra šiek tiek daugiau nei 650 šeimų. Komisija užmezgė ryšius su vietos valdžia ir nacionalinėmis įstaigomis, kad išnagrinėtų, kokių priemonių būtų galima imtis siekiant sutrumpinti vietos darželyje laukiančiųjų sąrašą.

Teiginys, esą tam tikrų pilietybių tarnautojų vaikai gali būti diskriminuojami, yra nepagrįstas.

([1]) Jas priėmė Komisijos, Ministrų tarybos, Ekonomikos ir socialinių reikalų komiteto ir Regionų komiteto administracijų vadovai.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000341/12
to the Commission
Vilija Blinkevičiūtė (S&D)
(20 January 2012)

Subject: Insufficient number of places at Commission nurseries

I have been approached by a Commission staff member from a Member State which joined the European Union in 2004. He points out that there is a big problem due to the lack of places at Commission nurseries which are available for the children of Commission staff.

Figures provided show that the Commission nurseries have 1 200 places; however, this is not sufficient because there are 600 children on the waiting list. According to the staff member concerned, the children of staff from the new EU Member States that joined the European Union in 2004 and 2007 are being indirectly discriminated against, since most of the places at Commission nurseries have been filled by children of staff from the old Member States.

Would the Commission provide specific information, i.e. a list of children already attending Commission nurseries, by EU Member State, as well as the number of children on the waiting list?

Moreover, what immediate steps will the Commission take to solve this problem?

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the Commission
(12 March 2012)

A system of nurseries has been set up in the Commission for the children of officials and other servants of the Communities within the meaning of Article 2(2) to 4 of Annex VII of the Staff Regulations1 and to external members of staff who have a direct contractual link with the Communities in the form of a full-time employment contract of not less than six months' duration.

In order to guarantee non-discrimination so that all parents, irrespective of their nationality or country of origin, have an equal chance of obtaining a nursery place, available places are allocated on a quarterly basis in the strict respect of the rules ([1]) governing the Early Childcare Centre. These rules give priority to single parents and couples who both work for the institutions. Subject to the availability of places and to the priority criteria as established, the nurseries shall admit children from the age of eight weeks until 15 September of the calendar year in which they reach the age of four, provided that they satisfy the medical requirements set out in the relevant part of these rules. There can therefore be no discrimination of parents enrolling their children as a constant rotation takes place based on the priority criteria in the applicable rules, in other words a first come first served concept is applied.

There is a waiting list of just over 650 families and the Commission has initiated contacts with local authorities and national bodies to explore what further avenues could be exploited in order to reduce the waiting list.

The criticism that children of staff with certain nationalities would be discriminated against is unfounded.

([1]) Adopted by the Heads of Administration of the Commission, the Council of Ministers, the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-000342/12
ao Conselho
Carlos Coelho (PPE)
(23 de Janeiro de 2012)

Assunto: Alertas no Sistema de Informação de Schengen

O Sistema de Informação de Schengen é a maior base de dados europeia e funciona como o sistema de informação conjunto que permite às autoridades competentes nos Estados signatários do Acordo de Schengen, através do processo de inquérito automático, pesquisar e obter indicações respeitantes a pessoas e objetos, em que cada autoridade tem acesso apenas e exclusivamente às categorias de dados de que necessita para o desempenho das respetivas funções.

A inserção de dados no SIS é da responsabilidade direta de cada Estado-Membro de Schengen e os dados do SIS são regidos pela legislação nacional do Estado Schengen que os insere, recaindo sobre o mesmo a responsabilidade de manter esses dados atualizados e retificá-los ou apagá-los caso existam incorreções.

Foi noticiado pela imprensa belga o caso de uma albanesa, de 39 anos, que decidiu na época natalícia vir a Bruxelas visitar o irmão e a cunhada, tendo solicitado um mês de férias na empresa onde trabalha na Albânia para poder vir ajudar a cunhada (mãe de três crianças), em fase crítica de tratamento de quimioterapia.

Tendo aterrado no aeroporto de Bruxelas no dia 16 de dezembro, foi-lhe recusada entrada no espaço Schengen por existir uma indicação no SIS, introduzida pelas autoridades gregas, tendo ficado retida no aeroporto até ao dia 23 de dezembro, quando foi reembarcada num voo de retorno para a Albânia.

A senhora em questão terá perdido o seu passaporte em 2000, sendo que em 2004 alguém terá tentado entrar na Grécia com esse passaporte e um visa Schengen falso. Essa pessoa foi apanhada e reenviada para a Albânia e um alerta foi inserido no SIS com o nome indicado no passaporte.

Gostaria de saber se quer as autoridades belgas, quer as autoridades gregas levaram a cabo os procedimentos necessários, de acordo com o Art.° 105 do Manual de Schengen, culminando com a correção/eliminação dessa indicação por parte das autoridades gregas?

Como é que se pode evitar que no futuro este tipo de situações voltem a acontecer, em que devido a um erro de identidade uma pessoa fique retida durante uma semana e posteriormente embarcada num voo de regresso ao seu país, com todas as implicações humanitárias e financeiras que tal acarreta?

Resposta
(12 de Março de 2012)

As questões levantadas na pergunta do Senhor Deputado não são da competência do Conselho, mas da responsabilidade das entidades competentes dos Estados-Membros, conforme as disposições pertinentes da Convenção de aplicação do acordo de Schengen ([1]).

Cabe além disso recordar que, segundo disposto no artigo 17.°, n.° 1, do TUE, é à Comissão que compete controlar a boa aplicação do direito da União, sob a fiscalização do Tribunal de Justiça.

([1]) Artigos 93.° a 118.° da Convenção de aplicação do Acordo de Schengen, in JO L 239 de 22.9.2000, p. 19.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000342/12
to the Council
Carlos Coelho (PPE)
(23 January 2012)

Subject: Alerts on the Schengen Information System

The Schengen Information System is the largest European database and operates as a joint information system that enables the competent authorities in the signatory states to the Schengen Convention, by means of an automatic investigation process, to search for and obtain data relating to persons and objects. Each authority has access only to those categories of data that it requires for the performance of its specific tasks.

The inclusion of data in the SIS falls under the direct responsibility of each Schengen Member State and the SIS data are regulated by the national legislation of the Schengen state that records them. That state bears responsibility for ensuring that the data are updated and, should any errors be detected, corrected or deleted.

A case was reported in the Belgian press of an Albanian women, 39 years old, who decided to travel to Belgium during the Christmas season to visit her brother and sister-in-law, after having applied for leave at the company where she worked in Albania in order to assist her sister-in-law (mother of three children), who was going through a critical phase in chemotherapy treatment.

After landing in Brussels on 16 December, she was refused entry into the Schengen area on the grounds that there was information on the SIS, recorded by the Greek authorities. She was held at the airport until 23 December and was then put on a return flight to Albania.

The lady in question had apparently lost her passport in 2000. In 2004 someone attempted to enter Greece with that passport and a false Schengen visa. That person was arrested and returned to Albania and an alert was entered in the SIS on the basis of the name given in the passport.

Will the Council state whether the Belgian authorities or the Greek authorities implemented the procedures under 105 of the Schengen Handbook with a view to ensuring that this entry was corrected/deleted by the Greek authorities?

What action can be taken to ensure this type of situation — where, owing to a problem of mistaken identity, a person is detained for one week and thereafter put on a return flight to their country, with all the ensuing humanitarian and financial implications — does not occur again in the future?

Reply
(12 March 2012)

The matters raised by the Honourable Member's question do not fall within the competence of the Council but are the responsibility of the competent authorities of the Member States in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement ([1]).

Furthermore, it is recalled that, in accordance with Article 17(1) TEU, it is for the Commission to ensure, under the control of the Court of Justice, that Union law is applied correctly.

([1]) Articles 93-118 of the Convention Implementing the Schengen Agreement, OJ L 239, 22.9.2000, p. 19.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000343/12
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto rappresentante)
Marco Scurria (PPE), Potito Salatto (PPE) e Salvatore Tatarella (PPE)
(20 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: VP/HR — Esecuzioni di prigionieri politici attuate da regime iraniano

In occasione della riunione della delegazione interparlamentare Parlamento europeo-Iran del 1° dicembre 2011 un ex prigioniero politico ed attivista per i diritti umani ha portato testimonianza di sistematiche esecuzioni di prigionieri politici attuate dal regime iraniano durate circa 5 mesi a partire dal 19 luglio 1988. Il governo iraniano in carica nega che queste abbiano avuto luogo, ma, data la vastità delle operazioni (si parla di almeno 4 000 vittime) le notizie sono comunque trapelate attraverso i superstiti. Grazie alle indicazioni da essi fornite, si desume che la maggior parte dei giustiziati fosse composta da studenti delle scuole superiori, universitari o neolaureati.

Una «fatwa» dell'allora guida suprema dell'Iran, ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, diede l'avvio alle esecuzioni. L'allora primo ministro Mir-Hosein Musavi, nonché attuale principale oppositore del regime di Mahmud Ahmadinejad, è considerato come uno dei responsabili dal Consiglio Nazionale della Resistenza iraniana in esilio.

Nel maggio del 2009 un gruppo di studenti iraniani ha provato ad interpellare l'ex primo ministro senza tuttavia ricevere risposta sulle motivazioni dell'avvenuta carneficina.

Cosa è in grado di fare il Vice Presidente/Alto Rappresentante per far luce su questa strage?

Risposta data dall'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione
(19 marzo 2012)

L'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton condivide la profonda preoccupazione espressa dall'onorevole parlamentare per il numero di persone giustiziate in Iran. L'Unione europea mantiene una posizione ferma e di principio contro la pena di morte. Nel solo 2011 centinaia di condanne a morte sono state eseguite in Iran e l'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente ha sollevato il problema della mancanza di un equo processo in molti di questi casi, in cui gli imputati sono stati privati del diritto di ricorso e condannati per reati che, in base agli standard internazionali, non sarebbero punibili con la pena capitale.

Attualmente in Iran migliaia di persone rischiano ancora di essere giustiziate. In numerose occasioni l'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente ha espresso profonda preoccupazione riguardo a tali esecuzioni e, in una dichiarazione del 5 gennaio 2012, ha esortato l'Iran, e tutti gli Stati che continuano a mantenere in vigore la pena capitale, a sospendere le esecuzioni e a introdurre una moratoria. L'Unione europea continua a esprimere la propria preoccupazione alle autorità iraniane, sia direttamente a Teheran, a Bruxelles e nelle capitali dell'Unione sia attraverso organizzazioni multilaterali.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000343/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Marco Scurria (PPE), Potito Salatto (PPE) and Salvatore Tatarella (PPE)
(20 January 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Execution of political prisoners by the Iranian regime

During the meeting which the EP Delegation for relations with Iran held on 1 December 2011, a human rights activist and former political prisoner testified about the systematic executions of political prisoners by the Iranian regime that had occurred over a period of roughly five months, starting on 19 July 1988. The current Iranian Government denies that the executions took place, but their scale was such (there is talk of at least 4 000 victims) that survivors enabled the news to leak out. Their accounts suggest that the victims were mostly higher education or university students or recent graduates.

A *fatwa* by the then Iranian supreme leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, triggered the executions. The Prime Minister at that time, Mir-Hosein Musavi, as well as now being the main opponent of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's regime, is considered by the National Council of Resistance of Iran (the parliament-in-exile) to have been one of the culprits.

In May 2009 a group of Iranian students tried to question the former Prime Minister, but received no answers about the reasons for the slaughter.

What can the Vice-President/High Representative do to shed light on this massacre?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(19 March 2012)

High Representative/Vice-President Ashton shares the Honourable Member's deep concern regarding the number of individuals executed in Iran. The EU holds a strong and principled position against the death penalty. In 2011 alone, hundreds of individuals were executed in Iran and the High Representative/Vice-President was particularly concerned with the lack of fair trials in a number of those cases, whereby defendants were deprived of their right of appeal and sentenced for offences which according to international standards should not result in capital punishment.

Nevertheless, thousands of individuals remain at risk of execution in Iran currently. HR/VP has, on numerous occasions, expressed her deep concern regarding these executions and in a statement issued on 5 January 2012, called on Iran, as it does on all states which insist on maintaining the death penalty, to halt pending executions and introduce a moratorium. EU continues to raise its concerns directly with the Iranian authorities in Tehran, in Brussels, in EU capitals, and through multilateral organisations.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-000346/12
προς την Επιτροπή
Nikolaos Salavrakos (EFD)
(19 Ιανουαρίου 2012)

Θέμα: Καθορισμός της αιγυπτιακής ΑΟΖ με Ελλάδα και τη Κυπριακή Δημοκρατία

Σύμφωνα με το Διεθνές Δίκαιο της Θάλασσας, η Αίγυπτος δε μοιράζεται καθόλου θαλάσσια σύνορα με τη Τουρκία και κατ' επέκταση δεν χρειάζεται να διαπραγματευτεί μαζί της για το καθορισμό της Αποκλειστικής Οικονομικής Ζώνης (ΑΟΖ). Αντιθέτως, τα βόρεια θαλάσσια σύνορα της Αιγύπτου είναι κοινά με την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση.

Εντούτοις, η αιγυπτιακή κυβέρνηση προτίθεται να διαπραγματευτεί με τη Τουρκία τον καθορισμό της ΑΟΖ. Κατά πληροφορίες, υπάρχουν πιέσεις μουσουλμανικών οργανώσεων προς την αιγυπτιακή κυβέρνηση για δημιουργία τετελεσμένων για να αποφευχθεί η εκμετάλλευση κοιτασμάτων υδρογονανθράκων και φυσικού αερίου στη περιοχή από μη-Μουσουλμάνους.

Ερωτάται η Ύπατη Εκπρόσωπος:

1. Σκοπεύει να θέσει το ζήτημα του καθορισμού της αιγυπτιακής ΑΟΖ με την Ελλάδα και τη Κυπριακή Δημοκρατία, επιβάλλοντας το σεβασμό της διεθνούς πρακτικής;

2. Σε ποιές κινήσεις σκοπεύει να προβεί για την χάραξη των ζωνών δικαιοδοσίας στη Μεσόγειο κατ' εφαρμογή του Διεθνούς Δικαίου;

Απάντηση της Ύπατης Εκπροσώπου/Αντιπροέδρου Ashton εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(10 Απριλίου 2012)

Τα θέματα σχετικά με τον καθορισμό των θαλάσσιων συνόρων εμπίπτουν στην αρμοδιότητα των κρατών μελών.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000346/12
to the Commission
Nikolaos Salavrakos (EFD)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Delimitation of the Egyptian EEZ with Greece and the Republic of Cyprus

According to the International Law of the Sea, Egypt shares no maritime boundaries with Turkey and therefore there does not need to negotiate its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) with the latter. On the contrary, Egypt shares its northern maritime boundaries with the EU.

Nevertheless, the Egyptian Government is seeking to negotiate the delimitation of the EEZ with Turkey. It appears that Muslim organisations are pressuring the Egyptian Government to present a set of faits accomplis so as to prevent non-Muslims from exploiting the hydrocarbons and natural gas reserves in the area.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission intend to raise the issue of the Egyptian EEZ delimitation with Greece and the Republic of Cyprus and insist on compliance with international practice?

2. What action does she intend to take to ensure that areas of jurisdiction in the Mediterranean Sea are established, in accordance with the International Law?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(10 April 2012)

The issues related to the delimitation of maritime borders falls under the competency of the Member States.

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-000347/12
a la Comisión
Antolín Sánchez Presedo (S&D)
(19 de enero de 2012)

Asunto: Sobreendeudamiento de las familias europeas

El sobreendeudamiento, tanto público como privado, es un síntoma del modelo económico que ha desembocado en la actual crisis. Un informe elaborado para la Comisión especial sobre la Crisis Financiera, Económica y Social del Parlamento Europea señalaba en 2009 que el nivel de endeudamiento familiar superaba en al menos seis países el 84 % del PIB.

La capacidad para hacer frente a los reembolsos es un buen indicador para medir hasta qué punto las deudas representan un problema para las familias. Según un estudio de la Agencia Europea para la Mejora de las Condiciones de Vida y de Trabajo, en 2010 la demora en el pago de facturas de servicios era superior al 10 % en al menos 8 países, mientras que los datos del Eurobarómetro de 2009 indican que un 27 % de la población europea siente que corre el riesgo de no poder hacer frente a sus deudas.

La Directiva sobre crédito al consumo y la reforma del mercado hipotecario en marcha son importantes pasos para prevenir problemas. Sin embargo, en tiempos de crisis, cada vez más personas recurren a pequeños préstamos adicionales para hacer frente a sus obligaciones contraídas como resultado de créditos preexistentes. Eurofound ha anunciado la publicación de un estudio en el que describe cómo para muchas familias el impago estos préstamos puede desembocar fácilmente en un espiral fuera de control debido a los intereses acumulados, las penalizaciones o los recargos administrativos.

¿Está la Comisión al tanto de esta situación? ¿Puede la Comisión señalar buenas prácticas de los Estados miembros en materia de respuestas integrales al sobreendeudamiento familiar y facilitar su intercambio? ¿Qué otras medidas ha adoptado o piensa adoptar la Comisión para responder a esta problemática?

Respuesta del Sr. Dalli en nombre de la Comisión
(6 de marzo de 2012)

La Comisión es consciente del problema del endeudamiento y ha publicado y financiado una serie de informes, documentos y proyectos sobre este tema ([1]).

La Comisión iniciará en breve un estudio sobre el endeudamiento excesivo de los hogares, sus causas y sus consecuencias, que facilitará asimismo una actualización de las iniciativas existentes destinadas a mitigar el impacto del endeudamiento excesivo. En 2012, tan pronto estén disponibles los resultados preliminares del citado estudio, la Comisión tiene previsto organizar una reunión para debatir las conclusiones iniciales.

Además, el Grupo de Usuarios de Servicios Financieros, un grupo de trabajo de expertos, en particular del sector del consumo, ha iniciado recientemente un estudio, financiado por la Comisión, sobre la protección de los consumidores con dificultades financieras. Sus resultados deberían estar disponibles antes de finales de 2012.

([1]) Las estadísticas comunitarias sobre la renta y las condiciones de vida («EU-SILC») de 2008 relativas al endeudamiento excesivo y la exclusión financiera y la encuesta del Eurobarómetro sobre la pobreza y la exclusión social de 2009, donde se incluyen preguntas sobre el acceso a los servicios financieros.
El estudio de 2008 Towards a common operational European definition of over-indebtedness (Hacia una definición europea operativa común del sobreendeudamiento), en la que se proponen una serie de definiciones útiles y se enumeran las organizaciones (autoridades públicas, instituciones financieras, asociaciones de consumidores, sindicatos y otros) activas en este ámbito.
Un documento de trabajo de los servicios de la Comisión de 2011, titulado National measures and practices to avoid foreclosure procedures for residential mortgage loans (Medidas y prácticas nacionales dirigidas a evitar los procedimientos de ejecución en el caso de los préstamos hipotecarios residenciales).
El proyecto de la UE Financial education and better access to adequate financial services (Educación financiera y un mejor acceso a los servicios financieros adecuados) de 2005-2007, cuyo objetivo era desarrollar e intercambiar modelos de mejores prácticas y nuevas estrategias para mejorar el acceso a los servicios financieros de las personas abocadas a la pobreza y la exclusión social, especialmente las personas que se enfrentan a un endeudamiento excesivo.
El problema de la falta de vivienda y la exclusión del derecho a la vivienda también se debatió en diversas revisiones interpares, un instrumento clave del Método Abierto de Coordinación en el ámbito de la Protección Social.
El estudio de 2008 está disponible en el siguiente sitio web:
http://ec.europa.eu/social/keyDocuments.jsp?type=1&policyArea=750&subCategory=751&country=0&year=2008&adv SearchKey=overindebtedness&mode=advancedSubmit&langId=en
El documento de trabajo de los servicios de la Comisión, redactado en el marco de la propuesta de Directiva sobre créditos hipotecarios, está disponible en la siguiente dirección:
http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/finservices-retail/docs/credit/mortgage/sec_2011_357_en.pdf

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000347/12
to the Commission
Antolín Sánchez Presedo (S&D)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Overindebtedness of European families

Overindebtedness, both public and private, is a symptom of the economic model that has resulted in the current crisis. A report prepared for the European Parliament's special Committee on the Financial, Economic and Social Crisis stated in 2009 that the level of household debt was over 84 % of GDP in at least six countries.

The ability to cope with repayments is a good indicator for measuring the extent to which debt represents a problem for families. According to a study by the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions, in 2010 the delay in payment of invoices for services was greater than 10 % in at least eight countries, while data from the 2009 Eurobarometer indicates that 27 % of the European population feels it runs the risk of not being able to meet its debts.

The Consumer Credit Directive and the reform of the mortgage market now in motion are important steps towards preventing problems. However, in times of crisis, more and more people resort to small additional loans to meet obligations contracted as a result of pre-existing credits. Eurofound has announced publication of a study describing how, for many families, failure to pay these loans can easily lead to their situation spiralling out of control due to accumulated interest, penalties and administrative surcharges.

Is the Commission aware of this situation? Can the Commission point to good practices in Member States regarding comprehensive responses to family overindebtedness and facilitate exchange of these practices? What other measures has the Commission taken, or will it take, in order to respond to this problem?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission
(6 March 2012)

The Commission is aware of the problem of indebtedness and has both published and financed a number of reports, documents and projects on this subject ([1]).

The Commission is about to launch a study on household over-indebtedness, its causes and consequences which will also provide an update on existing initiatives aimed at alleviating the impact of over-indebtedness. As soon as its preliminary results are available, the Commission plans to organise in 2012 a hearing to discuss the initial findings.

Moreover, a study financed by the Commission on protecting consumers in financial difficulty has recently been launched by the Financial Services User Group, a working group of experts notably from the consumer sector. Its results should be available in the course of 2012.

([1]) The EU statistics on Income and Living Conditions ('EU-SILC') 2008 Module on over-indebtedness and financial exclusion and the 'Euro-barometer' survey on poverty and social exclusion 2009 which included questions concerning access to financial services.
The 2008 study 'Towards a common operational European definition of over-indebtedness' which proposed a number of useful definitions and listed the organisations (public authorities, financial institutions, consumers associations, trade unions and others) active in this field.
A Commission Staff Working Paper of 2011 on 'National measures and practices to avoid foreclosure procedures for residential mortgage loans'.
The EU project 'Financial education and better access to adequate financial services' (2005-2007) whose aim was to develop and exchange best practice models and new strategies to improve the access to financial services for people facing poverty and social exclusion and especially over-indebted people.
The issue of homelessness and housing exclusion was also discussed in various Peer Reviews — a key instrument of the Social Open Method of Coordination.
The 2008 study is available through the website:
http://ec.europa.eu/social/keyDocuments.jsp?type=1&policyArea=750&subCategory=751&country=0&year=2008&advSearchKey=overindebtedness&mode=advancedSubmit&langId=en
The staff working paper, written in the context of the proposal for a directive on Mortgage Credits, is available in:
http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/finservices-retail/docs/credit/mortgage/sec_2011_357_en.pdf

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-000348/12
προς την Επιτροπή
Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)
(19 Ιανουαρίου 2012)

Θέμα: Εισαγωγή στην ΕΕ ραδιενεργών προϊόντων μετά το πυρηνικό ατύχημα της Φουκουσίμα

Δημοσιεύματα του διεθνούς Τύπου αναφέρουν ότι οι ρωσικές αρχές κατέσχεσαν κατά τον μήνα Δεκέμβριο 2011 κοντέινερ γεμάτο με ραδιενεργά ελαστικά από την Ιαπωνία και, κατά τις πρώτες 10 ημέρες του Ιανουαρίου 2012, ραδιενεργά ανταλλακτικά αυτοκινήτων ιαπωνικής επίσης προέλευσης. Δεδομένου ότι υπάρχουν αρκετά εργοστάσια κατασκευής ιαπωνικών αυτοκινήτων στην ΕΕ και γίνονται, ως εκ τούτου, μαζικές εισαγωγές ανταλλακτικών,

Ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

1. Εάν και πόσες διερευνητικές δειγματοληψίες έχουν πραγματοποιηθεί σε επίπεδο κρατών μελών της ΕΕ για την ανίχνευση ραδιενέργειας σε προϊόντα εκτός τροφίμων και ζωοτροφών;

2. Έχουν γίνει εισαγωγές ραδιενεργών προϊόντων ιαπωνικής προέλευσης εκτός τροφίμων και ζωοτροφών και, εάν ναι, σε ποιά κράτη μέλη και σε ποιές ποσότητες;

3. Ποιά μέτρα έχει λάβει ώστε να αποφευχθούν φαινόμενα εμπορικής απάτης με αναγραφή διαφορετικής γεωγραφικής προέλευσης προκειμένου να διασφαλιστεί ένα υψηλό επίπεδο προστασίας της υγείας των Ευρωπαίων καταναλωτών;

Απάντηση του κ. Dalli εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(29 Μαρτίου 2012)

1) Οι φυσικοί έλεγχοι (δειγματοληψία και ανάλυση) για την παρουσία ραδιενέργειας πραγματοποιούνται σε προϊόντα εκτός των ζωοτροφών και τροφίμων καταγωγής Ιαπωνίας. Την περίοδο μεταξύ 11 Μαρτίου 2011 και 30 Σεπτεμβρίου 2011 πραγματοποιήθηκαν περίπου 4 000 φυσικοί έλεγχοι σε προϊόντα που δεν είναι ζωοτροφές και τρόφιμα εισαγωγής Ιαπωνίας.

2) Δεν έχουν εισαχθεί από την Ιαπωνία ραδιενεργά προϊόντα που δεν είναι ζωοτροφές και τρόφιμα.

3) Όσον αφορά τα ψάρια και τα προϊόντα αλιείας, το καθεστώς πιστοποίησης αλιευμάτων της ΕΕ, που θεσπίστηκε στο πλαίσιο του κανονισμού κατά της παράνομης, άναρχης και λαθραίας αλιείας ([1]), αποτελεί ένα σημαντικό μηχανισμό για την αποφυγή περιπτώσεων εμπορικής απάτης, συμπεριλαμβανομένων των εσφαλμένων προσδιορισμών γεωγραφικής προέλευσης.

Όσον αφορά τα τρόφιμα γενικά, ο κανονισμός (ΕΕ) αριθ. 1169/2011 του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και του Συμβουλίου, της 25ης Οκτωβρίου 2011, σχετικά με την παροχή πληροφοριών για τα τρόφιμα στους καταναλωτές ([2]) προβλέπει, στο άρθρο 7, ότι οι πληροφορίες για τα τρόφιμα δεν πρέπει να είναι παραπλανητικές, ιδίως όσον αφορά τα χαρακτηριστικά του τροφίμου και, κυρίως, όσον αφορά τη φύση, την ταυτότητα, τις ιδιότητες, τη σύνθεση, την ποσότητα, την ελάχιστη διάρκεια, τη χώρα καταγωγής ή τον τόπο προέλευσης, τη μέθοδο παρασκευής ή παραγωγής. Η ίδια διάταξη προβλέπεται επίσης στο άρθρο 16 του κανονισμού (ΕΚ) αριθ. 178/2002 του Ευρωπαϊκού Κοινοβουλίου και του Συμβουλίου, της 28ης Ιανουαρίου 2002, για τον καθορισμό των γενικών αρχών και απαιτήσεων της νομοθεσίας για τα τρόφιμα, για την ίδρυση της Ευρωπαϊκής Αρχής για την Ασφάλεια των Τροφίμων και τον καθορισμό διαδικασιών σε θέματα ασφαλείας των τροφίμων ([3]).

([1]) Κανονισμός (ΕΚ) αριθ. 1005/2008 του Συμβουλίου, της 29ης Σεπτεμβρίου 2008, περί δημιουργίας κοινοτικού συστήματος πρόληψης, αποτροπής και εξάλειψης της παράνομης, λαθραίας και άναρχης αλιείας (ΕΕ L 286 της 29.10.2008).

([2]) ΕΕ L 304 της 22.11.2011.

([3]) ΕΕ L 31 της 1.2.2002.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000348/12
to the Commission
Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Importing radioactive products to the EU after the Fukushima nuclear accident

According to the international Press, in December 2011, the Russian authorities confiscated a container full of radioactive tyres from Japan and, in the first 10 days of January 2012, they confiscated radioactive spare parts for automobiles, also of Japanese origin. Since there are a considerable number of Japanese automobile manufacturing plants in the EU, spare parts are imported on a massive scale,

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say whether exploratory sampling operations have been carried out at EU Member State level to detect radioactivity in products other than foodstuffs and feedingstuffs and, if so, how many?

2. Have radioactive products of Japanese origin other than foodstuffs and feedingstuffs been imported? If so, into which Member States and in what quantities?

3. What measures have been taken by the Commission to prevent occurrences of commercial fraud involving false designations of geographic origin, so as to ensure a high level of protection for the health of the European consumers?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission
(29 March 2012)

1. Physical controls (sampling and analysis) on the presence of radioactivity are performed in products other than feed and food originating from Japan. In the period between 11 March 2011 and 30 September 2011 about 4 000 physical controls have been performed on non-feed and non-food products imported from Japan.

2. No radioactive non-feed and non-food products from Japan have been imported.

3. As regards fish and fishery products, the EU's catch certification scheme, introduced as part of the regulation against illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing ([1]), is an essential tool to avoid commercial fraud involving false designations of geographic origin.

As regards food in general, Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to the consumer ([2]) provides in Article 7 that Food information shall not be misleading, particularly as to the characteristics of the food and, in particular, as to its nature, identity, properties, composition, quantity, durability, country of origin or place of provenance, method of manufacture or production. This same provision is also foreseen in Article 16 of the regulation (EC) No 178/2002 of the Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2002 laying down the principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety ([3]).

([1]) Council Regulation (EC) No 1005/2008 of 29 September 2008 establishing a Community system to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (OJ L 286, 29.10.2008).
([2]) OJ L 304, 22.11.2011.
([3]) OJ L 31, 1.2.2002.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000349/12
to the Commission
Diane Dodds (NI)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Toy Safety Directive

With regard to the 2009 Toy Safety Directive, what monitoring has been carried out by the Commission to ensure that toy manufacturers are adhering to the conformity assessment procedure? This is in relation to either of the prescribed routes: self-verification or third-party verification.

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(9 February 2012)

Carrying out a conformity assessment procedure is mandatory for manufacturers to place toys on the EU market. The responsibility to verify that manufacturers have complied with their obligations lies primarily with Member States. According to Regulation 765/2008/EC ([1]), Member States shall organise and carry out market surveillance, by performing appropriate checks on products and taking appropriate measures when necessary. With regard to toys, the toy safety directive ([2]) requires Member States to inform the Commission, by July 2014, on the application of the directive and the market surveillance activities carried out.

([1]) OJ L 218, 13.8.2008.
([2]) Directive 2009/48/EC, OJ L 170, 30.6.2009.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης P-000352/12
προς την Επιτροπή
Konstantinos Poupakis (PPE)
(18 Ιανουαρίου 2012)

Θέμα: Υπό αμφισβήτηση τίθενται η ουσία και οι αρχές του κοινωνικού διαλόγου στην Ελλάδα

Σύμφωνα με τους διακηρυγμένους στόχους αλλά και το σύνολο των σχετικών ανακοινώσεων της ΕΕ, ο κοινωνικός διάλογος αποτελεί την κινητήρια δύναμη επιτυχημένων οικονομικών και κοινωνικών μεταρρυθμίσεων ενώ η διαρκής προσπάθεια ενδυνάμωσης του ρόλου του στο «πολιτικό γίγνεσθαι» των κρατών μελών συνιστά βασική προτεραιότητα. Σε μια περίοδο έντονης οικονομικής κρίσης, που έχει πλήξει ιδιαίτερα την απασχόληση και την κοινωνική συνοχή, είναι εξαιρετικά σημαντικό να σχεδιαστούν και να υλοποιηθούν πολιτικές δημοσιονομικής εξυγίανσης με σκοπό τη διασφάλιση της βιωσιμότητας των δημόσιων οικονομικών, μέσα από μια αναπτυξιακή και κοινωνικά δίκαιη λογική. Στην Ελλάδα δρομολογούνται οικονομικές και κοινωνικές μεταρρυθμίσεις η υλοποίηση των οποίων συνδέεται κάθε φορά με την εκταμίευση κάποιας δόσης από το οικονομικό πακέτο βοήθειας που λαμβάνει ή, προσφάτως, ακόμα και με την υπογραφή της νέας δανειακής σύμβασης. Πιο συγκεκριμένα, τις τελευταίες εβδομάδες έχει τεθεί επί τάπητος το θέμα της περαιτέρω μείωσης του μισθολογικού κόστους στον ιδιωτικό τομέα, το οποίο καθορίζεται έπειτα από ελεύθερες συλλογικές διαπραγματεύσεις μεταξύ των κοινωνικών εταίρων σε εθνικό επίπεδο (νόμιμος κατώτατος μισθός, κατοχυρωμένες ελάχιστες αυξήσεις κ.λπ.).

Οι κοινωνικοί εταίροι κλήθηκαν να συμμετέχουν σε κοινωνικό διάλογο αναφορικά με τα εν λόγω ζητήματα υπό μη κανονικές συνθήκες που επηρεάζουν την ομαλή διεξαγωγή του κοινωνικού διαλόγου και υπονομεύουν τη ν προοπτική μιας νέας καθολικής κοινωνικής συνεννόησης.

Πιο συγκεκριμένα, οι διαπραγματεύσεις διεξάγονται υπό έντονη πίεση χρόνου και μάλιστα υπό την απειλή ότι σε περίπτωση που δεν υπάρξει άμεση συμφωνία θα παρακαμφθούν οι διαδικασίες και θα υπάρξει σχετική νομοθετική ρύθμιση. Με βάση τα παραπάνω ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

— Οι συγκεκριμένες ενέργειες της ελληνικής κυβέρνησης θέτουν υπό αμφισβήτηση την ουσία και τις αρχές του κοινωνικού διαλόγου;

— Δε θα ήταν σκοπιμότερο, σύμφωνα και με την ευρωπαϊκή εμπειρία, να ενταθούν οι προσπάθειες επίτευξης κοινωνικής συμφωνίας και άρα διατήρησης της κοινωνικής ειρήνης αντί να διαμορφώνονται εκβιαστικές συνθήκες που προωθούν κοινωνικές αναταραχές;

Απάντηση του κ. Andor εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(14 Φεβρουαρίου 2012)

Η Επιτροπή έχει δεσμευτεί να προωθήσει τον κοινωνικό διάλογο σε ολόκληρη την Ένωση, λαμβάνοντας υπόψη τη διαφορετικότητα των εθνικών συστημάτων εργασιακών σχέσεων. Για τον λόγο αυτό έχει τονίσει ότι είναι αναγκαίο κάθε κράτος μέλος να εξασφαλίζει τη συμμετοχή των κοινωνικών εταίρων, όπου κρίνεται σκόπιμο, στον σχεδιασμό και την υλοποίηση ισόρροπων οικονομικών και κοινωνικών πολιτικών.

Από την αρχή της κρίσης στην Ελλάδα, η Επιτροπή έχει υπογραμμίσει την προστιθέμενη αξία που παρέχει η επιδίωξη συναίνεσης μέσω της συμμετοχής των κοινωνικών εταίρων στην εξεύρεση αποτελεσματικών βιώσιμων λύσεων σε επίπεδο πολιτικής. Η Επιτροπή παρακολουθεί συνεπώς τις εξελίξεις των εργασιακών σχέσεων στην Ελλάδα και έχει επιμείνει, μέσω των επαφών της με τις εθνκές αρχές, στη σημασία του κοινωνικού διαλόγου προκειμένου να διασφαλιστεί η οικοδόμηση κοινωνικής συναίνεσης όσον αφορά την υλοποίηση των αναγκαίων διαρθρωτικών μεταρρυθμίσεων.

(English version)

Question for written answer P-000352/12
to the Commission
Konstantinos Poupakis (PPE)
(18 January 2012)

Subject: Calling into question the substance and the principles of social dialogue in Greece

According to stated EU objectives and all related pronouncements, social dialogue is the driving force behind successful economic and social reform, while ongoing efforts to enhance its role in Member State polity constitute a key priority. In a period of intense economic crisis that has made itself felt particularly in terms of employment and the social cohesion, it is vital to formulate and put into practice fiscal reforms designed to ensure the sustainability of public finances based on growth and social justice.

Economic and social reforms are now being launched in Greece, their implementation being linked to each successive payment from the economic aid package or, more recently, the signing of the new loan agreement. More specifically, over the last few weeks, the question of further cutting private sector pay costs, which are covered by free collective agreements at national level (regarding the statutory minimum wage, minimum regulated salary increases etc.), has been raised.

The social partners were called to participate in the social dialogue regarding these issues under irregular circumstances, affecting the smooth conduct of proceedings and undermining the prospect of any new comprehensive agreement on social issues.

More specifically, the negotiations are being conducted under intense time pressure, compounded by the threat that, if no immediate agreement is reached, the entire process will be bypassed and the relevant legislation adopted.

In view of this:

— Does the Commission take the view that these specific actions by the Greek Government are undermining the substance and principles of the social dialogue?

— Would it not preferable, based on experience at European level, to step up efforts to reach agreement on social issues, thereby preserving social harmony, rather than resorting to blackmail, and thereby running the risk of kindling unrest?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission
(14 February 2012)

The Commission is committed to promoting social dialogue throughout the Union, taking the diversity of national systems of industrial relations into account. That is why it has stressed the need for each Member State to involve the social partners, where this is appropriate, in the design and implementation of balanced economic and social policies.

Since the outset of the crisis in Greece, the Commission has highlighted the added value of seeking consensus through the involvement of the social partners in effective, sustainable policy responses. The Commission is therefore attentive to the developments of industrial relations in Greece, and has insisted throughout its contacts with the national authorities on the importance of social dialogue in order to ensure that social cohesion is built around the implementation of the necessary structural reforms.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite P-000353/12
à la Commission
Françoise Grossetête (PPE)
(18 janvier 2012)

Objet: Prothèses mammaires/Dispositifs médicaux

L'affaire des prothèses mammaires défectueuses de la marque PIP (Poly Implant Prothese) concerne 30 000 femmes en France et entre 400 000 et 500 000 femmes dans le monde en l'état des connaissances actuelles.

Sur les 30 000 femmes ayant reçu en France des implants PIP, 1 143 cas de ruptures et 495 réactions inflammatoires ont été recensés, ce qui a occasionné 1 638 retraits de prothèses. À cela s'ajoutent 672 retraits d'implants PIP à titre préventif.

À l'évidence, de nombreux dysfonctionnements ont eu lieu, tant au niveau des pratiques industrielles que des autorités de contrôle qui n'ont pas été en mesure de détecter la fraude.

Dans l'attente des nouvelles propositions visant à réviser l'actuelle directive sur les dispositifs médicaux, la Commission entend-elle revoir les procédures de mise sur le marché, mais aussi les différentes formes de contrôle a posteriori?

S'il existe actuellement une autorisation de mise sur le marché (AMM) européenne pour les médicaments, nous n'avons pas d'équivalent en ce qui concerne les dispositifs médicaux. En tenant compte de l'immense variété de produits qualifiés de dispositifs médicaux (une béquille, un pacemaker ou une prothèse ont peu de choses en commun), la Commission envisage-t-elle la mise en place d'une AMM au niveau européen pour les produits présentant des risques pour la santé des patients à l'exemple des prothèses mammaires?

Réponse donnée par M. Dalli au nom de la Commission
(7 février 2012)

Il convient de souligner que, dans l'affaire en question, le fabricant de prothèses mammaires «Poly Implant Prothese» (PIP) a frauduleusement utilisé un silicone de qualité médiocre; ce silicone différait de celui qu'il annonçait dans la documentation technique fournie lors de la procédure d'évaluation de la conformité. Il n'est pas certain qu'un système d'autorisation préalable à la mise sur le marché aurait empêché la fraude.

La Commission est en train d'analyser soigneusement cette affaire afin de déceler les éventuelles insuffisances du cadre réglementaire actuel. Les conclusions de cette analyse seront prises en compte dans la révision de la législation sur les dispositifs médicaux, démarche à laquelle la Commission travaillait déjà, indépendamment de l'affaire PIP, et qui devrait donner lieu à l'adoption de propositions législatives en 2012. Il s'agit de renforcer le système, de remédier aux lacunes et faiblesses existantes et de rendre le système de réglementation plus apte à remplir ses fonctions.

(English version)

Question for written answer P-000353/12
to the Commission
Françoise Grossetête (PPE)
(18 January 2012)

Subject: Breast implants/medical devices

The case of defective breast implants by the brand PIP (Poly Implant Prothese) concerns 30 000 women in France and between 400 000 and 500 000 women in the world, based on present knowledge.

Of the 30 000 women who received PIP implants in France, 1 143 ruptures and 495 inflammatory reactions were reported, leading to the withdrawal of 1 638 implants, a further, 672 being withdrawn as a precautionary measure.

Clearly, a number of errors were committed by both the manufacturers and by the regulatory authorities which failed to detect the defects.

In anticipation of new proposals to revise the existing directive on medical devices, does the Commission intend to review the procedures for placing products on the market, and also the various forms of *a posteriori* monitoring?

Although a European marketing authorisation (AMM) is currently required for medicinal products, we do not have an equivalent for medical devices. Taking into account the huge variety of products classified as medical devices (a crutch, a pacemaker or a prosthesis have little in common), does the Commission intend to introduce a European marketing authorisation for products such as breast implants which present health risks for patients?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission
(7 February 2012)

It should be underlined that in the case in question, the manufacturer, Poly Implant Prothese (PIP), fraudulently made use of low-quality silicon different from the one declared in his technical documentation to the notified body during the conformity assessment procedure. It is not established that a pre-market authorisation system would have prevented the manufacturer's fraud.

The Commission is in the process of thoroughly analysing the present case to identify possible shortcomings of the current regulatory framework. The findings shall be taken into account in the context of the revision of the medical device legislation, an initiative already under preparation independently of the PIP case for which the Commission envisages adopting legislative proposals in 2012. The objective is to reinforce the system, to overcome existing gaps and weaknesses and to make the regulatory system fitter for purpose.

(Wersja polska)

Pytanie wymagające odpowiedzi pisemnej E-000354/12
do Komisji (Wiceprzewodniczącej/Wysokiej Przedstawiciel)
Michał Tomasz Kamiński (ECR)
(23 stycznia 2012 r.)

Przedmiot: Wiceprzewodnicząca/Wysoka Przedstawiciel – Aresztowanie Gao Zhishenga

Chiński prawnik i obrońca praw człowieka Gao Zhisheng, znany z krytyki wobec chińskiego rządu, został ponownie aresztowany w miniony piątek. Zgodnie z informacjami przekazanymi przez agencję Xinhua powodem było naruszenie warunków zawieszenia wyroku.

W związku z powyższym, pragnę zapytać, czy:

1. Wysoka Przedstawiciel Unii do spraw zagranicznych i polityki bezpieczeństwa Catherine Ashton zamierza w tej sprawie zareagować?

2. Wysoka Przedstawiciel Unii do spraw zagranicznych i polityki bezpieczeństwa Catherine Ashton zamierza poruszyć sprawę aresztowania i szykanowania Gao Zhishenga na najbliższym szczycie UE Chiny?

Odpowiedź udzielona przez Wysoką Przedstawiciel/Wiceprzewodniczącą Komisji Catherine Ashton w imieniu Komisji
(26 marca 2012 r.)

W dniu 22 grudnia 2011 r. rzecznik Wysokiej Przedstawiciel/Wiceprzewodniczącej wydał następujące oświadczenie:

„Wysoka Przedstawiciel/Wiceprzewodnicząca jest głęboko zaniepokojona doniesieniami, że chiński prawnik i obrońca praw człowieka, Gao Zhiseng, który zaginął przed 20 miesiącami, został ponownie skazany na 3 lata więzienia. Wysoka Przedstawiciel/Wiceprzewodnicząca wzywa do natychmiastowego uwolnienia Gao Zhisenga oraz przedstawienia informacji o jego stanie zdrowia i miejscu pobytu. Wysoka Przedstawiciel/Wiceprzewodnicząca wielokrotnie wzywała rząd chiński na najwyższym szczeblu do ujawnienia miejsca pobytu Gao Zhisenga, zapewnienia mu pomocy adwokata i zezwolenia na utrzymywanie kontaktów z rodziną”.

W dniu 4 stycznia 2012 r. rzecznik Wysokiej Przedstawiciel/Wiceprzewodniczącej wydał następujące oświadczenie:

„Wysoka Przedstawiciel z ubolewaniem przyjęła wiadomość o wydaniu pod koniec grudnia wyroków skazujących na 9 i 10 lat więzienia Chen Wei oraz Chen Xi, działaczy na rzecz praw człowieka. Nastąpiło to niedługo po skazaniu na 3 lata więzienia prawnika i obrońcy praw człowieka, Gao Zhishenga. Wysoka Przedstawiciel jest wciąż szczególnie zaniepokojona przypadkiem obrońcy praw człowieka, Ni Yulan, zwłaszcza ze względu na jego zły stan zdrowia.

Unia Europejska jest zaniepokojona pogorszeniem się sytuacji chińskich działaczy na rzecz praw człowieka i będzie w dalszym ciągu bacznie monitorować te przypadki.

UE przywiązuje dużą wagę do poszanowania praw człowieka na całym świecie”.

Przewodniczący Barroso oraz Przewodniczący van Rompuy poruszyli kwestię praw człowieka, w tym indywidualne przypadki, na szczycie UE-Chiny, jaki odbył się w Pekinie dnia 14 lutego 2012 r.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000354/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Michał Tomasz Kamiński (ECR)
(23 January 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Arrest of Gao Zhisheng

Gao Zhisheng, the Chinese lawyer and human rights defender known for his criticism of the Chinese Government, was arrested again last Friday. According to information provided by the Xinhua agency, the reason for his arrest was that he had breached the conditions of his suspended sentence.

1. Is the Vice-President/High Representative intending to respond in this matter?

2. Is the Vice-President/High Representative intending to raise the issue of the arrest and persecution of Gao Zhisheng at the next EU-China summit?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(26 March 2012)

On 22 December 2011, the spokesman of the High Representative/Vice-President issued the following statement:

'The High Representative/Vice-President is deeply concerned at the news that Chinese human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng, who has been missing for 20 months, has been sentenced again to 3 years in prison. The High Representative/Vice-President calls for his immediate release and for information about his well-being and location. The High Representative/Vice-President has repeatedly called on the Chinese government, at the highest level, to reveal the whereabouts of Mr Gao, to give Mr Gao access to a lawyer and to allow Mr Gao to maintain contact with his family.'

On 4 January 2012, the spokesman of the High Representative/Vice-President issued the following statement:

'The High Representative regrets the decisions taken in late December to sentence the Chinese human rights activists Chen Wei and Chen Xi to 9 and 10 years in prison respectively. This follows the recent sentencing of human rights lawyer Gao Zhisheng to 3 years imprisonment. She remains particularly concerned about the case of human rights defender Ni Yulan, particularly in view of Mrs Ni's poor health.

The European Union is preoccupied with the deterioration of the situation for human rights activists in China and will continue to follow these cases attentively.

The EU attaches great importance to the respect of human rights all over the world.'

President Barroso and President van Rompuy have raised human rights issues, including individual cases, at the EU-China Summit, held in Beijing on 14 February 2012.

(българска версия)

Въпрос с искане за писмен отговор E-000355/12
до Комисията
Илиана Иванова (PPE)
(20 януари 2012 г.)

Относно: Нарушаване на правото на ЕС от национални органи на Нидерландия

Разпоредбите на Договора за функционирането на Европейския съюз (ДФЕС) относно свободното движение на работници понастоящем не се прилагат за българските граждани. Българските граждани, обаче, имат право да се възползват от правата и защитата, предоставени от правото на установяване (член 49 от ДФЕС), свободното предоставяне на услуги (член 56 от ДФЕС), правилата относно гражданството на ЕС (член 20 от ДФЕС) и забраната на дискриминация срещу граждани на ЕС и дружества от ЕС (член 18 от ДФЕС). Те също така са защитени от и могат да разчитат на правата, залегнали във вторичното законодателство на ЕС, например Директива 2006/123/ЕО на Европейския парламент и на Съвета от 12 декември 2006 г. относно услугите на вътрешния пазар.

Според многобройни жалби, получени от български граждани, тези законови права и защити, гарантирани при присъединяването на България към ЕС, систематично се нарушават в Нидерландия от следните нидерландски органи: Kamer van Koophandel (KvK), Immigratie en naturalisatiedienst (IND), Belastingdienst, Gemeente Rotterdam и Ziektekostenverzekering, наричани по-нататък „нидерландските органи“. Методът, използван най-често от нидерландските органи за създаване на пречки пред учредяването от български граждани на дружество в Нидерландия е отказът за издаване на Декларация „VAR“, по точно — декларация от вида „Winst uit onderneming“, („печалба за предприемачество“). Този вид документ се изисква от всички нидерландски фирми партньори при сътрудничество между две дружества. От 2009 г. този вид декларация почти не е издаван на дружество в Нидерландия, учредено от български гражданин, дори когато всички необходими документи са били в съответствие с обявените критерии. Отказът не е залегнал официално в нито един законодателен документ на Нидерландия, но представлява последователна и установена административна практика на нидерландските органи. По този начин българските граждани са дискриминирани от нидерландските органи единствено въз основа на националността си, в противоречие с основите на правото на ЕС.

1. Информирана ли е Комисията за гореизложената ситуация, засягаща българските граждани в Нидерландия? Ако не е, Комисията би ли проучила случая и, ако е необходимо, би ли подвела под отговорност нидерландската държава?

2. Ако Комисията е информирана за тези факти, може ли да изложи какви мерки са предприети, за да се прекрати нарушаването на правото на ЕС от нидерландските органи и да се защитят правата на българските граждани?

Отговор, даден от г-н Барние от името на Комисията
(29 февруари 2012 г.)

Фактите, съобщени от уважаемия член на Парламента, не са известни на службите на Комисията.

За да разгледат съвместимостта на предполагаемите постоянни административни практики с принципите за свобода на установяването и свободно движение на услугите, службите на Комисията ще бъдат благодарни на уважаемия член на Парламента, ако може да им предостави цялата информация, с която разполага във връзка с предполагаемото нарушение.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000355/12
to the Commission
Iliana Ivanova (PPE)
(20 January 2012)

Subject: Violation of EC law by Dutch national authorities

The provisions of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) on the free movement of workers are currently not applicable to Bulgarian citizens. However, Bulgarian citizens are entitled to rely on the rights and protections afforded by freedom of establishment (Article 49 TFEU), freedom to provide services (Article 56 TFEU), the rules on EU citizenship (Article 20 TFEU), and the prohibition of discrimination against EU citizens and companies (Article 18 TFEU). They are also protected by and can rely on the rights enshrined in EU secondary legislation such as Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market.

According to multiple complaints received from Bulgarian citizens, these legal rights and protections, guaranteed upon Bulgaria's accession to the EU, are being systematically violated in the Netherlands by the following Dutch authorities: Kamer van Koophandel (KvK), Immigratie en naturalisatiedienst (IND), Belastingdienst, Gemeente Rotterdam, and Ziektekostenverzekering (hereinafter referred to as 'the Dutch authorities'). The most common method used by the Dutch authorities to create obstacles for the establishment of a company in the Netherlands by a Bulgarian citizen is refusal to issue a VAR Declaration, specifically of the type 'Winst uit onderneming' ('Profit for entrepreneurship'). This type of document is required by all Dutch partner firms when two companies collaborate. Since 2009, this type of declaration has hardly ever been issued to a company in the Netherlands established by a Bulgarian citizen, even when all required documents are in line with the announced criteria. The refusal is not formally laid down in any legislative document of the Netherlands, but represents a consistent and established administrative practice of the Dutch authorities. Bulgarian citizens are thus being discriminated against by the Dutch authorities, solely on the grounds of their nationality, contrary to the fundamentals of EC law.

1. Is the Commission aware of the above situation affecting Bulgarian citizens in the Netherlands? If not, can it further investigate the case, and if necessary bring charges against the Dutch state?

2. If the Commission is aware of these facts, can it state what measures have been taken in order to stop the Dutch authorities acting in violation of EC law and protect the rights of Bulgarian citizens?

Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission
(29 February 2012)

The Commission's services are not aware of the facts related by the Honourable Member.

In order to examine the compatibility of the alleged consistent administrative practice with the principles of freedom of establishment and free movement of services, the Commission's services would be grateful if the Honourable Member could provide them with all the information at her disposal concerning the alleged infringement.

(Version française)

Question avec demande de réponse écrite E-000356/12
à la Commission
Françoise Grossetête (PPE) et Michel Dantin (PPE)
(20 janvier 2012)

Objet: Composants organiques volatils/Formaldéhyde

En raison de ses propriétés physicochimiques, le formaldéhyde a de multiples applications en tant que biocide conservateur ou fixateur. Il est en outre présent dans de nombreux produits de construction et de consommation d'usage courant (produits d'ameublement, de décoration, d'entretien…). Cette substance est aussi détectée et mesurée dans tous les environnements intérieurs à des concentrations plus ou moins élevées.

Le formaldéhyde est aujourd'hui classé par la réglementation européenne sur les produits chimiques (REACH) comme un «cancérogène de catégorie 3», une catégorie qui regroupe les substances «préoccupantes pour l'homme, en raison d'effets cancérogènes possibles, mais pour lesquelles les informations disponibles ne permettent pas une évaluation satisfaisante».

Pourtant, plusieurs études, dont celles de l'Agence française de sécurité sanitaire de l'alimentation, de l'environnement et du travail (ANSES) mais aussi du Centre international de recherche sur le Cancer (CIRC), indiquent que l'existence d'un lien de causalité entre l'exposition au formaldéhyde et la survenue de tumeurs du nasopharynx chez l'homme peut être raisonnablement établie. Le CIRC a d'ailleurs classé la substance comme cancérogène pour l'homme (catégorie 1). Suite à la recommandation de l'ANSES, la France a également transmis, le 28 septembre 2011, une proposition de révision du classement du formaldéhyde à l'Agence européenne des produits chimiques (ECHA).

Alors que la proposition française est actuellement toujours étudiée par les experts du comité d'évaluation des risques de l'ECHA, à la suite de quoi la Commission décidera de modifier ou non la classification du formaldéhyde, de nombreux citoyens sont aujourd'hui inquiets pour leur santé.

Dès lors et au regard de ces récentes études scientifiques, la Commission envisage-t-elle, dans l'attente de ses conclusions finales, de mettre en place des mesures de prévention réglementaires additionnelles afin de protéger les citoyens face à ce risque sanitaire?

Réponse donnée par M. Tajani au nom de la Commission
(2 mars 2012)

Le dossier soumis par la France ([1]) en ce qui concerne la classification du formaldéhyde comme substance cancérogène de catégorie 1A et mutagène de catégorie 2 est actuellement examiné par le comité d'évaluation des risques de l'ECHA (CER), conformément à la procédure applicable en vertu du règlement (CE) no 1272/2008 (règlement CLP ([2])). L'avis du CER est attendu vers la fin du mois d'avril 2013.

En attendant le résultat de cette évaluation, aucune mesure n'est prévue dans le cadre du règlement (CE) no 1907/2006 (règlement REACH ([3])).

Une modification de la classification actuelle du formaldéhyde conformément au règlement CLP, comme le propose la France, aurait des conséquences sur les restrictions énumérées à l'entrée 28 de l'annexe XVII du règlement REACH, qui interdit la mise sur le marché et l'utilisation des substances classées «cancérogènes catégorie 1A ou 1B», en tant que substances, en tant que constituants d'autres substances, ou dans des mélanges, en vue de la vente au grand public.

Pour introduire des restrictions supplémentaires au titre du règlement REACH, il y a lieu de suivre la procédure en vigueur, régie par les articles 69 à 73 du règlement REACH, ce qui implique d'analyser à la fois les risques pour la santé humaine ou l'environnement et l'impact socio-économique des restrictions proposées. Dans ce contexte, si un État membre considère qu'il existe, pour la santé humaine ou l'environnement, un risque devant être pris en considération, il a l'obligation d'élaborer un dossier de restriction, conformément à l'article 69, paragraphe 4, du règlement REACH.

([1]) http://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/33be54[0-9]c-7f27-4982-8078-d468f9431[0-9]c4

([2]) Règlement (CE) n° 1272/2008 du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 16 décembre 2008 relatif à la classification, à l'étiquetage et à l'emballage des substances et des mélanges, modifiant et abrogeant les directives 67/548/CEE et 1999/45/CE et modifiant le règlement (CE) n° 1907/2006 (JO L 353 du 31.12.2008, p. 1).

([3]) Règlement (CE) n° 1907/2006 du Parlement européen et du Conseil du 18 décembre 2006 concernant l'enregistrement, l'évaluation et l'autorisation des substances chimiques, ainsi que les restrictions applicables à ces substances (REACH), instituant une agence européenne des produits chimiques, modifiant la directive 1999/45/CE et abrogeant le règlement (CEE) n° 793/93 du Conseil et le règlement (CE) n° 1488/94 de la Commission ainsi que la directive 76/769/CEE du Conseil et les directives 91/155/CEE, 93/67/CEE, 93/105/CE et 2000/21/CE de la Commission (JO L 396 du 30.12.2006, p. 1).

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000356/12
to the Commission
Françoise Grossetête (PPE) and Michel Dantin (PPE)
(20 January 2012)

Subject: Volatile organic compounds/formaldehyde

Because of its physicochemical properties, formaldehyde has a variety of applications as preserving or fixing biocide. Moreover, it is used in many common construction and consumer products (furnishing, decoration, cleaning products…). This substance is also detected and measured in greater or smaller concentrations in all interior environments.

Currently, the European Regulation on Chemicals (REACH) classifies formaldehyde as a 'Category C carcinogen', a category that regroups substances 'of concern to man because of a possible carcinogenic effect which, however, cannot be satisfactorily assessed given the information available'.

Nevertheless, several studies, including those of the French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health and Safety (ANSES) and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) show the existence of a causal link between exposure to formaldehyde and the occurrence of nasopharyngeal carcinoma in humans can be reasonably established. Furthermore, IARC has classified the substance as a human carcinogen (Group 1). Following ANSES's recommendation, on 28 September 2011 France submitted a proposal for the review of formaldehyde classification to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).

Since the French proposal is still being examined by the experts of ECHA's Risk Assessment Committee, following which the Commission will decide whether to change the classification, many citizens are currently worried about their health.

Therefore, and in light of the aforementioned scientific studies, does the Commission intend to implement additional regulatory preventative measures in order to protect citizens from this health risk pending its final conclusions?

Answer given by Mr Tajani on behalf of the Commission
(2 March 2012)

The dossier submitted by France ([1]) concerning the classification of formaldehyde as carcinogenic Category CA and Mutagenic Cat 2 is currently under analysis by ECHA's Committee for Risk Assessment (RAC) in accordance with the relevant procedure under Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 (CLP ([2])). The opinion of RAC is expected towards the end of April 2013.

Pending the outcome of this assessment, no measures are envisaged under Regulation (EC) 1907/2006 (REACH) ([3]).

A modification of the current classification of formaldehyde in accordance with CLP as proposed by France would have consequences for its restriction under entry 28 of Annex XVII to REACH, which bans the placing on the market and use of substances classified as carcinogen Category c A or 1 B, as substances, constituent of other substances or in mixtures for supply to general public.

In order to introduce additional restrictions under REACH, the relevant procedure, regulated by Articles 69-73 of REACH, has to be followed, involving both the analysis of the risks to human health or environment and the socioeconomic impact of the restriction. In this context, if a Member State considers that there is a risk to human health or the environment that needs to be addressed it has the obligation to prepare a restriction dossier, as required by Article 69(4) of REACH.

([1]) http://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/33be542e-7f27-4982-8078-d468f94310e4

([2]) Regulation (EC) 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures, amending and repealing Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC, and amending Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (OJ L 353, 31.12.2008, p. 1).

([3]) Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC (OJ L 396, 30.12.2006, p. 1).

(Dansk udgave)

Forespørgsel til skriftlig besvarelse E-000358/12
til Kommissionen
Bendt Bendtsen (PPE) og Anne E. Jensen (ALDE)
(20. januar 2012)

Om: Gennemførelse af SET-planen

Energi fra vedvarende energikilder spiller en stadig større rolle i EU's energimiks (i sin energikøreplan forventer Kommissionen, at energi fra vedvarende energikilder vil udgøre mellem 55 % og 75 % af det endelige indenlandske bruttoenergiforbrug i 2050), og vindmøller vil med tiden blive den vigtigste energiteknologi og bidrage til opnåelsen af medlemsstaternes 2020-målsætninger.

Under førstebehandlingen af 2012-budgettet foreslog Parlamentet to nye budgetposter under SET-planen (post 32 04 05) med 1 mio. EUR i forpligtelsesbevillinger til både vind- og solenergi. Budgetposterne blev foreslået for at øremærke midler til disse teknologier.

Kommissionen bemærkede i sit svar til Parlamentets holdning til budgetforslaget for 2012, at der ikke foreligger noget retsgrundlag for disse budgetposter. Forslaget blev ikke bibeholdt i det fælles udkast til EU's budget for 2012.

Eftersom EU-budgettet inkluderer fastsatte støttebeløb til energiteknologier såsom ITER og kerneteknologi, er der behov for en præcisering af retsgrundlaget på energiområdet med henblik på at afgøre, hvorvidt det er muligt, at der i EU-budgettet kan afsættes midler til vind- og solenergi.

1. Under hvilke omstændigheder ville særskilte budgetposter være acceptable ud fra et retligt perspektiv?

2. Ville begge budgetmyndighedens parters vedtagelse af disse budgetposter udgøre et tilstrækkeligt retsgrundlag til, at posterne kunne bibeholdes i EU-budgettet?

3. Er Kommissionen enig i, at separate budgetposter kunne være en god metode til at tage højde for de forskellige modningsniveauer inden for de seks forskellige teknologier såvel som til at forbedre gennemsigtigheden?

4. Kan Kommissionen give et overordnet indtryk af, hvad de seks forskellige teknologier forholdsmæssigt vil modtage fra SET-planen?

5. Hvordan agter Kommissionen at sikre, at budgetbevillingerne fordeles mere ligeligt mellem projekterne i SET-planen?

Svar afgivet på Kommissionens vegne af Günther Oettinger
(2. marts 2012)

1) til 3) Kommissionen henviser det ærede medlem til finansforordningens ([1]) bestemmelser, hvoraf det fremgår, at der skal være vedtaget en basisretsakt, før bevillingerne kan opføres på EU-budgettet. Den strategiske energiteknologiplan er ikke en basisretsakt; det er en kommissionsmeddelelse, der udpeger en række prioriterede forskningsemner for Kommissionen, medlemsstaterne og industrien med det formål at nå til enighed om teknologikøreplaner og implementeringsplaner. For at sikre finansiering af teknologier, der er omfattet af SET-planen, vedtog Kommissionen den 30. november 2011 et lovforslag om Horisont 2020 ([2]). Det forventes, at der vil blive øremærket 6 537 mia. EUR til energiområdet under samfundsmæssige udfordringer og 1 131 mia. EUR til SET-plan-projekter, der hører ind under afsnittet om »Adgang til risikovillig kapital«. Fordelingen på de forskellige teknologier fastlægges på fleksibel vis ved hjælp af årlige arbejdsprogrammer. Teknologierne understøttes på forskellige måder afhængigt af deres specifikke forhold (f.eks. potentiale og udviklingsstade), og altid ud fra et konkurrencesynspunkt. Høj kvalitet bør være det bærende princip ved tildelingen af midler til innovationsprojekter.

4) Til trods for, at SET-planen ikke har et specifikt budget, støtter Kommissionen energiteknologierne under det syvende rammeprogram ([3]). Indtil nu er 54 % af udgifterne til energi under det syvende rammeprogram blevet fordelt på vedvarende energikilder (f.eks. vind-, sol- og biomasseenergi) og energieffektivitet (f.eks. i industrien og i bygninger).

([1]) Rådets forordning (EF, Euratom) nr. 1605/2002 om finansforordningen vedrørende De Europæiske Fællesskabers almindelige budget, artikel 49, stk. 1 (EFT L 248 af 16.9.2002).

([2]) Forslag til Europa-Parlamentets og Rådets forordning om Horisont 2020 — rammeprogram for forskning og innovation (2014-2020), KOM(2011)0809/3.

([3]) Rammeprogrammet for forskning, teknologisk udvikling og demonstration.

5) Se ovenfor: Dette vil blive sikret med Horisont 2020.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000358/12
to the Commission
Bendt Bendtsen (PPE) and Anne E. Jensen (ALDE)
(20 January 2012)

Subject: Implementation of the SET plan

Renewables play an ever-increasing role in the EU energy mix (in its Energy Roadmap the Commission foresees that RES will constitute between 55 % to 75 % of gross final inland consumption in 2050), and wind will eventually become the most important energy technology contributing to the reaching of Member States' 2020 targets.

In its first reading of the 2012 budget, Parliament proposed two new budget lines under the SET plan (line 32 04 05), with EUR 1 million in commitment appropriations for both wind and solar. The budget lines were proposed in order to ringfence funds for these technologies.

The Commission, in its reaction to Parliament's position on the draft budget 2012, noted that no legal basis exists for these budget lines. The proposal was not retained in the joint text of the EU budget 2012.

As the EU budget includes prescribed funds for energy technologies such as ITER and nuclear, a clarification of the legal basis in the field of energy is needed in order to determine whether it is possible for the EU budget to include dedicated funds for wind and solar.

1. Under what conditions would separate budget lines be acceptable from a legal perspective?

2. Would the adoption of those budget lines by both branches of the Budgetary Authority constitute a sufficient legal basis to sustain the lines in the EU budget?

3. Does the Commission agree that separate budget lines could be a good way of taking account of the different maturity levels within the six different technologies, as well as improving transparency?

4. Can the Commission provide an overview of what the six different technologies will receive proportionally from the SET plan?

5. How does the Commission intend to ensure that the budget allocations are more equally distributed between the projects in the SET Plan?

Answer given by Mr Oettinger on behalf of the Commission
(2 March 2012)

1 to 3. The Commission would like to refer the Honourable Member to the provisions of the Financial Regulation requiring that a basic act shall first be adopted before the appropriations are entered in the EU budget ([1]). The Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan is not a basic act; it is a Commission communication identifying common research priorities between the Commission, the Member States and the industry, in order to agree on technology roadmaps and implementation plans. To ensure financing for SET-Plan technologies, the Commission adopted on 30 November 2011a legislative proposal to establish Horizon 2020 ([2]). It is foreseen to earmark EUR 6.537 million for the energy societal challenge, and EUR 1.131 million for SET-Plan projects under the 'Access to risk finance' part of the programme. Allocation to different technologies is made on a flexible way through annual Work Programmes. The technologies are supported with different means depending on their specificities (e.g. potential, maturity), always in a competitive approach. Excellence should be the principle for awarding grants to innovation projects.

4. Although the SET Plan does not have a specific budget, the Commission supports energy technologies under the FP7 programme ([3]). So far, 54 % of the FP7 energy expenditure has been allocated to renewables (e.g. wind, solar, bioenergy) and energy efficiency (e.g. for industry, buildings).

5. See above: This will be ensured in Horizon 2020.

([1]) Regulation No 1605/2002 on the Financial Regulation applicable to the general budget of the European Communities, Article 49 paragraph 1, OJ L 248, 16.9.2002.
([2]) Proposal for a regulation from the Parliament and the Council establishing Horizon 2020 — The framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020), COM(2011) 809/3.
([3]) The Seventh Framework Programme for Research, Technological Development and Demonstration.

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-000359/12
a la Comisión (Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante)
Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)
(20 de enero de 2012)

Asunto: VP/HR — Cierre del centro de detención ilegal de Guantánamo tras diez años de existencia

En estos días, se cumplen diez años de existencia del centro de detención ilegal de Guantánamo. A pesar de que Obama se comprometió al inicio de su mandato a cerrarlo y a transferir a los retenidos a territorio de los EE.UU. para ser juzgados ante tribunales, todavía existen 171 personas retenidas en esa prisión de tortura.

Casi 800 personas procedentes de más de cuarenta países han sido retenidas en este centro ignorando la Convención de Ginebra, sin un cargo, sin un abogado y sin un juicio. Existen numerosos informes sobre asesinatos y espantosas humillaciones y abusos de los detenidos.

Actualmente los prisioneros, entre los cuales se encuentran menores de edad, siguen detenidos indefinidamente y muchos han sido juzgados por tribunales militares, sin las garantías mínimas de cualquier estado de derecho, en los que se les ha llegado a aplicar la pena de muerte.

A pesar de que numerosos organismos internacionales como las Naciones Unidas, el Tribunal Europeo de Derechos Humanos, el Parlamento Europeo o el Consejo de Europa, han exigido el cierre de Guantánamo, el gobierno de los EE.UU. sigue manteniendo lo que se ha convertido en el máximo exponente de la impunidad internacional.

Guantánamo fue una creación del Gobierno Bush, mantenida por el de Obama, pero no habría sido posible sin la ayuda de los aliados europeos y sin el silencio de la Unión Europea, con una gran cantidad de países cómplices de Bush en las operaciones de los vuelos y las cárceles secretas de la CIA. Alemania, Reino Unido, Italia, Portugal, España Polonia, Rumania, y por tanto la UE, alimentaron esas operaciones, adquiriendo así una responsabilidad histórica. Sin embargo, desde Europa se sigue mirando hacia otro lado.

1. ¿Considera la Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante necesario el cierre inmediato de esta cárcel ilegal?

2. ¿Puede informar la Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante, qué medidas de presión está llevando a cabo para que el Gobierno de los EE.UU. cierre definitiva e inmediatamente la prisión ilegal de Guantánamo, restituyendo a Cuba el territorio ocupado?

3. ¿Está la Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante implementando medidas encaminadas a la acogida de los prisioneros allá recluidos por parte de los Estados miembros con responsabilidad histórica por su colaboración en las operaciones de los vuelos y las cárceles secretas de la CIA?

4. ¿Qué traslación ha dado la Vicepresidenta/Alta Representante a lo recogido en el informe Fava aprobado por el Parlamento Europeo sobre estos vuelos y cárceles secretas?

Respuesta de la Alta Representante y Vicepresidenta Ashton en nombre de la Comisión
(28 de marzo de 2012)

La UE acogió con satisfacción la decisión adoptada por el Presidente Obama el 22 de enero de 2009 de cerrar la cárcel de la Bahía de Guantánamo. Con vistas a facilitarlo, en junio de 2009 el Presidente del Consejo de Ministros de la UE envió una carta a los Secretarios de Estado y de Defensa de Estados Unidos en la que indicaba que colaborando con dicho país en sus esfuerzos para cerrar Guantánamo, la UE quería aportar una contribución positiva al cambio de la política estadounidense al respecto. Con este objetivo en mente y sobre la base de un marco facilitado por la UE, varios Estados miembros aceptaron acoger a algunos de los detenidos liberados. Así pues, la UE ha realizado una contribución real y seguirá de cerca la cuestión a través de los contactos que mantiene con altos funcionarios estadounidenses.

La apertura de investigaciones para establecer hechos relativos a una posible implicación de los Estados miembros es una cuestión de competencia interna de los Estados afectados. Se trata de una obligación positiva derivada del Convenio Europeo de Derechos Humanos, con el fin de determinar las responsabilidades y permitir a las víctimas obtener una indemnización por daños y perjuicios. La Comisión ha recordado en varias ocasiones a Lituania, Polonia y Rumanía la importancia de estas investigaciones.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000359/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)
(20 January 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Closure of the unlawful detention centre in Guantánamo after 10 years of existence

It is now 10 years since the illegal detention centre in Guantánamo came into being. Despite Obama's undertaking, at the beginning of his mandate, to close it and to transfer the detainees to United States territory for trial at court, 171 people are still detained in this torture prison.

Almost 800 people from over forty countries have been held at this centre, in disregard of the Geneva Convention, without charge, without a lawyer and without trial. Numerous reports exist of murders and dreadful humiliation and abuses of the detainees.

The prisoners, who include minors, currently continue to be indefinitely detained, and many have been tried by military courts without the minimum guarantees of any rule of law, the death penalty having been applied in some cases.

Even though many international agencies, such as the United Nations, the European Court of Human Rights, the European Parliament and the Council of Europe, have called for the closure of Guantánamo, the United States Government continues to maintain what has become the greatest exponent of international impunity.

Guantánamo was created by the Bush Administration and maintained by that of Obama, but it would not have been possible without the help of European allies and the silence of the European Union, a large number of countries having been accomplices of Bush in flight operations and secret CIA prisons. Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Poland, Romania and, therefore, the EU fuelled such operations, thus acquiring a historic responsibility. However, Europe continues to look the other way.

1. Does the Vice-President/High Representative consider the immediate closure of this illegal prison necessary?

2. Can the Vice-President/High Representative tell us what measures are being taken to put pressure on the United States Government to close the illegal prison in Guantánamo definitively and immediately and to restore the occupied territory to Cuba?

3. Is the Vice-President/High Representative implementing measures that will lead Member States with historical responsibility for their collaboration in flight operations and secret CIA prisons to receive prisoners being held there?

4. What action has the Vice-President/High Representative taken to follow up the Fava report, as approved by the European Parliament, regarding these flights and secret prisons?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(28 March 2012)

The EU welcomed the decision by President Obama on 22 January 2009 to close the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay. With a view to facilitating this, in June 2009 the President of the EU Council of Ministers sent a letter to the U.S. Secretaries of State and of Defense which noted that 'by working with the US in its endeavours to close Guantanamo, we hope we can make a positive contribution to changing US policies'. With that objective in mind, on the basis of a framework facilitated by the EU, a number of Member States have accepted certain former detainees following their release. The EU has therefore made a real contribution, and will continue to pursue the issue of closure in ongoing contacts with senior U. S. officials.

The conduct of investigations to establish the facts relating to the potential involvement of Member States is a matter of internal competence of the States concerned. This is a positive obligation deriving from the European Convention on Human Rights, in order to establish responsibilities and enable victims to obtain compensation for damages. The Commission has on several occasions reminded Lithuania, Poland and Romania of the importance of such investigations.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-000361/12
προς την Επιτροπή
Kyriakos Mavronikolas (S&D)
(20 Ιανουαρίου 2012)

Θέμα: Σύλληψη τουρκοκύπριου ακτιβιστή

Στις 5 Ιανουαρίου του 2012, ο τουρκοκύπριος Χαλίλ Καραπασάογλου καταδικάστηκε από το παράνομο καθεστώς σε 10 ημέρες εγκλεισμού σε στρατιωτική φυλακή στην κατεχόμενη Λευκωσία.

Ο Καραπασάογλου είχε γράψει προηγουμένως ένα άρθρο σε τουρκοκυπριακή εφημερίδα με τίτλο «No to Violence Against Lokmaci Soldiers» στο οποίο αφηγείτο τις εμπειρίες του κατά την διάρκεια της υποχρεωτικής στρατιωτικής του θητείας στην τουρκοκυπριακή στρατιωτική μονάδα Lokmaci, η οποία είναι υπό τον έλεγχο του τουρκικού στρατού. Ας σημειωθεί ότι ο αρχηγός του τουρκικού στρατού στην Κύπρο διορίζεται απευθείας από την Άγκυρα. Παράλληλα, η αστυνομία του ψευδοκράτους μπλόκαρε τον δρόμο που οδηγούσε στο δικαστήριο, εμποδίζοντας τους δικηγόρους και συγγενείς του Καραπασάογλου καθώς και δημοσιογράφους να παρακολουθήσουν την δίκη.

Το παραπάνω περιστατικό καταδεικνύει για ακόμα μια φορά ότι το κατοχικό καθεστώς τρομοκρατεί τους Τουρκοκυπρίους και δεν σέβεται τα ανθρώπινα δικαιώματα και την θεμελιώδη ελευθερία της έκφρασης. Σημειώνεται ότι, τον περασμένο Οκτώβριο, ο 21χρονος Τούρκος κληρωτός στρατιώτης Ουγκούρ Καντάρ βρήκε τραγικό θάνατο από βασανιστήρια σε στρατιωτική φυλακή, επίσης στα κατεχόμενα.

Πώς σχολιάζει η Επιτροπή την σύλληψη του Καραπασάογλου ενόψει του επικείμενου ανοίγματος του κεφαλαίου δικαστικών και θεμελιωδών δικαιωμάτων;

Απάντηση του κ. Füle εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(13 Μαρτίου 2012)

Η Επιτροπή δεν βλέπει άμεση σύνδεση μεταξύ της υπόθεσης που περιγράφει το Αξιότιμο Μέλος και των διαπραγματεύσεων προσχώρησης με την Τουρκία.

Η Επιτροπή σε τακτική βάση θέτει τα ζητήματα προστασίας και προώθησης των ανθρωπίνων δικαιωμάτων στους συνομιλητές της, συμπεριλαμβανόμενης της τουρκοκυπριακής κοινότητας, τονίζοντας την απαράμιλλη σημασία του σεβασμού των ανθρωπίνων δικαιωμάτων και των θεμελιωδών ελευθεριών.

Η Επιτροπή για ακόμη μια φορά αναγνωρίζει την επείγουσα ανάγκη να επιτευχθεί συνολική επίλυση του Κυπριακού. Η Επιτροπή έχει επανειλημμένα καλέσει τους ηγέτες των δύο κοινοτήτων να αξιοποιήσουν την ευκαιρία των διεξαγόμενων συνομιλιών για την επίτευξη κοινά αποδεκτής και βιώσιμης λύσης.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000361/12
to the Commission
Kyriakos Mavronikolas (S&D)
(20 January 2012)

Subject: Arrest of Turkish Cypriot activist

On 5 January 2012, Halil Karapasaoglou, a Turkish Cypriot, was sentenced by the illegal government to 10 days incarceration in a military prison in occupied Nicosia.

Prior to that, Karapasaoglou had written an article in a Turkish-Cypriot newspaper entitled: 'No to Violence Against Lokmaci Soldiers', recounting his experiences during his compulsory military service in the Turkish Cypriot Lokmaci unit under control of the Turkish military. It should be noted that the commanding officer of the Turkish army in Cyprus is appointed directly by Ankara. Furthermore, the police of the pseudo-state blocked the road leading to court, thus preventing Mr Karapasaoglou's lawyers and family, as well as monitors of the process from attending the trial.

The above incident provides yet further evidence of the intimidation of Turkish Cypriots by the occupying regime and its lack of respect for human rights and fundamental freedom of expression. For instance, last October Ugur Kantar, a 21-year old Turkish conscript, tragically died as a result of torture inflicted in a military prison, also located in the occupied part of Cyprus.

What comments has the Commission to make on the arrest of Mr Karapasaoglou in light of the forthcoming opening of the chapter called 'Judiciary and Fundamental Rights'?

Answer given by Mr Füle on behalf of the Commission
(13 March 2012)

The Commission sees no direct link between the case described by the Honourable Member and the accession negotiations with Turkey.

The Commission regularly raises the protection and promotion of human rights with its interlocutors, including those in the Turkish Cypriot community, stressing the paramount importance of the respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Commission recalls once again the urgent need to reach a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus problem. The Commission has repeatedly called on the leaders of both communities in Cyprus to grasp the opportunity of the ongoing settlement talks to reach a mutually acceptable and sustainable solution.

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-000362/12
à Comissão
Marisa Matias (GUE/NGL)
(23 de Janeiro de 2012)

Assunto: Parque da Ciência e Inovação, Ílhavo e Aveiro, Portugal

O Parque de Ciência e Inovação — Pólo de Experimentação e Empresarial é um parque industrial para produção científica, tecnológica e educativa que será construído nos concelhos de Ílhavo e Aveiro. Para tal, está prevista a construção de 124 mil m^2 de edificações numa área presentemente ocupada por habitações, terrenos agrícolas em atividade e terrenos pertencentes à Reserva Ecológica Nacional. Este Parque tem um custo total de 35 milhões, sendo que 80 % provém de programas de financiamento da União Europeia. Solicito as seguintes informações sobre o projeto:

1. As entidades que compõem a parceria dispõem de terrenos próprios; existem na proximidade várias zonas industriais infraestruturadas e áreas livres para expansão. Contudo, não foram estudadas localizações alternativas, quer a nível ambiental quer económico. Uma organização portuguesa ambientalista calcula uma poupança possível de 20 milhões de euros caso fossem consideradas outras localizações. A Comissão considera que não deveriam ter sido estudadas localizações alternativas?

2. A área de construção é bastante grande. A Comissão dispõe de dados e estudos que corroboram que esta corresponde a um efetivo ajuste às necessidades do projeto? A área não poderá estar sobredimensionada para efeitos nomeadamente de garantir um maior financiamento europeu?

3. As entidades promotoras do projeto estão numa situação financeira difícil. A Comissão tem acesso a dados ou a estudos que demonstrem a viabilidade financeira do projeto?

4. Esta área tem grande valor no mercado imobiliário. Se o projeto não for concretizado de acordo com o previsto, os terrenos onde passaram a ser permitidas edificações no âmbito deste projeto e que não sejam usados para esse fim poderão manter-se como área para edificação? Poderão entrar no mercado imobiliário? O projeto poderá manter o financiamento público, nomeadamente o comunitário?

5. Das empresas que ficarão neste Parque contam-se cinco de construção civil e dois bancos. Que garantias, critérios e fiscalização permitirão garantir que as empresas que se alojem no local se integram de facto no projeto de «produção científica, tecnológica e educativa» que permite o seu financiamento público e a desafetação de terrenos?

Resposta dada por Johannes Hahn em nome da Comissão
(22 de Fevereiro de 2012)

A Comissão está a efetuar uma investigação aprofundada do problema levantado pela Senhora Deputada e informará o Parlamento dos resultados assim que possível.

Resposta complementar dada por Johannes Hahn em nome da Comissão
(26 de Abril de 2012)

Em conformidade com o princípio da gestão partilhada utilizado para a administração da política de coesão, os Estados-Membros são responsáveis pela execução dos programas no terreno. Tal inclui a seleção e a execução dos projetos.

De acordo com as informações fornecidas pela autoridade de gestão do programa «Mais Centro», até à data não se registou nenhum pedido de cofinanciamento para o projeto a que se refere o Senhor Deputado.

No entanto, a autoridade de gestão confirmou que o «Parque de Ciência e Inovação» foi concebido para um grupo de projetos destinados a oferecer infraestruturas de apoio a laboratórios e viveiros de empresas, todos eles suscetíveis de serem elegíveis para cofinanciamento.

Os termos e as condições para a aplicação do programa estratégico «Parque de Ciência e Inovação» foram definidos, em dezembro de 2009, num protocolo estabelecido entre a autoridade de gestão do Programa Operacional «Mais Centro» e a Universidade de Aveiro.

Uma das condições do protocolo é que cada projeto no âmbito do programa estratégico seja apresentado à autoridade de gestão para aprovação. Além disso, todos os investimentos conexos têm que ser adjudicados através de concursos públicos, antes da apresentação de um pedido. Os procedimentos de adjudicação de contratos públicos ainda não foram concluídos, razão pela qual ainda não foi apresentado nenhum pedido. A autoridade de gestão não dispõe, até agora, de qualquer indicação sobre a tipologia dos projetos que podem ser propostos.

Para mais informações, a Comissão sugere que o Senhor Deputado contacte diretamente a autoridade de gestão:

Mais Centro — Programa Operacional Regional do Centro
E-mail: maiscentro@ccdrc.pt
Sítio web: http://www.maiscentro.qren.pt/

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000362/12
to the Commission
Marisa Matias (GUE/NGL)
(23 January 2012)

Subject: Science and Technology Park, Ílhavo and Aveiro, Portugal

The Science and Technology Park — Experimentation and Enterprise Hub is an industrial park for scientific, technological and educational production that will be constructed in the municipalities of Ílhavo and Aveiro. To this end, it is envisaged that 124 000 m^2 of buildings will be constructed within an area currently occupied by housing, active farmland and land belonging to the National Ecological Reserve. The total cost for this Park will be 35 million, of which 80 % will be financed by European Union funding programmes. Can the Commission provide the following information on the project:

1. The entities comprising the partnership have their own land. Nearby, there are various industrial areas with infrastructures and open areas for expansion. However, no alternative locations were studied, whether economically or environmentally. A Portuguese environmental organisation has calculated that EUR 200 million could have been saved, had other locations been considered. Does the Commission not think that alternative locations should have been studied?

2. The construction area is quite large. Does the Commission have data and studies confirming that this corresponds to the needs of the project? Has the area not been made too large, possibly for the purposes of securing increased European funding?

3. The entities promoting the project are in a difficult financial position. Does the Commission have access to data or to studies that support the financial viability of the project?

4. This area is highly valued in the property market. If the project is not implemented in the terms envisaged, can the land on which building would have been permitted under this project but which is not used for this purpose be retained as an area for building? Can it be placed on the property market? Can the project retain public funding, in particular Community funding?

5. As regards the companies that will be lodged in this Park, five are active in civil construction and two are banks. What guarantees, criteria and supervision will provide assurance that the companies housed at the location are in actual fact included in the project for 'scientific, technological and educational production', which provided the justification for public financing and the reclassification of land?

Preliminary answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the Commission
(22 February 2012)

The Commission is conducting a detailed investigation of the problem raised by the Honourable Member and will inform the Parliament of the outcome as soon as possible.

Supplementary answer given by Mr Hahn on behalf of the Commission
(26 April 2012)

In line with the shared management principle used for the administration of cohesion policy, the Member States are responsible for implementing the programmes on the ground. This includes project selection and implementation.

According to the information provided by the managing authority of the programme 'Mais Centro', to date there has not been an application for co-financing for the project referred to by the Honourable Member.

However, the managing authority has confirmed that the 'Parque de Ciência e Inovação' was designed for a group of projects aiming to provide infrastructure to support laboratories and enterprise incubators, all of which could be eligible for co-financing.

The terms and conditions for the implementation of the Strategic Programme 'Parque de Ciência e Inovação' were defined in December 2009, in a protocol established between the managing authority of the OP 'Mais Centro' and the University of Aveiro.

One of the conditions of the Protocol is that every single project within the Strategic Programme must be submitted to the managing authority for approval. Moreover, all related investments have to be awarded through public procurement prior to the submission of an application. The public procurement procedures have not yet been completed and this is the reason why an application has not yet been submitted. The managing authority does not have any indication so far about the typology of projects that could be proposed.

For more information, the Commission suggests that the Honourable Member contact the managing authority directly.

MAIS CENTRO — Programa Operacional Regional do Centro
E-mail: maiscentro@ccdrc.pt
Website: http://www.maiscentro.qren.pt/

(Nederlandse versie)

Vraag met verzoek om schriftelijk antwoord E-000364/12
aan de Commissie
Auke Zijlstra (NI)
(20 januari 2012)

Betreft: EU-gezant: „Israël eigent zich Westoever toe en blokkeert tweestatenoplossing"

Gezanten van de Europese Unie in Tel Aviv en Ramallah hebben hun hoofdkwartier in Brussel in een intern stuk het volgende medegedeeld:

„Israël eigent zich het grootste deel van de bezette Westelijke Jordaanoever toe. Daarmee blokkeert Israël elke kans op een tweestatenoplossing, waarbij de staten Israël en Palestina naast elkaar in vrede leven."

1. Is de Commissie bekend met het bericht „EU-gezant: Israël eigent zich Westoever toe" ([1])?

2. Is de Commissie, ondanks voornoemde uitspraak van EU-gezanten, met de PVV mening:

— dat de benaming „district Judea en Samaria" meer recht doet aan de geschiedenis van het gebied dan „Westelijke Jordaanoever" en daardoor de voorkeur geniet? Zo neen, waarom niet?

— dat het district Judea en Samaria bij Israël hoort en er dus geen sprake kan zijn van bezetting van dit gebied door Israël? Zo neen, waarom niet?

— dat een tweestatenoplossing geen heil biedt zolang Hamas, volledig conform de islamitische doctrine, de vernietiging van de Staat Israël nastreeft? Zo neen, waarom niet?

— dat er reeds een Palestijnse staat bestaat, genaamd Jordanië? Zo neen, waarom niet?

Antwoord van hoge vertegenwoordiger/vicevoorzitter Ashton namens de Commissie
(6 maart 2012)

De Commissie is niet op de hoogte van het specifieke bericht waarnaar het geachte Parlementslid verwijst. Er werd wel een ander, recent, rapport over zone C van de Westelijke Jordaanoever door de EU-missies in Jeruzalem en Ramallah opgemaakt, dat een intern, feitelijk verslag is van de situatie ter plaatse. Het rapport is bedoeld als informatiebron voor de Europese Unie en als uitgangspunt voor haar beleidsvormingsproces. Als zodanig moet het als hulpmiddel voor de EU dienen bij het bepalen hoe de doelstelling van een tweestatenoplossing in het vredesproces in het Midden-Oosten het best kan worden bereikt.

Wat betreft het gebruik van de benaming „Westelijke Jordaanoever" ziet de Commissie geen reden om een geografische term in twijfel te trekken die door de betrokken partijen (met inbegrip van de Oslo-akkoorden in 1993) systematisch wordt aanvaard en gebruikt.

([1]) http://www.refdag.nl/nieuws/buitenland/eu_gezant_israel_eigent_zich_westoever_toe_1_615401

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000364/12
to the Commission
Auke Zijlstra (NI)
(20 January 2012)

Subject: EU envoy: 'Israel is appropriating the West Bank and blocking a two-state solution'

European Union envoys in Tel Aviv and Ramallah have communicated the following message in an internal document to their headquarters in Brussels:

'Israel is appropriating the largest part of the occupied West Bank. Israel is therefore blocking any chance of reaching a two-state solution where the states of Israel and Palestine cohabit in peace.'

1. Is the Commission familiar with the report 'EU-gezant: Israël eigent zich Westoever toe' ['EU envoy: Is Israel appropriating the West Bank']? ([1])

2. Does the Commission, despite the above statement from the EU envoys, agree with the PVV that:

— the name 'Judea and Samaria District' does more justice to the history of the area than 'West Bank', making it preferable? If not, why not?

— the Judea and Samaria District belongs to Israel and there can therefore be no question of this area being occupied by Israel? If not, why not?

— a two-state solution does not offer any benefit as long as Hamas, fully in keeping with Islamic doctrine, seeks the destruction of the State of Israel? If not, why not?

— there is already a Palestinian state called Jordan? If not, why not?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(6 March 2012)

A report with the specific name referred to by the Honourable Member is not known by the Commission. Another, recent, report on Area C of the West Bank was indeed compiled by the EU missions in Jerusalem and Ramallah, constituting an internal, factual report of the situation on the ground. The report is intended to serve as a source of information for the European Union and as an input to its policy-making process. As such, it should assist the EU in determining how best to achieve the objective of a two-state solution to the Middle East peace process.

Regarding the use of the name 'West Bank', the Commission sees no reason to put into question a geographical terminology which has consistently been accepted and used by the parties (including in the Oslo Accords in 1993).

([1]) http://www.refdag.nl/nieuws/buitenland/eu_gezant_israel_eigent_zich_westoever_toe_1_615401

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita E-000366/12
a la Comisión
Andres Perello Rodriguez (S&D)
(23 de enero de 2012)

Asunto: Gastos de extracción de implantes defectuosos

Desde 2004 está en vigor la Directiva 2003/12/CE sobre la nueva clasificación de los implantes mamarios, que exige a los Estados miembros que revisen todos los implantes colocados con fecha anterior a la entrada en vigor de la Directiva, y que la Directiva 93/42/CEE relativa a los productos sanitarios establece que los Estados miembros adoptarán las medidas necesarias para que los productos solo puedan comercializarse y ponerse en servicio si cumplen los requisitos de la Directiva y si no comprometen la seguridad ni la salud de los pacientes y usuarios a condición de que sean implantados y mantenidos correctamente y utilizados conforme a su uso indicado. A la vista de los recientes casos producidos en Francia, el Reino Unido y España, entre otros países, a causa de los implantes realizados a miles de personas de prótesis fabricadas con silicona de uso industrial,

¿Considera la Comisión que, en virtud de lo dispuesto en dicha Directiva, los Estados miembros están obligados a sufragar los gastos derivados de la extracción de los implantes que pudieran suponer un peligro para los pacientes?

En tal caso, ¿no deberían considerarse amparados por dicha obligación de los Estados miembros todos los pacientes cuyos implantes fueran potencialmente peligrosos, independientemente de la naturaleza de la intervención quirúrgica en la que fueron implantados?

¿Estudia la Comisión crear un sistema de alerta europeo para este tipo de situaciones, como existe en el caso de los medicamentos declarados peligrosos por una autoridad sanitaria de la UE?

¿Considera la Comisión la posibilidad de evaluar el tipo de control que ha existido hasta el momento de este producto por parte de la misma Comisión?

Respuesta del Sr. Dalli en nombre de la Comisión
(28 de febrero de 2012)

La decisión de sufragar los gastos derivados de la extracción de los implantes mamarios de silicona PIP es competencia de los Estados miembros.

Existe ya un sistema de vigilancia en el ámbito de los productos sanitarios. De conformidad con el artículo 10 de la Directiva 93/42/CEE ([1]), los Estados miembros deben registrar y analizar de forma centralizada la información sobre incidentes acaecidos con los productos médicos comercializados. Tras proceder a una evaluación, los Estados miembros tienen la obligación de informar a los demás Estados miembros y a la Comisión de las medidas adoptadas o que prevén adoptar para evitar en la medida de lo posible que vuelvan a repetirse dichos incidentes. La notificación por parte de Francia de sus conclusiones en el caso PIP y de las medidas adoptadas ha desencadenado la retirada de estos implantes también en otros Estados miembros.

El refuerzo del sistema de vigilancia europeo forma parte de la iniciativa de la Comisión ([2]) de revisar el marco reglamentario para los productos sanitarios, que está en curso de preparación con independencia del caso PIP. Todas las deficiencias observadas en el caso PIP se tendrán en cuenta en las propuestas que se presenten en 2012 para la revisión de este régimen. La Comisión ha preparado asimismo una lista de medidas que podrían adoptarse de forma inmediata en el marco de la legislación vigente a fin de reforzar el sistema, en particular en lo que respecta a las inspecciones sin previo aviso, las pruebas por muestreo y un mejor intercambio de datos.

([1]) Véase http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31993L0042:es:HTML
([2]) Véase http://ec.europa.eu/health/medical-devices/documents/revision/index_en.htm

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000366/12
to the Commission
Andres Perello Rodriguez (S&D)
(23 January 2012)

Subject: Costs of removing defective breast implants

Directive 2003/12/EC on the reclassification of breast implants entered into force in 2004 and requires Member States to reassess all implants fitted before that date. Directive 93/42/EEC concerning medical devices requires Member States to take all necessary steps to ensure that devices are marketed and fitted only if they comply with the requirements laid down in the directive and do not compromise the health or safety of patients and users when properly installed, maintained and used in accordance with their intended purpose. In view of recent cases in France, the United Kingdom, Spain and elsewhere involving the fitting of thousands defective implants made of industrial silicone:

Does the Commission believe that the aforementioned directive requires Member States to defray the expenses arising from the removal of implants that could pose a danger to patients?

If so, should this requirement not cover all patients whose implants may be dangerous, regardless of the surgical procedure used to fit them?

Is the Commission considering setting up a European warning system along the lines of the warning system used when drugs are declared dangerous by an EU health authority?

Is the Commission considering reviewing the arrangements for monitoring the safety of breast implants?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission
(28 February 2012)

A decision on the bearing or reimbursement of costs related to the removal of PIP silicone breast implants falls under the competence of the Member States.

A vigilance system already exists in the field of medical devices. In accordance with Article 10 of Directive 93/42/EEC ([1]) Member States must centrally record and analyse information about incidents occurring with medical devices on the market. After an assessment, Member States shall inform the other Member States and the Commission of the measures taken or contemplated to minimise the recurrence of such incidents. The notification by France of their findings in the PIP case and the measures taken triggered the withdrawal of these implants also in the other Member States.

A reinforcement of the European vigilance system is part of the Commission's initiative ([2]) to revise the EU regulatory framework for medical devices which is currently under preparation independently of the PIP case. Any shortcomings identified in the PIP case will be taken into account in the proposals foreseen in 2012 for the revision of this regime. The Commission has also prepared a list of measures that could be taken immediately under existing legislation to reinforce the system, in particular with regard to unannounced audits, sample testing and better data sharing.

([1]) See http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:31993L0042:en:HTML
([2]) See http://ec.europa.eu/health/medical-devices/documents/revision/index_en.htm

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000370/12
alla Commissione
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(20 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Dati allarmanti sul gioco d'azzardo

Quattro italiani su dieci giocano d'azzardo. Il risultato allarmante è stato dedotto da un gruppo di ricercatori che ha analizzato i dati dell'«Italian Population Survey on Alcohol and other Drugs», raccolti sulla popolazione dai 15 ai 64 anni, assieme a quelli provenienti dal database «European School Survey Project on Alcohol and other Drugs», dedicato alla valutazione delle abitudini degli studenti delle scuole superiori.

I questionari sottoposti ai partecipanti sondavano, oltre all'uso e abuso di sostanze, anche il comportamento relativo alle scommesse e al gioco d'azzardo. I risultati raccolti sono allarmanti: 17 milioni di persone fra i 15 e i 64 anni (pari al 42 per cento della popolazione generale) hanno giocato soldi almeno una volta nel corso dell'ultimo anno.

Più a rischio i giovani maschi: anche se sono in proporzione meno numerosi rispetto ai giocatori con più di 25 anni, i giovanissimi scommettitori fra i 15 e i 24 anni hanno più spesso un'alta probabilità di scivolare in un gioco «problematico», fino a una vera e propria dipendenza. La percentuale di adulti con problemi di gioco è infatti pari all'8 per cento, circa due milioni di persone, mentre fra i giovani sale al 9 per cento, più o meno mezzo milione di soggetti, che da un momento all'altro potrebbero ritrovarsi a non saper più fare a meno della scommessa quotidiana.

Alla luce dei fatti sopraesposti, può la Commissione rispondere ai seguenti quesiti:

1. È a conoscenza dei dati dello studio sul gioco d'azzardo in Italia?

2. Non intende predisporre un'adeguata campagna di sensibilizzazione tra i cittadini per promuovere messaggi che puntino alla conoscenza dei rischi e delle patologie dovute al gioco d'azzardo e alla ludopatia?

Risposta data da Michel Barnier a nome della Commissione
(2 marzo 2012)

La Commissione riconosce l'importanza della questione sollevata dall'onorevole parlamentare. Tuttavia va notato che l'attuazione dei programmi di prevenzione e iniziative di sensibilizzazione sui rischi del cosiddetto gioco d'azzardo problematico o compulsivo, rientra fondamentalmente tra le competenze delle autorità nazionali.

La Commissione è a conoscenza dellos studio cui fa riferimento l'interrogazione ed è stata informata del fatto che il Ministero della Salute italiano, sulla scorta di dati concreti sul comportamento di gioco, sta avviando un progetto per concepire una serie di azioni contro la dipendenza.

I servizi della Commissione non prevedono di avviare una campagna di sensibilizzazione a livello di UE in materia di gioco d'azzardo, poiché si tratta in primo luogo di una competenza nazionale. Tuttavia, visto che gli Stati membri perseguono di norma obiettivi simili per tutelare i cittadini in questo ambito, nel 2012 la Commissione intende adottare un piano d'azione sul gioco d'azzardo on-line ([1]), che dovrebbe contenere una serie di iniziative a tutela dei consumatori. La Commissione ritiene che sia opportuno incoraggiare un approfondimento delle conoscenze sul problema del gioco d'azzardo e della dipendenza, facendo luce anche sulle relative cause. Per questo motivo accoglie favorevolmente le iniziative intraprese in tal senso dagli Stati membri.

([1]) Seguito del Libro verde sul gioco d'azzardo on-line nel mercato interno (COM(2011) 128 definitivo).

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000370/12
to the Commission
Sergio Paolo Frances Silvestris (PPE)
(20 January 2012)

Subject: Alarming statistics regarding gambling

Four out of ten Italians gamble. This alarming finding was made by a group of researchers who analysed the data collected by the 'Italian Population Survey on Alcohol and Other Drugs', which covers people aged between 15 and 64 years of age, together with data from the 'European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs' database, which examines the habits of secondary-school students.

The questionnaires presented to the participants covered substance use and misuse, but also probed behaviours related to betting and gambling. The findings are alarming: 17 million people aged 15 to 64 years (equivalent to 42 % of the general population) had played games involving the wagering of money at least once during the previous year.

Young men are most at risk: although there are proportionately fewer gamblers in the 15-24 age group than among the over-25s, these younger gamblers are more likely to engage in 'problem gambling' or to become gambling addicts. 8 % of adults — approximately two million people — have gambling problems, whereas among young people this percentage rises to 9 %, or around half a million people, who at any time might find themselves unable to resist gambling on a daily basis.

In the light of the foregoing,

1. Is the Commission aware of the data compiled by this study on gambling in Italy?

2. Does the Commission intend to arrange a suitable public awareness campaign to promote the diffusion of messages indicating the risks and pathological disorders associated with gambling and compulsive gambling?

Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission
(2 March 2012)

The Commission recognises the relevance of the issue raised by the Honourable Member. However, it must be noted that the implementation of prevention schemes and initiatives to inform on risks of problem gambling or addiction are primarily the responsibility of national authorities.

The Commission is aware of the indicated survey. The Commission is also aware that the Ministry responsible for health in Italy is working on a project to develop actions on addiction, based on evidence related to gambling behaviour.

The Commission does not foresee an EU-wide awareness raising campaign focusing on gambling, as it is primarily of Member States competence. Nonetheless, given that Member States generally pursue similar objectives seeking to protect citizens in this area, the Commission is planning to adopt an action plan on online gambling in 2012 ([1]), which will encompass possible actions for the protection of consumers. The Commission considers it could be useful to encourage a better understanding of problem gambling and addiction , including on its causes. The Commission welcomes efforts to this effect at national level.

([1]) Follow-up to the Green Paper consultation on Online Gambling in the internal market (COM(2011)12 final).

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000371/12
alla Commissione
Cristiana Muscardini (PPE)
(20 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Pillole on line

Jerri, Elinore, Adeline: nomi di fantasia dietro i quali si celano siti illegali che vendono farmaci su internet. Secondo un'indagine della «Food and drug administration» (Fda) sono almeno 11 000 i siti che si spacciano per farmacie on line canadesi, vendono prodotti per i quali è richiesta una prescrizione medica o addirittura scaduti e mal conservati mettendo seriamente a rischio la salute di chi li acquista. Tra i medicinali più richiesti sembrano esserci quelli legati alle disfunzioni sessuali maschili e gli psicofarmaci, grazie alla mancanza di controlli e ai prezzi molto più bassi rispetto a quelli di mercato.

La Commissione:

1. sa dell'esistenza di questo tipo di commercio?

2. Trattandosi di siti per lo più americani, potrebbe proporre ai paesi dell'UE, che vedono il proliferare di tale mercato, un'azione di controllo e monitoraggio della Rete?

3. Non ritiene necessaria una campagna di informazione capillare per aumentare la consapevolezza dei consumatori circa i rischi cui si va incontro con acquisti senza regole?

Risposta data da John Dalli a nome della Commissione
(23 febbraio 2012)

1. La Commissione è a conoscenza delle vendite illegali di farmaci sul web e sta lavorando all'applicazione della direttiva 2011/62/UE ([1]) recentemente adottata. La legislazione in questione ha introdotto norme per far fronte alle vendite illegali di medicinali al pubblico su Internet.

2. Il problema è di natura mondiale e, per farvi fronte, la direttiva prevede l'introduzione di un logo per l'UE destinato a identificare le farmacie on line che operano legalmente. L'applicazione di questa disposizione proteggerà i cittadini dai pericoli connessi all'acquisto on line di medicinali. Al fine di garantire una tutela sufficiente ai pazienti in tutta l'UE, la Commissione continuerà ad analizzare tutti i potenziali rischi specifici connessi alla vendita on line di prodotti medicinali.

3. La direttiva inoltre prevede, da parte della Commissione e in collaborazione con l'Agenzia europea per i medicinali e le autorità degli Stati membri, la promozione di campagne di informazione sui pericoli dei medicinali falsificati e, in particolare, di quelli venduti su Internet. La Direzione generale Salute e consumatori ([2]) ha già prodotto due video. In futuro, una volta che il logo di fiducia per le farmacie on line sarà istituito, potranno essere promosse altre campagne.

Quanto ai medicinali contraffatti, la Commissione sta preparando, per la fine del 2012, una revisione della direttiva 2004/48/CE sull'applicazione dei diritti di proprietà intellettuale (PI). Va anche ricordato che la Commissione ha istituito, nel 2009, l'Osservatorio europeo sulla violazione dei diritti di proprietà intellettuale al fine di migliorare la raccolta dei dati, la cooperazione tra le autorità di applicazione del PI, nonché il dialogo e la consapevolezza delle parti interessate in tutta l'UE. Ciò potrebbe costituire uno strumento efficace per rafforzare la consapevolezza in merito ai medicinali contraffatti.

([1]) Direttiva 2011/62/UE del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, dell'8 giugno 2011, che modifica la direttiva 2001/83/CE, recante un codice comunitario relativo ai medicinali per uso umano, al fine di impedire l'ingresso di medicinali falsificati nella catena di fornitura legale. GU L 174 dell'1.7.2011

([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/health/human-use/videos/videos/fake_medicines_en.mp4;
http://ec.europa.eu/health/human-use/videos/videos/counterfeit_med_en.mp4

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000371/12
to the Commission
Cristiana Muscardini (PPE)
(20 January 2012)

Subject: Online sale of medicines

Jerri, Elinor, Adeline: fictitious names which are a cover for illegal websites selling medicines over the Internet. According to a survey carried out by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), there are at least 11 000 such websites purporting to be online Canadian pharmacies and selling prescription drugs, expired or badly stored products which are a serious risk to the health of whoever buys them. The medicines for which there is most demand appear to be those related to male sexual dysfunction and psychiatric drugs, due to the lack of controls and prices which are much lower than market prices.

1. Is the Commission aware of the existence of this type of trade?

2. As most of these sites are American, could the Commission propose that the EU countries, which are witnessing the expansion of this market, take action to control and monitor the Internet?

3. Does the Commission agree that an extensive information campaign is needed to increase consumer awareness of the risks inherent in the unregulated purchase of medicines?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission
(23 February 2012)

1. The Commission is aware of the problem of illegal sales of medicines on the web and is working on the implementation of the recently adopted Directive 2011/62/EU ([1]). This legislation has introduced rules to address the illegal sales of medicines to the public over the Internet.

2. The problem is of worldwide nature and to tackle it, the directive foresees the introduction of a EU-wide logo to identify legal operating online pharmacies. The implementation of this provision will protect citizens from the dangers linked to online shopping of medicines. With a view to guaranteeing sufficient protection for patients throughout the EU, the Commission will continue to analyse any potential specific risks linked to the online sale of medicinal products.

3.The directive also foresees the promotion by the Commission, in cooperation with the European Medicine Agency and Member States authorities, of information campaigns on the dangers of falsified medicinal products, in particular, those sold over the Internet. Two videos have already been produced by Directorate-General Health and Consumers ([2]). Further campaigns may be promoted once the trust logo for online pharmacies will be put in place.

Concerning counterfeited medicines, the Commission is also preparing for end-2012 a revision of Directive 2004/48/EC on the enforcement of Intellectual Property (IP) rights. It must also be recalled that the Commission put in place in 2009 the European Observatory on Infringement of Intellectual Property Rights to improve data collection, better cooperation between IP enforcement authorities and better dialogue and knowledge sharing with stakeholders, throughout the EU. This could be an efficient tool to improve the knowledge about counterfeiting of medicines.

([1]) Directive 2011/62/EU of Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2011 amending Directive 2001/83/EC on the Community code relating to medicinal products for human use, as regards the prevention of the entry into the legal supply chain of falsified medicinal products, OJ L 174, 1.7.2011.

([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/health/human-use/videos/videos/fake_medicines_en.mp4; http://ec.europa.eu/health/human-use/videos/videos/counterfeit_med_en.mp4

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000372/12
alla Commissione
Cristiana Muscardini (PPE)
(23 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Distributori di nuove droghe

Le chiamano «smart drugs»: sono sostanze prodotte con scarti di laboratorio e per questo molto dannose. Nel giro di tredici mesi hanno provocato trenta ricoveri per intossicazione, soprattutto tra giovanissimi, e, malgrado la pericolosità, è facilissimo reperirle: un giro su Internet per conoscere le diverse «qualità» e un salto al distributore automatico che le eroga — «Hurricane» per i frequentatori più assidui, attivo ventiquattrore al giorno — per acquistarle. Non occorrono documenti né spacciatori, basta conoscere i «negozi» specializzati, per lo più erboristerie o fornitori di prodotti fertilizzanti, almeno nelle apparenze. Nei giorni scorsi, durante un blitz dei NAS, sono stati effettuati diciannove arresti tra negozianti e clienti per fermare il giro di «Hurricane» — cioè produttori, consumatori e acquirenti che si trasformano a loro volta in spacciatori incrementando un mercato già floridissimo.

La Commissione:

1. è a conoscenza di questa modalità molto semplice di distribuzione delle nuove droghe?

2. Come intende intervenire, dato che il suddetto commercio, tra produzione e smercio, coinvolge più Paesi, tra cui anche alcuni Stati membri dell'Unione?

3. Concorda con la proposta che il governo italiano farà all'Unione europea di tramutare il nome di «smart drugs» in «trash drugs» per evitare continui equivoci?

Risposta data da Viviane Reding a nome della Commissione
(23 febbraio 2012)

La Commissione invita l'onorevole parlamentare a fare riferimento alla risposta all'interrogazione scritta E-010409/2011 ([1]), in cui illustrava la situazione relativa alle nuove sostanze psicoattive e precisava la sua posizione al riguardo.

La Commissione è informata sui diversi metodi di diffusione delle nuove sostanze psicoattive; l'indagine Eurobarometro ([2]) 2011 prevedeva una domanda a questo proposito.

La decisione 2005/387/GAI del Consiglio sulle nuove sostanze psicoattive ([3]) utilizza l'espressione generica «nuove sostanze psicoattive» per definire le nuove sostanze stupefacenti o le nuove droghe psicotrope comparse solo di recente sul mercato e non ancora vietate, che possono costituire una minaccia per la salute pubblica comparabile a quella delle sostanze illecite. Gli Stati membri possono realizzare una serie di attività per informare i cittadini dei rischi potenziali e per mettere in atto strategie di prevenzione che scoraggino l'assunzione di tali sostanze.

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getAllAnswers.do?reference=E-2011-010409&language=EN
([2]) Commissione europea, Flash Eurobarometro n. 330 sul rapporto tra i giovani e gli stupefacenti (Youth attitudes on Drugs), http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/flash_arch_344_330_en.htm#330
([3]) Decisione 2005/387/GAI del Consiglio, del 10 maggio 2005, relativa allo scambio di informazioni, alla valutazione dei rischi e al controllo delle nuove sostanze psicoattive (GU L 127 del 20.05.2005 pagg. 32-37).

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000372/12
to the Commission
Cristiana Muscardini (PPE)
(23 January 2012)

Subject: Vending machines for new drugs

Known as 'smart drugs', these substances are produced from laboratory waste and are therefore very dangerous. In the space of thirteen months, these drugs were responsible for 30 people, including some who are very young, being admitted to hospital suffering from poisoning. Despite being very dangerous, they are very easy to find: an Internet search to discover the different 'types' available and then a quick visit to the 'Hurricane' vending machine (as it is known to the more regular users and which is operational 24 hours a day) to purchase the drugs. There is no need for documents or drug dealers. Knowing the whereabouts of specialised 'shops', which usually are, or at least seem to be, fertiliser suppliers or herbalist's shops, is enough. During the past few days, nineteen shop owners and customers were arrested during a raid carried out by NAS (Anti-adulteration Unit) to stop the 'Hurricane' trafficking ring — namely producers, consumers and buyers who in turn become pushers and swell a market which is already very substantial.

1. Is the Commission aware of this very simple method of distributing new drugs?

2. What action will it take, given that the production and marketing stages of this trade involve several countries, including some EU Member States?

3. Does the Commission agree with the proposal the Italian Government will make to the European Union, that the name 'smart drugs' be changed into 'trash drugs' so there is no further ambiguity?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(23 February 2012)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question E-010409/2011 ([1]), in which the situation with new psychoactive substances was explained and the Commission's response outlined.

The Commission is aware of various methods of distribution of new psychoactive substances; a question on distribution methods was also part of the 2011 Eurobarometer ([2]) survey.

The Council Decision 2005/387/JHA on new psychoactive substances ([3]) uses the generic term 'new psychoactive substances'. New psychoactive substances are new narcotic or psychotropic drugs which may pose a threat to public health comparable to illicit drugs, and which emerged only recently on the market and are not banned. Member States can undertake a variety of activities to inform citizens of potential risks and deploy prevention strategies that discourage the use of psychoactive substances.

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getAllAnswers.do?reference=E-2011-010409&language=EN
([2]) European Commission, Flash Eurobarometer Nr. 330, Youth attitudes on Drugs, http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/archives/flash_arch_344_330_en.htm#330
([3]) Council Decision 2005/387/JHA of 10 May 2005 on the information exchange, risk-assessment and control of new psychoactive substances, OJ L 127, 20.5.2005, pp 32-37.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000373/12
alla Commissione
Cristiana Muscardini (PPE)
(20 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Armonizzazione dei viaggi in treno per cani

Dal 1° dicembre 2011 in Italia è entrato in vigore il nuovo orario invernale di Trenitalia, dal quale sono spariti molti degli Intercity e Intercity notte che, insieme ai treni espressi e regionali, erano gli unici in cui erano ammessi animali più grandi della gabbietta di 70x50x30cm. La situazione è diversa negli altri paesi dell'UE: in Francia non c'è alcun limite di accesso per i cani sui treni ad alta velocità, in Gran Bretagna non solo non ci sono restrizioni ma gli animali piccoli viaggiano gratis, in Spagna sui treni ad alta velocità sono ammessi cani fino a sei chili ma con molte limitazioni.

La Commissione:

1. è al corrente delle diverse modalità di accesso ai treni per i cani?

2. non ritiene che all'interno dell'Europa sia necessaria un'armonizzazione delle condizioni di trasporto dei cani sui treni?

Risposta data da Siim Kallas a nome della Commissione
(14 febbraio 2012)

1. Le norme che regolano il trasporto in treno di cani e di altri animali possono variare, perché sono soggette unicamente alle condizioni generali di trasporto di ciascuna società secondo quanto previsto dalla normativa in vigore nei diversi Stati membri ([1]). Le condizioni generali di trasporto devono tuttavia rispettare diritti di trasporto per i passeggeri a mobilità ridotta, pertanto i vettori sono tenuti ad applicare norme non discriminatorie per l'accesso ai treni nel caso di trasporto di cani da assistenza.

2. La Commissione ritiene che in questa fase non sia necessario introdurre norme armonizzate a livello di UE per quanto riguarda il trasporto di cani o di altri animali.

([1]) Si veda in particolare l'articolo 12, paragrafo 1, dell'allegato I del regolamento (CE) n. 1371/2007 del Parlamento europeo e del Consiglio, del 23 ottobre 2007, relativo ai diritti e agli obblighi dei passeggeri nel trasporto ferroviario (GU L 315 del 3.12.2007, pag. 14).

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000373/12
to the Commission
Cristiana Muscardini (PPE)
(20 January 2012)

Subject: Harmonisation of rules governing the carriage of dogs on trains

The new Trenitalia winter timetable which came into effect on 1 December 2011 in Italy, no longer includes many of the Intercity and Intercity Notte trains which, along with regional and express trains, were the only trains on which animals too large to fit into a 70x50x30 cm cage were allowed. The situation is different in other EU countries: in France there are two restrictions on the carriage of dogs on high-speed trains, in the UK, not only are there no restrictions, but smaller animals travel for free, and in Spain dogs weighing up to six kilos can travel on high-speed trains, although various limitations apply.

1. Is the Commission aware of the disparities in the rules governing the carriage of dogs on trains?

2. Would it agree that the arrangements for the transport of dogs on trains should be harmonised within the EU?

Answer given by Mr Kallas on behalf of the Commission
(14 February 2012)

1. Rules governing the carriage of dogs or other animals on trains can be different as they are only subject to the General Conditions of Carriage set by each company in accordance to the legislation in force in each Member State ([1]). Nevertheless General Conditions of Carriage must respect the right of transport for Passengers with Reduced Mobility; therefore carriers have to apply non-discriminatory access rules in case of carriage of assistance dogs.

2. The Commission considers that the establishment of harmonised rules at EU level on the arrangement for the carriage of dogs or other animals on trains is not necessary at this stage.

([1]) See in particular Article 12(1) of Annex I to Regulation EC 1371/2007of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on rail passengers' rights and obligations (OJ L 315, 3.12.2007, p. 14).

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000374/12
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto rappresentante)
Mario Mauro (PPE)
(20 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: VP/HR — Violenze a Pibor (Sud Sudan)

Il 2 gennaio 2012 uomini armati della tribù Lou Nuer, in conflitto con la tribù rivale Murle, hanno attaccato la città di Pibor, nel nord del Paese, nello Stato di Jonglei. La spirale di vendette e ritorsioni tra i diversi gruppi etnici ha portato circa 6 000 uomini a saccheggiare e radere al suolo 3 villaggi — Pibor, Lekuangole e Verthet — ad uccidere quasi 3 000 persone e a rubare migliaia di capi di bestiame.

Sono state colpite anche le missioni umanitarie che operano nella zona: le tende sono state strappate a brandelli e sono stati sottratti centinaia di kit di prima emergenza che dovevano essere distribuiti alla popolazione civile.

Gli scontri tribali nello Stato di Jonglei e per l'intero Sud Sudan, tuttavia, non sono una novità. Le tribù Lou Nuer e Murle, infatti, sono perennemente in conflitto per l'accaparramento di terreni coltivabili, per furti di bestiame e per l'approvvigionamento dell'acqua.

Solo nel 2011 in tutto il Sud Sudan sono morte più di 1 000 persone a causa della violenza etnica e lo Stato di Jonglei risulta essere il più colpito.

Pertanto si chiede:

1. Può il vicepresidente/alto rappresentante far sapere quali politiche intende avviare per porre fine alle violenze in Sud Sudan?

2. Può il vicepresidente/alto rappresentante far sapere quali politiche intende avviare per assicurare alle missioni umanitarie la possibilità di operare in Sud Sudan?

Risposta data dall'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione
(31 maggio 2012)

L'UE è profondamente preoccupata per le tensioni nel Sud Sudan. Il 23 gennaio 2012 i ministri degli Esteri dell'UE hanno sollecitato il governo del Sud Sudan a intensificare l'impegno ad affrontare le cause profonde dei conflitti tra comunità, a promuovere la riconciliazione e a risolvere il problema delle armi leggere e di piccolo calibro.

L'UE sta sostenendo il processo di costruzione della pace e di stabilizzazione tra le comunità sud-sudanesi come presupposto per lo sviluppo. Dalla conclusione dell'accordo globale di pace nel 2005, l'UE sostiene, tramite lo Strumento europeo per la democrazia e i diritti umani e la linea di bilancio dedicata agli interlocutori non statali, oltre 40 organizzazioni non governative che operano per la costituzione di forti legami tra le comunità e la promozione del dialogo a livello locale. Attraverso il programma tematico sulla sicurezza alimentare, l'UE sostiene inoltre le comunità locali nel passaggio dall'agricoltura di sussistenza alla produzione orientata al mercato, creando in tal modo opportunità occupazionali e favorendo lo sviluppo sostenibile. La continuità dei summenzionati strumenti nel 2012 è garantita da un sostegno supplementare di quasi 12 milioni di euro.

Per quanto riguarda le migliaia di sfollati, l'UE ha reagito immediatamente fornendo aiuti umanitari per alleviare le loro sofferenze. Attualmente, l'UE sostiene la risposta umanitaria che l'OCHA sta coordinando per venire incontro alle necessità immediate della popolazione colpita, fornendo tra l'altro assistenza sanitaria d'emergenza e servizi igienico-sanitari. Data la mancanza di infrastrutture di base, l'UE ha inoltre dato il proprio sostegno per il dispiegamento di un elicottero con base nella regione per agevolare la logistica, consentire ai partner di effettuare la valutazione delle esigenze e accelerare la consegna degli aiuti umanitari.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000374/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Mario Mauro (PPE)
(20 January 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Violence in Pibor (South Sudan)

On 2 January 2012 armed men from the Lou Nuer tribe, which is feuding with the rival Murle tribe, attacked the northern town of Pibor in Jonglei State. The spiral of revenge and retaliation among different ethnic groups led to around 6 000 men plundering and razing three villages (Pibor, Lekuangole and Verthet) to the ground. Almost 3 000 people were killed and thousands of cattle stolen in the attacks.

Even humanitarian missions operating in the area were affected: tents were torn to shreds and hundreds of first-aid kits which were meant for distribution among the civilian population were stolen.

The tribal clashes in Jonglei State and in the entire South Sudan are not, however, a new occurrence. In fact, the Lou Nuer and Murle tribes are perpetually fighting over ownership of arable farmland, cattle rustling and water supplies.

In 2011 alone, more than 1 000 people were killed in South Sudan as a whole as a result of ethnic violence, with the State of Jonglei being the worst affected.

1. Can the Vice-President/High Representative state which policies she intends to implement so as to put an end to the violence in South Sudan?

2. Can the Vice-President/High Representative state which policies she intends to implement so as to ensure humanitarian missions can operate in South Sudan?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(31 May 2012)

The EU is deeply concerned by tensions within South Sudan. EU Foreign Ministers, on 23 January 2012, urged the Government of South Sudan to intensify its efforts to address the root causes of inter-communal conflicts, to promote reconciliation, and address the issue of small arms and light weapons.

The EU is supporting peace building and stabilisation between South Sudanese communities as a precondition for development. Since the conclusion of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in 2005, the EU, through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights and Non-State Actors budget line, has been supporting over 40 local non-governmental organisations to build strong links amongst communities and promote dialogue at local level. Through the Food Security Thematic Programme, the EU supports local communities to move from subsistence farming to market orientated production, creating employment opportunities and sustainable development. These instruments will see continuity in 2012 through additional support of nearly EUR 12 million.

In the context of displacement of thousands of people, the EU's immediate humanitarian response was the provision of humanitarian assistance to alleviate the suffering of those affected. At present, the EU supports the humanitarian response that is being coordinated by OCHA to address the immediate needs of the affected population, including the provision of emergency healthcare and water and sanitation services. Given the lack basic infrastructure, the EU has also supported the mobilisation of a regionally-based helicopter to facilitate the logistics, allow partners to conduct needs assessment and speed up the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000375/12
alla Commissione
Mario Mauro (PPE)
(23 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Disoccupazione giovanile in Italia

Uno dei settori maggiormente colpiti dall'attuale crisi economica in Italia è quello dell'occupazione giovanile.

Nel novembre 2011 l'Istat ha diffuso i dati sul lavoro e l'inflazione. A ottobre è salito ancora il tasso di disoccupazione, arrivato all'8,5 %. Si tratta del livello più alto da maggio 2010, quando si era attestato all'8,7 %. Appare preoccupante il dato relativo ai giovani: il 29,2 % continua a essere disoccupato.

Per contribuire a risolvere il problema della disoccupazione giovanile, si prega la Commissione di rispondere ai seguenti quesiti:

1. È possibile utilizzare i Fondi europei sotto forma di sussidio dei vari contratti di lavoro a durata temporale limitata (stage, a progetto) al fine da renderli, da un lato, «economicamente seri» per i lavoratori e, dall'altro, stimolanti nell'attuarli per le imprese?

2. Inoltre, è possibile utilizzare questi stessi Fondi come un premio per le imprese qualora tali contratti assumano poi la forma di contratti a tempo indeterminato?

Risposta data da L. Andor a nome della Commissione
(8 marzo 2012)

I giovani sono tra i più colpiti dalla crisi sul mercato del lavoro e la disoccupazione giovanile, che nell'UE raggiunge attualmente un livello superiore al 20 %, costituisce un problema particolarmente preoccupante. Tenendo presente tale situazione, la Commissione ha avviato l'iniziativa «Opportunità per i giovani» nel dicembre 2011. L'iniziativa comprende azioni da svolgere a nome della Commissione e degli Stati membri a favore dell'occupazione dei giovani e chiede una maggiore mobilitazione dei finanziamenti dell'Unione disponibili per gli Stati membri. Conformemente a tali proposte, alla riunione informale del Consiglio europeo del 30 gennaio 2011, il Presidente Barroso ha annunciato la creazione di gruppi d'intervento costituiti da funzionari della Commissione e nazionali incaricati di identificare misure atte a sostenere il passaggio dei giovani verso il mercato del lavoro, anche attraverso la «Garanzia per i giovani» per tutti i cittadini in giovane età, e misure in grado di fornire l'accesso ai finanziamenti alle PMI e di esaminare la disponibilità di fondi UE a tal fine.

Per quanto riguarda il sostegno dei Fondi UE, in particolare del Fondo sociale europeo (FSE), ai tirocini, si devono prendere in considerazione tre aspetti nel contesto della gestione condivisa dei Fondi. I tirocini e le formazioni sul posto di lavoro sono, in quanto tali, ammissibili al sostegno del FSE e sono cofinanziati in vari Stati membri. Dall'altro lato, le attività selezionate dalle autorità responsabili della gestione devono contribuire al raggiungimento degli obiettivi delle assi prioritarie e dei programmi operativi in questione, attraverso i quali viene fornito il sostegno. Infine, il sostegno alle imprese sotto forma di aiuti all'assunzione deve essere conforme alle regole sugli aiuti pubblici.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000375/12
to the Commission
Mario Mauro (PPE)
(23 January 2012)

Subject: Youth unemployment in Italy

One of the areas to be hit hardest by the economic crisis in Italy is that of youth employment.

In November 2011, Istat released data regarding employment and inflation. In October, the unemployment rate continued to increase, reaching 8.5 %. This was the highest rate since May 2010, when unemployment reached 8.7 %. The figure for young people is particularly worrying: 29.2 % remain unemployed.

With a view to helping to solve the problem of youth unemployment, will the Commission answer the following:

1. Can European funds be used in the form of subsidies for various fixed-term employment contracts (traineeships, project-based) so as to make them both financially worthwhile for workers, and attractive for businesses?

2. Moreover, can these funds be used as special payments for companies should such contracts later become open-ended?

Answer given by Mr Andor on behalf of the Commission
(8 March 2012)

Young people are among the labour market groups most affected by the crisis, and youth unemployment, at a rate above 20 % in the EU, is a particular concern. Bearing this in mind the Commission launched a Youth Opportunities Initiative in December 2012. The initiative regroups actions on behalf of the Commission and the Member States for the benefit of youth employment. It also calls for further mobilisation of EU funding available to Member States. In line with these proposals, at the informal European Council meeting of 30 January 2011, President Barroso announced the creation of action teams of Commission and national officials with the mandate of identifying measures to help the transition of young people to the labour market, including the provision of 'Youth Guarantee' to all young persons, as well as identifying measures for providing access to finance for SMEs and exploring available EU funds to this end.

As regards the support of the EU funds, European Social Fund (ESF) in particular, to apprenticeships, three aspects have to be taken into consideration in the context of shared management of the funds. Apprenticeships and on-the-jobs trainings as such are eligible to ESF support and have received co-financing in many Member States. On the other hand, operations that are selected by the responsible Managing Authorities have to contribute to the objective of the priority axis and operational programme concerned, from which the support is foreseen. Finally, support to undertakings in the form of employment aids has to comply with state aid rules.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000377/12
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto rappresentante)
Mario Mauro (PPE)
(23 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: VP/HR — Indigeni costretti ad esibirsi per i turisti

Il governo indiano ha aperto un'indagine su un video, reso noto dal quotidiano britannico «The Observer», che mostra indigeni di una tribù delle isole Andamane (costa orientale dell'India) costretti dalla polizia a danzare davanti ai turisti in cambio di cibo.

Secondo il giornalista che ha denunciato il fatto, la polizia locale è solita organizzare per l'equivalente di circa 200 euro dei «safari umani» per i turisti nella riserva della tribù dei Jarawa, una comunità di soli 403 membri, rimasta isolata dal resto del mondo fino a pochi anni fa e la cui sopravvivenza è minacciata proprio dal turismo di massa.

Nel video si vedono alcune donne seminude obbligate da una voce fuori campo a esibirsi davanti a turisti a bordo di una jeep.

Lo scandalo dello sfruttamento degli indigeni era già stato denunciato lo scorso anno dall'associazione Survival International, che si occupa dei diritti delle popolazioni indigene minacciate d'estinzione.

Si chiede pertanto:

— può il Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante far sapere quali politiche intende avviare per assicurare la libertà e il rispetto della dignità umana e dei diritti della tribù dei Jarawa delle isole Andamane?

Risposta data dall'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione
(16 marzo 2012)

Dell'incidente e della registrazione video cui fa riferimento l'onorevole parlamentare hanno parlato ampiamente i media indiani e la Delegazione dell'UE a New Delhi sta seguendo con attenzione il caso.

L'UE affronta regolarmente il problema delle categorie vulnerabili e dei diritti delle popolazioni indigene nell'ambito del dialogo sui diritti umani a livello locale con il governo indiano.

In relazione a questo caso specifico il governo ha avviato un'indagine per presunti atti di sfruttamento. Il SEAE e la Delegazione dell'UE a New Delhi continueranno a seguire gli sviluppi del caso.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000377/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Mario Mauro (PPE)
(23 January 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Indigenous people forced to perform for tourists

The Indian Government has opened an investigation into a video, released by the British newspaper *The Observer*, showing a tribe of natives of the Andaman Islands (India's east coast) being forced by police to dance in front of tourists in exchange for food.

According to the journalist who reported the matter, members of the local police force organise 'human safaris' for tourists for the equivalent of around EUR 200 in the reserve of the Jarawa tribe, a community made up of only 403 people, which until a few years ago was isolated from the rest of the world and whose survival is now threatened by mass tourism.

The video shows half-naked women being urged by an off-screen voice to perform in front of tourists on board a jeep.

The scandal of the exploitation of these natives was already reported last year by Survival International, which campaigns for the rights of indigenous peoples threatened with extinction.

Will the Vice-President/High Representative indicate what policies she intends to implement so as to ensure the freedom and respect for the human dignity and rights of the Jarawa tribe on the Andaman Islands?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(16 March 2012)

The incident and the video recording referred to in the written question have been widely covered in the Indian media and the issue is being closely followed by the EU Delegation in Delhi.

The EU regularly addresses subjects such as vulnerable groups and the rights of indigenous people in the framework of its local Human Rights Dialogue with the Indian Government.

In this specific case the Government has opened an investigation into the alleged acts of exploitation. The EEAS and the EU Delegation in Delhi will continue to monitor developments in the case.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000379/12
to the Commission
Nessa Childers (S&D)
(23 January 2012)

Subject: Environmental enforcement

The Irish Office of Environmental Enforcement ([1]) implements and enforces environmental legislation. It also deals with members of the public who have exhausted all other avenues of complaint. Its main functions are to enforce the pollution control and waste licences it issues, prosecute significant breaches of environmental legislation and report on how local authorities perform in their environmental protection functions.

Given the history of lack of compliance with EU environmental legislation, would the Commission regard this office as a best-practice example and would it share that best practice with other Member States?

Would the Commission consider proposing a directive in this area requiring such offices to be set up in all Member States, covering a wider range of areas?

Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(27 February 2012)

The Commission believes that Ireland's Office of Environmental Enforcement (OEE) is making a useful contribution to implementing and enforcing environmental legislation, particularly in the area of waste. In the context of bilateral contacts with Ireland and other Member States, the Commission has commented positively on the role of the OEE.

More generally, the Commission is currently looking at how to assist Member States in ensuring better implementation of EU environmental legislation and will propose a communication in near future.

([1]) http://www.epa.ie/about/org/oee/

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000380/12
to the Commission
Nessa Childers (S&D)
(23 January 2012)

Subject: Transparency Register

The Joint Transparency Register is now over six months old.

Given that many interest groups operating in Brussels, for example those representing Irish farmers and Irish employers, are still not registered, would the Commission agree that this points to a basic flaw of the register, namely that it is not mandatory?

Will the Commission now seek to make this registry mandatory?

Answer given by Mr Barroso on behalf of the Commission
(17 February 2012)

The rate of registration in the common Parliament-Commission Transparency Register keeps a constant pace of about 130 new entities per week. This element shows that the Register is still in the early stages of development and that, until signs show that it has reached its full level, it would be premature to draw any conclusion on the success or failure of this instrument or to question the principles which were agreed together with the Parliament for the launching of the Register under its present format.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000381/12
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto rappresentante)
Vito Bonsignore (PPE)
(23 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: VP/HR — Situazione in Nigeria

Nei giorni di Natale, i militanti del gruppo islamico Boko Haram hanno attaccato, in Nigeria, diverse chiese cristiane provocando numerose vittime. Il leader del gruppo, Abubakar Shekau, ha rivendicato gli attentanti quale atto di vendetta per le uccisioni di cittadini musulmani, avvenute negli ultimi anni nel nord del paese, dichiarando, inoltre, il suo gruppo in guerra aperta contro i cristiani. Si tratta di un gruppo estremista, probabilmente affiliato ad Al Queda, che sostiene di voler imporre una rigida applicazione della sharia, abolendo così la cultura «occidentale».

L'obiettivo è di istituire uno stato islamico nel più popoloso paese africano, per questo motivo i Boko Haram esortano i musulmani presenti nel Sud del paese (dove viva la stragrande maggioranza dei cristiani nigeriani) ad unirsi nella lotta con i fedeli islamici presenti nel Nord. A tali violenze, connesse con scontri etnici, va anche aggiunta la delicata situazione politica che sta affrontando la Nigeria riguardo al «caro carburante» e ai relativi scioperi, indetti nei giorni scorsi, che hanno rischiato non solo di paralizzare il paese, ma anche di alimentare il malcontento popolare a causa della grave situazione economica. Tutto ciò, ovviamente, sta destando serie preoccupazioni nella Comunità internazionale.

Alla luce di tali avvenimenti, si chiede al Vicepresidente/Alto Rappresentante:

1. quali azioni intenda adottare a favore della comunità cristiana e, più in generale, in difesa della libertà di culto;

2. con quali strumenti debba intervenire al fine di tutelare gli interessi economici che l'Europa vanta in quella regione.

Risposta data dall'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Catherine Ashton a nome della Commissione
(15 marzo 2012)

La libertà di religione e di credo ha un posto di rilievo nella politica estera dell'Unione europea. L'Unione europea ha reagito fermamente di fronte al numero crescente di atti di intolleranza e di discriminazione religiosa in tutto il mondo, anche a livello dei ministri degli esteri dell'UE.

Le condizioni di sicurezza in Nigeria sono motivo di preoccupazione per l'UE e la delegazione sta monitorando da vicino la situazione. In generale la Nigeria è uno stato laico, ma, come in ogni altro paese, la religione può talvolta essere strumentalizzata per fini politici. Di recente, le condizioni di sicurezza si sono di fatto ulteriormente deteriorate fino a includere aggressioni a luoghi di culto, una tendenza preoccupante che, se non gestita con attenzione, potrebbe produrre una situazione di violenza settaria generalizzata.

La tutela degli interessi economici europei nella regione dipende non solo dalle condizioni di sicurezza, ma, in senso più ampio, anche dalle condizioni generali per gli investimenti in Nigeria. Tali problematiche e le questioni ad esse collegate, interessi ampiamente condivisi dalla Nigeria e dall'UE, occuperanno una posizione preminente nell'agenda della prossima riunione ministeriale tra Unione Europea e Nigeria.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000381/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Vito Bonsignore (PPE)
(23 January 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Situation in Nigeria

At Christmas, fighters belonging to the Islamic Boko Haram group attacked numerous Christian churches in Nigeria, killing many people. The group's leader Abubakar Shekau claimed responsibility for the attacks, describing them as a revenge for the killing of Muslim citizens in the north of the country in recent years and also declaring open war on Christians. His group is an extremist organisation probably linked to al-Quaeda which claims that it is seeking to impose a rigid interpretation of Sharia, thus abolishing 'Western' culture.

Its objective is that of creating an Islamic state in the most densely populated African country.

For this reason, Boko Haram are encouraging Muslims in the south of the country (where the vast majority of Nigerian Christians live) to rise up and join the struggle being waged by the North's Islamic believers. These outbreaks of violence, linked to ethnic conflict, are taking place against the backdrop of the delicate political situation in Nigeria as regards the rising price of petrol at the pumps and the associated strikes called in recent days, which risked not only paralysing the country, but also exacerbating people's dissatisfaction about the severe economic situation. This is naturally giving rise to grave concern within the international community.

In light of the above, the Vice-President/High Representative is asked to answer the following:

1. What measures does she intend to take in favour of the Christian community and, more generally, in support of religious freedom?

2. What means can she use to safeguard Europe's economic interests in the area?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(15 March 2012)

Freedom of religion or belief (FORB) is a priority under the EU's external policy. The EU has firmly responded to the increasing number of acts of religious intolerance and discrimination across the world, including at the level of EU Foreign Ministers.

The security situation in Nigeria is a matter of concern to the EU and the Delegation is closely monitoring the situation. Generally speaking, Nigeria is a secular state. Nevertheless, and as in any other country, religion may at times be used for political purposes. The security situation has recently deteriorated further to include attacks on places of worship, which is a worrying trend that could result in widespread sectarian violence unless managed carefully.

The issue of safeguarding Europe's economic interests in the area depends not only on the security situation, but also more generally on the overall investment climate in Nigeria. These issues and related issues, which are very much shared Nigerian and EU interests, will feature prominently on the agenda of the upcoming Nigeria-EU ministerial meeting.

(Versão portuguesa)

Pergunta com pedido de resposta escrita E-000383/12
à Comissão
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(23 de Janeiro de 2012)

Assunto: Pesca UE-Marrocos

Considerando que:

— A prorrogação do protocolo ao acordo de pesca entre a UE e Marrocos, que expirava em fevereiro de 2012, foi chumbado no Parlamento Europeu;

— O acordo de pescas previa 119 autorizações para navios comunitários, sendo Portugal o segundo país com maior número de embarcações neste acordo (14) e com a possibilidade de captura em águas marroquinas de «1 300 toneladas de pequenos pelágicos»;

— A União Europeia é «o maior mercado de produtos de pesca do Mundo», e como tal esta rejeição vai possibilitar a entrada de frotas pesqueiras de países como a China, Rússia e Coreia do Sul, concorrentes da UE;

— Muitos foram os pescadores e armadores dos vários países da União Europeia prejudicados com o chumbo deste acordo para quem esta decisão foi considerada «desastrosa»;

— A Espanha já terá exigido uma compensação pelos prejuízos que sofrerá a frota de pesca espanhola, como resultado do cancelamento do acordo;

— A UE é o principal mercado para as suas exportações, o maior investidor externo público e privado e o seu mercado de turismo mais importante;

— O Reino de Marrocos é o maior beneficiário de fundos da União Europeia no âmbito da Política Europeia de Vizinhança;

— A Comissária europeia para as pescas afirmou que está disponível para negociar um novo acordo de pescas com Marrocos;

Pergunto à Comissão:

De que forma prevê a Comissão reatar as negociações para um novo acordo de pescas com Marrocos?

Sabendo que a justificação dada para a referida rejeição tem por base a sobre-exploração de espécies e a interferência nos recursos do território do Sara Ocidental, e que, por outro lado, Marrocos é o maior beneficiário de fundos da UE, tais factos não constituirão uma falha grave na atuação da política externa europeia assim como da Comissária das pescas?

Que medidas de compensação tem previstas para minimizar as perdas de pescadores e armadores da UE?

Resposta dada por Maria Damanaki em nome da Comissão
(6 de Março de 2012)

No seguimento de uma recomendação da Comissão, o Conselho autorizou, a 14 de fevereiro último, a abertura de negociações com Marrocos sobre um novo protocolo anexo ao Acordo de Parceria no domínio da pesca. A Comissão está pronta a iniciar negociações logo que Marrocos manifeste igualmente essa intenção.

O Acordo de Parceria no domínio da pesca enquadra-se nas relações bilaterais da UE com Marrocos, que têm uma importância estratégica considerável. Nesse contexto, a Comissão está firmemente empenhada em apoiar o processo de reforma política em curso em Marrocos. Concomitantemente, qualquer novo protocolo anexo ao acordo terá de respeitar critérios estritos de sustentabilidade ambiental e de legalidade internacional.

A fim de ajudar as empresas de pesca diretamente afetadas pela perda de possibilidades de pesca decorrente do facto de o protocolo não ter sido prorrogado, a Comissão está disposta a apoiar os Estados-Membros através do recurso às possibilidades de que estes dispõem no âmbito do Fundo Europeu das Pescas. Poderão, nomeadamente, ser atribuídos fundos dessa proveniência, a título de cessação temporária das atividades de pesca, aos armadores e pescadores dos navios afetados.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000383/12
to the Commission
Nuno Melo (PPE)
(23 January 2012)

Subject: EU-Morocco fisheries

The extension of the protocol to the fishing agreement between the EU and Morocco, which expires in February 2012, collapsed in the European Parliament. The fishing agreement anticipated 119 authorisations for Community boats, with Portugal being the country with the second highest number of vessels in this agreement (14) and with the possibility of catching '1 300 tonnes of small pelagics' in Moroccan waters. The European Union is 'the largest market for fishing products in the world', and as such this rejection could enable the entry of fishing fleets from countries such as China, Russia and South Korea, in competition with the EU.

Many fishermen and shipowners from various European Union countries affected by the collapse of this agreement felt that this decision was 'disastrous'. Spain has already demanded compensation for the losses that the Spanish fishing fleet will suffer due to the cancellation of this agreement.

The EU is the principal market for Morocco's exports, the largest public and private external investor and its most important tourist market. The Kingdom of Morocco is also the main beneficiary of funds from the European Union through the European Neighbourhood Policy. Meanwhile, the European Fisheries Commissioner has said that she is prepared to negotiate a new fishing agreement with Morocco.

In what manner does the Commission expect to restart negotiations for a new fishing agreement with Morocco?

Bearing in mind that the justification given for the aforementioned rejection is based on over-exploration of species and interference in the resources of Western Sahara's territory, and that, moreover, Morocco is the largest beneficiary of EU funds, do these facts not constitute a serious lack of vision in Europe's foreign policy as well as that of the Fisheries Commissioner?

What compensation measures will be provided in order to minimise the losses for fishermen and shipowners in the EU?

Answer given by Ms Damanaki on behalf of the Commission
(6 March 2012)

Following a recommendation by the Commission, on 14 February the Council authorised the opening of negotiations with Morocco on a new protocol to the Fisheries Partnership Agreement. The Commission is ready to start negotiations without delay if and when Morocco also signals its willingness to do so.

The Fisheries Partnership Agreement is part and parcel of the EU's overall bilateral relations with Morocco, which have considerable strategic importance. In that context, the Commission is fully committed to support the ongoing process of political reform in Morocco. At the same time, any new protocol to the Agreement will have to respect strict criteria of environmental sustainability and international legality.

In order to help those fishing enterprises which are directly affected by the loss of fishing opportunities resulting from the latest Protocol's non-conclusion, the Commission is prepared to support Member States in using the opportunities they have under the European Fisheries Fund (EFF). In particular, assistance could be granted from these funds to the owners and crew members of affected fishing vessels for temporary cessation of fishing activities.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000384/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Charles Tannock (ECR)
(23 January 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Concerns about the extended detention without trial in Sri Lanka of Viswalingam Gopithas

I have been contacted about a London-based constituent, Mr Viswalingam Gopithas, who was arrested by the authorities in Sri Lanka in 2007 for allegedly helping the banned terrorist organisation LTTE (the Tamil Tigers). My constituent has been in prison since 2007 without having been tried or convicted by the courts, and the ongoing investigation has reportedly continued well beyond the normal amount of time that could reasonably be required to investigate his alleged involvement in criminal activities.

Is the External Action Service aware of this case and could it raise it with the appropriate authorities in Colombo through the EU Delegation to Sri Lanka, so as to ensure that Mr Gopithas is allowed legal counsel and the right to a fair trial?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(13 June 2012)

The HR/VP is aware of the case of Mr Visualingam Gobithas. The EU Delegation in Colombo has been in contact with the British High Commission (BHC), since the case of Mr Gobithas is directly handled, for the time being, by the BHC's consular section. BHC officials have visited Mr Gobithas in detention regularly since his arrest in April 2007. The BHC has raised his case with the Sri Lankan Ministry of External Affairs, including recently in January 2012.

Although the EU has not been requested to directly intervene in this case, the EU Delegation in Colombo has informed the BHC that it stands ready to assist in this case, if this is considered appropriate and useful. It should be added that, in contacts with Sri Lankan representatives, including at Ministerial level, the EU has raised in the past concerns regarding the need to respect the rights of EU citizens detained in this country.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000387/12
alla Commissione (Vicepresidente/Alto rappresentante)
Oreste Rossi (EFD)
(20 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: VP/HR — Emergenza umanitaria in Sud Sudan

Secondo l'associazione Intersos la base di Pibor è stata rasa al suolo. A causa dei violenti scontri tra i diversi gruppi etnici la situazione in Sud Sudan è critica. Molti villaggi sono stati devastati, si contano circa 3 000 vittime, la popolazione civile è spaventata e i cooperanti umanitari hanno difficoltà a svolgere il proprio lavoro in quanto sono state distrutte le tende per l'accoglienza, sono stati rubati i kit di primo soccorso, oltre a tavoli, sedie e altri oggetti.

A detta del coordinatore di *Intersos* in Sud Sudan, l'attività di assistenza ai civili è ripresa tra molte difficoltà. Mancano i materiali per rimettere in sesto gli uffici, le tende per la notte e i kit di emergenza non sono sufficienti, il pericolo di nuovi attacchi genera paura e preoccupazione tra i civili e i cooperanti umanitari. Ancora non si sa quanti dei 117 bambini riuniti nel campo siano rimasti orfani a seguito degli scontri.

Considerando quanto comunicato da *Intersos*, può l'alto rappresentante/vicepresidente Ashton indicare qual è la linea d'azione seguita dall'Unione Europa in Sud Sudan?

Risposta dell'Alta Rappresentante/Vicepresidente Ashton a nome della Commissione
(13 giugno 2012)

Come riferito dall'onorevole parlamentare, gli scontri nello Stato del Jonglei sono stati effettivamente molto violenti e hanno colpito anche gli operatori umanitari rendendo necessaria la loro evacuazione. Le strutture di alcune organizzazioni presenti sul territorio sono state saccheggiate e distrutte. Nonostante le difficoltà, la risposta umanitaria che mira ad alleviare le sofferenze delle popolazioni colpite dalla crisi va avanti.

L'Unione sostiene l'assistenza umanitaria coordinata dall'Ufficio delle Nazioni Unite per il coordinamento degli affari umanitari (OCHA) e messa in atto dalle agenzie delle Nazioni Unite e da ONG internazionali per far fronte alle esigenze più immediate delle popolazioni colpite, quali l'assistenza medica, la fornitura di cibo e acqua e dei servizi igienico-sanitari. Data la mancanza di infrastrutture di base, l'UE ha inoltre dato il proprio sostegno per l'utilizzo di un elicottero con base nella regione per agevolare la logistica, consentire ai partner di effettuare la valutazione delle esigenze e accelerare la consegna degli aiuti umanitari.

Gli assistenti tecnici dell'UE a Giuba, si recano frequentemente a Pibor e in altre aree colpite dalle violenze per monitorare sul posto la situazione e l'assistenza umanitaria. L'Unione è pronta a sostenere il governo sud-sudanese e la missione ONU nel paese nella loro azione volta a prevenire e i risolvere i conflitti.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000387/12
to the Commission (Vice-President/High Representative)
Oreste Rossi (EFD)
(20 January 2012)

Subject: VP/HR — Humanitarian emergency in South Sudan

According to the Intersos association, the base at Pibor has been razed to the ground. The situation in South Sudan is critical on account of the violent clashes between the various ethnic groups. Many villages have been devastated, with a death toll of about 3 000; the civilian population is terrified and humanitarian aid workers are finding it difficult to carry out their work owing to the destruction of accommodation tents and the theft of tables, chairs and other items.

According to the Intersos coordinator in South Sudan, the provision of aid to civilians has resumed, amid numerous difficulties. The necessary equipment for repairing offices is lacking, there are not enough accommodation tents or first-aid kits, and the danger of fresh attacks is a source of fear and concern among civilians and humanitarian aid workers. It is not yet known how many of the 117 children at the camp have been orphaned as a result of the clashes.

In the light of the situation reported by Intersos, can the High Representative/Vice-President say what course of action the EU is taking in South Sudan?

Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Ashton on behalf of the Commission
(13 June 2012)

As mentioned by the Honourable Member, the magnitude of the violence of the clashes in Jonglei was indeed high and affected also humanitarian actors who had to be evacuated. Compounds of some of the organisations present in the area were looted and destroyed. Despite these difficulties, the humanitarian response aiming at alleviating suffering of people affected by the crisis continues.

The EU supports the humanitarian response coordinated by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and implemented by United Nations (UN) agencies and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to address the immediate needs of the affected populations, including the provision of emergency healthcare, food assistance and water and sanitation services. Given the lack of basic infrastructure, the EU has also supported the mobilisation of a regionally-based helicopter to facilitate the logistics, allow partners to conduct needs assessment and speed up the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The EU's technical assistants based in Juba frequently travel to Pibor, and other areas affected by the violence, to monitor the situation on the spot and the ongoing humanitarian response. The EU stands ready to support the Government of South Sudan and the UN mission in South Sudan in their efforts of conflict prevention and resolution.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000389/12
alla Commissione
Oreste Rossi (EFD)
(23 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Tubi porosi che catturano la CO_2 in città

Un gruppo di ricercatori britannici sta sperimentando un innovativo sistema in grado di assorbire la CO_2 presente nelle aree edificate in cui non è possibile piantare alberi.

Si tratta di piccole cannucce, di tubi microscopici e porosi dalla lunghezza di 1 micrometro e dal diametro di 1 nanometro costituiti da carbonio puro e gruppi chimici capaci di intrappolare l'anidride carbonica.

I tubicini possono essere paragonati agli alberi che non sono mai sufficienti nelle zone edificate.

Una volta riempite di CO_2, le cannucce vengono rigenerate termicamente attraverso un impulso di calore. Il carbonio è poi concentrato ed immagazzinato in piccoli barattoli.

Grazie a questo nuovo strumento, si potrebbero assorbire in un metro quadro di terra la stessa quantità di anidride carbonica assorbita da 10 alberi di dimensioni medie.

Se il progetto fosse realizzato, sarebbe una rivoluzione per le aree cittadine inquinate. Si potrebbero sistemare i tubicini anche ai lati delle autostrade, riducendo in tal modo l'inquinamento dell'aria circostante.

Considerato quanto detto, chiedo alla Commissione se è a conoscenza del progetto e se intenda promuovere lo sviluppo delle cannucce assorbi-CO_2.

Risposta data da Connie Hedegaard a nome della Commissione
(29 febbraio 2012)

La Commissione mantiene una posizione di neutralità tecnologica e non può promuovere o commercializzare nessun particolare prodotto a scapito di altri. Tuttavia la Commissione incoraggia in vari modi lo sviluppo precommerciale di tecnologie a emissioni di carbonio basse o negative.

Per ulteriori informazioni la Commissione rimanda l'onorevole parlamentare alla risposta data alla sua interrogazione scritta E-009593/2011 ([1]).

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000389/12
to the Commission
Oreste Rossi (EFD)
(23 January 2012)

Subject: Porous tubes that capture CO_2 in cities

A group of British researchers is testing an innovative system that is able to absorb the CO_2 in built-up areas where it is not possible to plant trees.

The system consists of small, straw-like porous microscopic tubes 1 micrometer in length and 1 nanometer in diameter made of pure carbon and groups of chemicals which are able to capture carbon dioxide.

The small tubes can be compared to trees, of which there can never be enough in built-up areas.

Once filled with CO_2, the straws are thermally regenerated by injection of heat. The carbon is then gathered and stored in small jars.

This new tool enables the same amount of carbon dioxide absorbed by 10 average-sized trees to be absorbed in one square metre of land.

The implementation of the project would be no less than a revolution for polluted urban areas. The tubes could also be installed along the sides of motorways, thereby reducing pollution levels in the surrounding air.

In light of the above, will the Commission state whether it is aware of the project and whether it intends to promote the development of CO_2-absorbing straws?

Answer given by Ms Hedegaard on behalf of the Commission
(29 February 2012)

The Commission has a technologically neutral stance and can not promote or market one product over another. However the Commission encourages pre-commercial development of low carbon or carbon negative technologies in different ways.

For more details, the Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to his Written Question E-009593/2011 ([1]).

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000390/12
alla Commissione
Oreste Rossi (EFD)
(23 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Biobatteria ricaricabile con la carta

Un gruppo di ricercatori di una nota azienda che produce batterie ha messo a punto una biobatteria in grado di trasformare in energia elettrica la carta da macero.

L'innovativo strumento utilizza la carta e quindi la cellulosa senza rilasciare rifiuti. Il processo è piuttosto semplice. La carta viene trasformata in zucchero degradato il quale reagisce con ossigeno e altri enzimi. A questo punto gli elettroni sono scissi dalle molecole di glucosio e vengono impiegati per alimentare la batteria. I sottoprodotti rilasciati dal processo sono acqua e gluconolattone.

L'ecobatteria è del tutto rispettosa dell'ambiente anche perché non è costituita da metalli o da sostanze chimiche.

Potremmo paragonare il funzionamento della biobatteria al meccanismo che utilizzano le formiche bianche e le termiti per trasformare il legno in energia.

Dal momento che la biobatteria potrebbe contribuire notevolmente alla tutela dell'ambiente se venisse utilizzata per ricariche cellulari e altri dispositivi, chiedo alla Commissione se intenda seguire lo sviluppo del suddetto strumento.

Risposta data da Máire Geoghegan-Quinn a nome della Commissione
(26 febbraio 2012)

La Commissione è a conoscenza degli studi a cui fa riferimento l'onorevole parlamentare.

Le attività di ricerca e di innovazione relative a tipi di pile innovativi e perfezionati e con prestazioni ambientali migliori, oltre rientrare a pieno titolo nell'ambito di applicazione della direttiva vigente sulle pile (2006/66/CE ([1])), sono sostenute attraverso il Piano strategico per le tecnologie energetiche (Piano SET ([2])). Tali attività possono essere finanziate nell'ambito del Settimo programma quadro per la ricerca e lo sviluppo tecnologico (7° PQ, 2007-2013). Gli inviti a presentare proposte del 7° PQ indicano l'obiettivo da raggiungere piuttosto che le modalità per il suo raggiungimento che generalmente si basano sulla creatività e sullo spirito d'iniziativa degli scienziati, degli industriali e degli altri soggetti coinvolti. Le proposte relative a questo tipo di pile avrebbero potenzialmente potuto beneficiare di finanziamenti nell'ambito degli ultimi inviti a presentare proposte del programma di lavoro 2012 del 7° PQ dedicato a nanoscienze, nanotecnologie, materiali e nuove tecnologie di produzione.

La Commissione non ha ancora adottato alcuna decisione per il prossimo programma di lavoro e quindi non è ancora possibile sapere se i prossimi inviti del programma di lavoro 2013, la cui adozione e pubblicazione è prevista per luglio 2012 ([3]), includeranno questo tipo di ricerca.

([1]) GU L 266 del 26.9.2006.
([2]) http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/energy/european_energy_policy/l27079_it.htm
([3]) Da luglio le informazioni relative a tali inviti saranno pubblicate sul seguente sito Internet: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/fp7_calls

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000390/12
to the Commission
Oreste Rossi (EFD)
(23 January 2012)

Subject: Paper-based rechargeable biobatteries

A group of researchers from a leading battery producer has developed a biobattery that can transform waste paper into electricity.

This pioneering tool uses paper, and therefore cellulose, without leaving any residual waste. The process is simple. The paper is converted into degraded sugar, which in turn reacts with oxygen and other enzymes. At this point, the electrons are divided from the glucose molecules, and are used to power the battery. The by-products created by the process are water and gluconolactone.

The ecobattery is completely environmentally friendly, since it does not contain any metals or chemicals.

The way in which the biobattery works is comparable to the method used by white ants and termites to convert wood into energy?

Since the biobattery could significantly contribute to environmental protection if it were to be used to recharge cell phones and other devices, will the Commission state whether it intends to go ahead with the development of this instrument?

Answer given by Ms Geoghegan-Quinn on behalf of the Commission
(26 February 2012)

The Commission is aware of the studies mentioned by the Honourable Member.

Research and innovation activities on novel and improved types of batteries with increased environmental performance are addressed within the SET plan ([1]) and are of direct relevance to the current Batteries Directive (2006/66/EC ([2])). Such activities can be funded via the Seventh Framework Programme for research and technological development (FP7, 2007-2013). FP7 calls for proposal indicate the target to be achieved rather than the way how to achieve it, the latter being usually left to the creativity and initiative of the scientists, industrialists and the other actors involved. Proposals on this type of batteries would have been potentially eligible for funding in the last FP7-NMP (Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies) calls within the Work Programme 2012.

The decision for next Work Programme has not yet been taken by the Commission and therefore it is premature to state now if this kind of research will be in the scope of the next calls within the Work Programme 2013, whose adoption and publication is scheduled in July 2012 ([3]).

([1]) http://europa.eu/legislation_summaries/energy/european_energy_policy/l27079_en.htm
([2]) OJ L 266, 26.9.2006.
([3]) As of July the information on these calls can be found on the following website: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/fp7_calls

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000391/12
alla Commissione
Oreste Rossi (EFD)
(23 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Cargo spezzato in due in Nuova Zelanda

Tra il 7 e l'8 gennaio 2012 la nave cargo Rena si è spezzata in due lasciando cadere in mare circa 250 container che aveva ancora a bordo. La nave cargo si trovava al largo della costa di Tauranga in Nuova Zelanda, vicino alla barriera corallina Astrolabe Reef. Il governo neozelandese ha comunicato tutti i numeri dell'incidente preannunciato, tuttavia i dati sono controversi. Le fonti ufficiali parlano di circa 360 tonnellate di carburante riversato in mare, mentre fonti non ufficiali ritengono che la nave abbia perso 1 350 tonnellate di petrolio che hanno ucciso circa 2 mila volatili.

I volontari sono al lavoro per ripulire le spiagge dai detriti e dal petrolio. Le operazioni di recupero dei container hanno evitato la dispersione in mare di altro materiale. Il danno alla barriera corallina, alle specie animali e alle spiagge è comunque serio. Ciò che provoca maggiore indignazione è che il disastro fosse stato annunciato, dato che la nave era gravemente danneggiata già dal mese di ottobre 2011.

Poiché da quasi due mesi le autorità erano al corrente della seria situazione della nave Rena e che, ad oggi, i dati relativi al disastro sono controversi, può la Commissione fornire maggiori informazioni sul preannunciato disastro ambientale?

Risposta data da Kristalina Georgieva a nome della Commissione
(13 marzo 2012)

Al riguardo dell'incidente della Rena, la Commissione non è in possesso di dati supplementari oltre a quelli pubblicamente disponibili. Inoltre, la Commissione non dispone di informazioni che possano mettere in dubbio la validità dei dati pubblicati dalle fonti ufficiali (ad esempio i comunicati stampa periodici: http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/News/Media-releases-2012/Media-releases-2012.asp).

La Nuova Zelanda non ha chiesto assistenza di emergenza nel quadro del meccanismo di protezione civile dell'UE.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000391/12
to the Commission
Oreste Rossi (EFD)
(23 January 2012)

Subject: Cargo ship splits in two in New Zealand

On the night of 7-8 January 2012 the cargo ship Rena split in two, dropping about 250 of the containers still on board into the sea. The cargo ship was off the coast of Tauranga in New Zealand, close to the Astrolabe Reef. Although the New Zealand Government has released comprehensive data relating to the accident (which had been predicted in advance), these figures are in dispute. Official sources say about 360 tonnes of fuel were spilled into the sea, while unofficial sources report that the ship lost 1 350 tonnes of oil, killing about 2 000 birds.

Volunteers are working to clean the beaches of debris and oil. The operations undertaken to recover the containers have prevented other material from finding its way into the sea. Nevertheless, there is serious damage to the coral reef, fauna and beaches. What is causing most outrage is the fact that the disaster was expected, on account of the severe damage sustained by the ship back in October 2011.

Given that the authorities had been aware of the seriousness of the Rena's situation for almost two months, and that the data regarding the disaster are in dispute, can the Commission provide more information about this environmental disaster, which had been predicted in advance?

Answer given by Ms Georgieva on behalf of the Commission
(13 March 2012)

The Commission has not been provided with additional data on the Rena incident other than those publicly available. Moreover, the Commission has no information that would call into question the validity of data published by the official sources (e.g. regular media releases at http://www.maritimenz.govt.nz/News/Media-releases-2012/Media-releases-2012.asp).

New Zealand has not requested emergency assistance under the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.

(Dansk udgave)

Forespørgsel til skriftlig besvarelse P-000393/12
til Kommissionen
Jens Rohde (ALDE)
(19. januar 2012)

Om: Kommissionens udregninger i forhold til Tobin-tax

Medlem af Europaparlamentet Morten Løkkegaard stillede et spørgsmål (E-010061/2011) til Kommissionen i efteråret 2011, om hvor mange arbejdspladser Kommissionen forventede, at EU ville miste, hvis den såkaldte Tobin-tax ville blive gennemført. Her lød svaret, at det er »vanskeligt at anslå de potentielle beskæftigelsesmæssige virkninger af vedtagelsen af den ordning for harmonisering af skat på finansielle transaktioner, som Kommissionen har foreslået«.

Til gengæld fremgår det af dagbladet Børsens artikel \3f d. 10/1 2011, at Europa ifølge et Kommissionsnotat vil miste op mod 440 000 job, hvis den fælles skat på al aktiehandel bliver til virkelighed.

Kan Kommissionen bekræfte dette tal?

Svar afgivet på Kommissionens vegne af Algirdas Šemeta
(24. februar 2012)

Kommissionen er ikke bekendt med, hvordan man har regnet sig frem til det tal, som dagbladet Børsen offentliggjorde den 10. januar 2012, eller hvor det stammer fra. Det kan formodes, at det er blevet beregnet ved hjælp af den stiliserede makroøkonomiske model, der indgår i den konsekvensanalyse, der ledsager forslaget. Den model indgik imidlertid i en mere omfattende analyse og tog ikke højde for de afbødende foranstaltninger, der opereres med i forslaget, bl.a. anvendelse af princippet om etableringssted og, at anvendelsesområdet for afgiften hverken omfatter ren lånefinansiering eller transaktioner på primærmarkederne med aktier og obligationer. Kommissionens mere omfattende analyse viser, at skatten på finansielle transaktioner kun får ubetydelige følger for beskæftigelsen takket være dens forholdsvis begrænsede indflydelse på bruttonationalproduktet som følge af den måde, skatten er udformet på, og da indtægterne fra skatten vil blive anvendt til at stimulere væksten. Som nævnt i forespørgslen knytter der sig en vis usikkerhed til alle disse beregninger, da det er en kompliceret sag at måle alle virkninger af skatter.

(English version)

Question for written answer P-000393/12
to the Commission
Jens Rohde (ALDE)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Commission calculations in relation to the Tobin tax

In autumn 2011, Morten Løkkegaard, MEP, asked the Commission a question (E-010061/2011) on the number of jobs which it expected the EU would lose if the Tobin tax were introduced. The answer: 'It is difficult to estimate the potential employment effects of the adoption of the FTT harmonising scheme proposed by the Commission.'

However, an article in the Danish financial daily *Børsen* on 10 January 2011 indicated that, according to a Commission memorandum, Europe would lose up to 440 000 jobs if the common tax on equities trading materialised.

Can the Commission confirm that figure?

Answer given by Mr Šemeta on behalf of the Commission
(24 February 2012)

The Commission has no information how this figure published in the Danish financial daily Børsen on 10 January 2012 was calculated or what the source is. It can be assumed that it was calculated using the change in employment derived in a stylized macroeconomic model in the impact assessment accompanying the proposal. However, this was only part of a broader analysis which and, as such, did not take into account the mitigating measures which the proposal has foreseen, notably the application of the residence principle and the exclusion from the scope of the tax of pure loan financing and primary market transactions relating to bonds and shares. The Commission's broader analysis demonstrates that the FTT should have a negligible effect on employment given the relatively low impact on GDP after taking account of the proposed tax design and accounting for growth-enhancing use of tax revenue. As mentioned in the question, all these estimates are subject to a certain degree of uncertainty given the complexity of measuring all tax effects.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000396/12
alla Commissione
Cristiana Muscardini (PPE)
(23 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Lo spreco dell'informatica alla Commissione

1. È esatto che attualmente coesistono più di 2 500 sistemi informatici per far funzionare la Commissione e che non meno di 3 800 persone, tra funzionari e consulenti — vale a dire circa il 15 % del personale dell'istituzione — acquistano, sviluppano e gestiscono questi sistemi?

2. È vero che soltanto per seguire il percorso delle sovvenzioni europee esistono 119 programmi diversi che necessitano di altri software per poter comunicare tra loro?

3. Corrisponde al vero che esistono 450 sistemi, suddivisi nelle 23 direzioni generali, per seguire le decisioni comunitarie?

4. È esatto che il costo globale del settore informatico per il 2011 corrisponde a 500 milioni di euro?

5. Quali sono le intenzioni della Commissione per razionalizzare il settore e per porre un freno a questo spreco di risorse?

Risposta data da Maroš Šefčovič a nome della Commissione
(27 febbraio 2012)

Le cifre menzionate dall'Onorevole Parlamentare ai punti da 1 a 4 sono alcune delle conclusioni indicative di un primo inventario della dotazione informatica della Commissione effettuato all'inizio del 2010. A seguito di tale inventario, nell'ottobre 2010 il Collegio ha approvato una comunicazione che contiene diverse misure di razionalizzazione per sfruttare al meglio le risorse informatiche della Commissione in un contesto di austerità finanziaria.

Sono stati in particolare istituiti nuovi organi di controllo, incaricati di razionalizzare sia la quantità dei sistemi informatici in tutti i settori di attività, sia i relativi stanziamenti alla Commissione. L'analisi passa in rassegna tutte le attività della Commissione, comprese le procedure per le sovvenzioni europee (punto 2) e l'attuazione delle decisioni UE (punto 3). Una prima valutazione preliminare, basata sulle conclusioni relative solo a quattro settori, ha già individuato vari procedimenti che possono essere ottimizzati e che, una volta gestiti da comuni strumenti informatici, consentiranno di risparmiare risorse.

Inoltre, l'inventario dei sistemi in uso è stato accuratamente ripulito: sono stati individuati i sistemi obsoleti o in via di sostituzione e sono stati interrotti i relativi investimenti, permettendo così di ridurre sensibilmente la quantità dei sistemi informatici della Commissione.

È solo l'inizio di un lavoro di razionalizzazione ad ampio spettro, su cui il Collegio è tenuto regolarmente informato.

Questi primi risultati preliminari sono stati approvati dal Collegio nel novembre 2011 in una nuova comunicazione presentata dal vicepresidente della Commissione responsabile per le Relazioni interistituzionali e l'amministrazione ([1]), garantendo così il più alto sostegno politico a tale operazione.

([1]) Follow-up della comunicazione «Getting the best from IT in the Commission» del 7 ottobre 2010 — Prime decisioni nell'ambito del processo di razionalizzazione del settore informatico, SEC(2011) 1500.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000396/12
to the Commission
Cristiana Muscardini (PPE)
(23 January 2012)

Subject: Wasteful use of IT resources at the Commission

1. Is it true that the Commission's work currently relies on a combination of more than 2 500 computer systems, and that no less than 3 800 officials and consultants — or equating to about 15 % of the Commission's staff — are involved in the purchase, development and management of these systems?

2. Is it true that the EU subsidy process alone uses 119 different programs, which require other software in order to communicate with one another?

3. Is it true that there are 450 systems — spread across the 23 directorates-general — used in the implementation of EU decisions?

4. Is it true that the total cost of IT resources in 2011 was EUR 500 million?

5. How does the Commission intend to rationalise the IT sector and stop this waste of resources?

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the Commission
(27 February 2012)

The figures mentioned by the Honourable Member under 1 to 4 are some of the rough findings of an initial inventory of the Commission's IT portfolio conducted in early 2010. As a follow-up, the College endorsed in October 2010 a communication that contains several rationalization measures aimed at getting the best from IT in the Commission in a context of budgetary austerity.

In particular, new governance bodies were set up and tasked to rationalize both the number of IT systems, across all business domains, and the budgets dedicated to IT in the Commission. All activities of the Commission are included in the analysis, including the processes around EU subsidies (point 2) and the implementation of EU decisions (point 3) A first preliminary assessment, based on findings from four domains only, already identified several processes that can be streamlined and, once covered by common IT tools, will generate resources savings.

Moreover, the inventory of the systems in use was carefully cleaned up. Systems which were obsolete or under replacement were identified and further investment was discontinued. This allowed to significantly reduce the estimated number of information systems in the Commission.

This is only the beginning of a wide-ranging rationalization exercise, on which the College is kept regularly informed.

These first preliminary results were endorsed by the College in November 2011 in a new Communication presented by the Vice-President of the Commission responsible for Interinstitutional Relations and Administration ([1]), thereby ensuring the highest political support for this exercise.

([1]) Follow-up to the communication 'Getting the best from IT in the Commission' of 7 October 2010 — First decisions in the IT rationalisation process, SEC(2011) 1500.

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000398/12
alla Commissione
Vito Bonsignore (PPE)
(23 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Rischi sulla salute dei bambini a seguito di un uso smodato dei telefoni cellulari

Il 15 novembre 2011 il Consiglio Superiore della Sanità italiano ha affrontato la questione dei rischi potenziali di un uso smodato dei cellulari da parte dei bambini.

Successivamente, il Ministero della Salute italiano ha dichiarato: «In linea con gli studi dell'Agenzia internazionale della ricerca sul cancro (Iarc) e in accordo con l'Istituto superiore di sanità, il Consiglio superiore rileva che non è stato finora dimostrato alcun rapporto di causalità tra l'esposizione a radio frequenze e le patologie tumorali. Tuttavia, le attuali conoscenze scientifiche non consentono di escludere l'esistenza di causalità quando si fa un uso molto intenso del telefono cellulare. In assenza di prove certe, il principio utilizzato dovrebbe essere quello della precauzione, soprattutto nei bambini, il che significa anche l'educazione a un utilizzo non indiscriminato e limitato alle sole situazioni di vera necessità».

La questione, dunque, è molto dibattuta in seno alla comunità scientifica, che è sostanzialmente divisa in due diverse correnti di pensiero: c'è chi, come l'OMS, ritiene che l'uso intenso del cellulare possa causare forme di cancro celebrali e chi, come oncologi di fama mondiale, sostengono che non si possa ancora dimostrare tale connessione.

In attesa di studi che dissipino ogni dubbio, resta salvo il principio di precauzione, da applicare soprattutto nei confronti dei bambini di età inferiore ai 6 anni.

Si chiede pertanto alla Commissione di rispondere ai seguenti quesiti:

1. Di fronte all'incertezza della comunità scientifica, ritiene essa utile farsi promotrice di ricerche più approfondite in merito?

2. Intende essa istituire piattaforme di studio e di condivisione delle informazioni?

3. Intende altresì valutare l'opportunità di avviare, su tutto il territorio europeo, puntuali campagne informative al fine di scoraggiare l'uso smodato e non necessario dei telefoni cellulari da parte dei bambini minori di 6 anni?

Risposta data da John Dalli a nome della Commissione
(15 febbraio 2012)

1. L'attuale settimo programma quadro di ricerca prevede il finanziamento di tre studi (contributo della Commissione: 9,8 milioni di euro) che esaminano i potenziali effetti sulla salute da parte dei campi elettromagnetici, e che tengono conto dell'esposizione dei bambini ai campi elettromagnetici da fonti diverse, inclusi i telefoni cellulari: MOBI-KIDS (lo studio più approfondito a livello mondiale sui rischi di sviluppo di cancro cerebrale connesso all'utilizzo di telefoni cellulari da parte di bambini e adolescenti), SEAWIND (incentrato sull'esposizione e sui rischi per la salute delle tecnologie senza filo, anche in aule scolastiche) e ARIMMORA (mirante a trovare una spiegazione alla correlazione epidemiologica tra l'esposizione a campi di bassissima frequenza e leucemia infantile ([1])).

2. I partecipanti ai progetti di ricerca finanziati dal programma quadro dell'UE sono invitati a pubblicare i loro risultati in riviste «ad accesso aperto» ([2]). Se interessanti e fattibili, i risultati finali sono resi disponibili al pubblico.

3. Conformemente al trattato, gli Stati membri sono in primo luogo responsabili della protezione dei cittadini dai potenziali effetti sulla salute dei campi elettromagnetici. Essi sono quindi liberi di formulare tutte le raccomandazioni e di adottare tutte le misure che ritengono necessarie per la protezione del pubblico, a condizione che esse siano compatibili con i principi del mercato interno.

([1]) Pubblicazioni: http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/pdf/env_health_projects/env_health_brochure.pdf, http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/pdf/eur23460_en.pdf, http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/pdf/fp7_catalogue_eh.pdf

([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000398/12
to the Commission
Vito Bonsignore (PPE)
(23 January 2012)

Subject: Risks to children's health posed by an excessive use of mobile phones

On 15 November 2011, the Italian National Health Council (*Consiglio Superiore della Sanità*) tackled the issue of the potential risks of an excessive use of mobile phones by children.

Subsequently, the Italian Ministry of Health stated that in accordance with the studies of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and in agreement with the National Health Institute (*Istituto Superiore di Sanità*), the National Health Council had noted that, as yet, no causal relationship between exposure to radio frequencies and cancer had been proven. However, current scientific knowledge could not rule out such a causal link where mobile phones were used intensively. In the absence of evidence, said the ministry, the precautionary principle should be applied, especially with regard to children, who should thus be educated not to use their mobile phones indiscriminately but to restrict their use to situations in which they were genuinely needed.

The issue is therefore being greatly debated within the scientific community, which is basically divided into two different schools of thought: some, such as the WHO, believe that the intensive use of mobile phones can cause brain cancers, while others, such as world-famous oncologists, claim that such a connection cannot yet be proven.

Pending studies which dispel all doubt, the precautionary principle remains valid and should be applied to children under the age of 6 in particular.

Can the Commission therefore answer the following questions:

1. Given the uncertainty of the scientific community, does the Commission not agree that it might be useful to promote further research on this issue?

2. Will it set up study platforms with a view also to sharing information?

3. Will it consider launching, throughout Europe, ad hoc information campaigns to discourage the excessive and unnecessary use of mobile phones by children under the age of 6?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission
(15 February 2012)

1. The current Seventh EU Framework Programme for Research is funding three studies (Commission contribution EUR 9.8 million) investigating the potential health effects of electromagnetic fields, which take into account the exposure of children to electromagnetic fields from various sources including mobile phones: MOBI-KIDS (the largest study in the world on the risk of development of brain cancer related to mobile phone use in children and adolescents), SEAWIND (focused on exposure and health risks of wireless technologies, including in classrooms) and ARIMMORA (aimed at finding an explanation to the epidemiological correlation between exposure to extremely low frequency fields and childhood leukaemia) ([1]).

2. The participants in research projects funded by the EU Framework Programme are encouraged to publish their results in 'open access' journals ([2]). Where relevant and feasible, the final results are made available to the public.

3. In line with the Treaty, Member States have primary responsibility for protecting citizens from the potential health effects of electromagnetic fields. They are therefore free to make all recommendations and take all measures they feel necessary for the protection of the public, as far as these measures are compatible with the principles of the internal market.

([1]) Publications: http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/pdf/env_health_projects/env_health_brochure.pdf, http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/pdf/eur23460_en.pdf, http://ec.europa.eu/research/environment/pdf/fp7_catalogue_eh.pdf
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/research/science-society/index.cfm

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000399/12
alla Commissione
Vito Bonsignore (PPE)
(23 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Problema dell'obesità dei bambini

Da anni è ormai risaputo il rischio di obesità in età infantile, un problema diffuso in tutte le società industrializzate, compresa l'Unione europea.

Numerosi studi, infatti, confermano una continua crescita di bambini obesi in tutta Europa, a tal punto che la comunità scientifica dichiara che appena l'1 % dei bimbi europei si alimenta in modo corretto.

Il cibo consumato contiene un apporto di proteine pari a 3-4 volte il livello ritenuto adeguato ai fabbisogni dei bambini in età pre-scolare. Tale situazione è peggiorata dal fatto che l'introito calorico giornaliero è superiore alle esigenze quotidiane ed è soprattutto orientato al consumo di grassi e zuccheri. Non è un caso, dunque, che in tutta Europa si registrino ogni anno 400 000 bambini in sovrappeso.

Questi sono solo alcuni dati che evidenziano un serio problema, anche perché i bimbi in sovrappeso saranno, molto probabilmente, adulti con problemi di salute, che graveranno sullo stile di vita delle future generazioni oltre che sui costi del sistema sanitario europeo.

La problematicità di tale situazione ha indotto anche le istituzioni europee ad avviare campagne di sensibilizzazione, le quali, tuttavia, non hanno raggiunto l'obiettivo di una progressiva diminuzione dell'obesità né sono state in grado di arrestarne la crescita.

Alla luce di quanto sopra esposto, si prega pertanto la Commissione di rispondere ai seguenti quesiti:

1. Ritiene essa opportuno istituire un tavolo scientifico permanente di studio e di dibattito al fine di monitorare il problema in tutti gli Stati membri e avanzare proposte concrete di lotta all'obesità infantile?

2. Intende essa attuare politiche più incisive per contrastare le cattive abitudini alimentari tra i bambini europei e al contempo promuovere un più sano stile di vita?

Risposta data da John Dalli a nome della Commissione
(8 marzo 2012)

La ricerca può contribuire alla lotta all'obesità grazie ad una migliore comprensione dei meccanismi fisiologico e metabolico che conducono all'obesità e mediante azioni volte a combatterla. La ricerca e l'innovazione possono entrambe agire sul fronte dell'approvvigionamento alimentare (ad esempio, informazioni su come ridurre i rischi di obesità migliorando la qualità degli alimenti) e della domanda di prodotti alimentari (ad esempio, istruzione e informazione). È importante fornire prove solide su regimi alimentari salutari e sensibilizzare in merito i consumatori mediante strategie rafforzate di diffusione.

Una base dati comune OMS/UE su «Nutrizione, obesità e attività fisica» (NOPA) costituita nell'ambito di un progetto di controllo 2008-2011, elabora informazioni per gli Stati membri europei dell'OMS al fine di sorvegliare i progressi in materia di nutrizione, regime alimentare e attività fisica, compresi dati sulla sorveglianza, documenti di politica e azioni per attuarla.

Nel maggio 2007, la Commissione ha adottato il Libro bianco "Una strategia europea sugli aspetti sanitari connessi all'alimentazione, al sovrappeso e all'obesità" ([1]) che individua settori prioritari di azione, tra cui il miglioramento delle cattive abitudini alimentari tra bambini e la promozione di uno stile di vita più sano. Una relazione sullo stato di avanzamento dei lavori del 2010 ([2]) mostra che gli Stati membri hanno intrapreso azioni, ad esempio campagne di educazione e attuato il progetto "Frutta nelle scuole", nell'ambito del quale sono distribuiti agli alunnni frutta e ortaggi.

Una valutazione della strategia europea sugli aspetti sanitari connessi all'alimentazione, al sovrappeso e all'obesità sarà avviata quest'anno e conterrà azioni specifiche relative ai bambini.

([1]) COM(2007) 279 definitivo del 30.5.2007.
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/health/nutrition_physical_activity/docs/implementation_report_en.pdf

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000399/12
to the Commission
Vito Bonsignore (PPE)
(23 January 2012)

Subject: Problem of obesity in children

The risk of obesity during childhood, a problem common to the whole of the industrialised world, including the European Union, has been known about for years.

Many studies show that the number of obese children is steadily rising all over Europe, to the point where the scientific community says that only 1 % of European children are correctly nourished.

The food that pre-school-age children eat has a protein content that is 3 to 4 times the level considered adequate for their needs. This situation is aggravated by the fact that the daily intake of calories is higher than daily requirements and comes mainly from fats and sugars. It is therefore not by chance that, every year, 400 000 children across Europe are recorded as being overweight.

These and other data show obesity to be a serious problem, not least because overweight children are very likely to become adults with health problems, and this will have an impact on the lifestyle of future generations as well as on European health system costs.

The seriousness of the problem has prompted the EU institutions to launch awareness campaigns, which, however, have not achieved the objective of a progressive reduction in obesity and, indeed, have not even arrested its growth.

In light of the above, does the Commission:

1. consider that it would be useful to set up a permanent scientific forum for research and debate in order to monitor the problem in all Member States and put forward practical ways of combating child obesity;

2. intend to implement more decisive policies to combat bad eating habits among children in Europe and, at the same time, promote a healthier lifestyle?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission
(8 March 2012)

Research can help to address obesity through an improved understanding of the physiological and metabolic mechanisms leading to obesity and by contributing to shaping actions to combat obesity. Research and innovation can act both on the food supply side (e.g. information on how to reduce the obesity risks by improving food quality) and on the food demand side (e.g. education, and information). It is important to provide sound evidence on healthy diets and to channel it to the consumer through enhanced dissemination strategies.

A joint WHO/EU database on 'Nutrition, Obesity and Physical Activity' (NOPA) established under a monitoring project 2008-2011 compiles information for the WHO European Member States to monitor progress on nutrition, diet and physical activity, containing surveillance data, policy documents and actions to implement policy.

In May 2007, the Commission adopted the White Paper 'A Strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity-related health issues' ([1]) which identifies priority areas for action including improving bad eating habits among children, and promoting a healthier lifestyle. A 2010 Progress Report on the strategy ([2]) shows that Member States have implemented actions such as education campaigns and the implementation of the School Fruit Scheme, under which free fruit and vegetables are distributed to school children.

An evaluation of the strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity-related health issues will be launched this year and specific actions regarding children will be addressed in the evaluation.

([1]) COM(2007) 279 final, 30.5.2007.
([2]) http://ec.europa.eu/health/nutrition_physical_activity/docs/implementation_report_en.pdf

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-000401/12
προς την Επιτροπή
Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)
(20 Ιανουαρίου 2012)

Θέμα: Απόβλητα ελαιοτριβείων

Τα απόβλητα των ελαιοτριβείων αποτελούν ένα σημαντικό παράγοντα ρύπανσης καθώς ανήκουν στην κατηγορία των επικίνδυνων αποβλήτων. Για το λόγο αυτό η διαχείρισή τους έχει βρεθεί στο επίκεντρο του ενδιαφέροντος των επιστημόνων, των τοπικών και κρατικών αρχών αλλά και των τοπικών κοινωνιών. Μεγάλος αριθμός ερευνητικών έργων έχουν χρηματοδοτηθεί εδώ και χρόνια από την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση και από εθνικούς φορείς π.χ. Life προκειμένου να εξευρεθούν λύσεις για τη διαχείριση των αποβλήτων των ελαιοτριβείων. Παρά ταύτα παρατηρούμε ότι ελάχιστα έχει διαφοροποιηθεί ο τρόπος επεξεργασίας και διάθεσης των αποβλήτων και ότι συνεχίζεται η επιβάρυνση και η υποβάθμιση του περιβάλλοντος στις περιοχές διάθεσης.

Ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

1. Ποια είναι τα πορίσματα αυτών των ερευνών που αφορούν τη βέλτιστη διαχείριση των αποβλήτων του ελαιολάδου και την ελαχιστοποίηση των περιβαλλοντικών επιπτώσεων τους; Ποιες είναι οι βέλτιστες πρακτικές που έχουν υιοθετηθεί;

2. Εκτελούνται προγράμματα διαχείρισης των αποβλήτων επεξεργασίας ελαιολάδου στην Ελλάδα; Τι πρόσθετα μέτρα μπορεί να λάβει η Επιτροπή σε συνεργασία με την Ελληνική κυβέρνηση;

Απάντηση του κ. Potocnik εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(2 Μαρτίου 2012)

1. Ο αριθμός των σχεδίων που αφορούν τις επιμέρους περιβαλλοντικές επιπτώσεις στον τομέα του ελαιολάδου έχουν χρηματοδοτηθεί από το πρόγραμμα LIFE. Τα έργα «Doñana Sostenible», «Tirsav», «Tirsav Plus», «Olivewaste» και «EnviFriendly» αποτελούν μόνο μερικά από τα χαρακτηριστικά παραδείγματα με ελπιδοφόρα αποτελέσματα που θα μπορούσαν να συμβάλουν στη μείωση των περιβαλλοντικών συνεπειών της ελαιοκαλλιέργειας και της παραγωγής ελαιολάδου στην Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση.

Περισσότερες πληροφορίες σχετικά με αυτά και άλλα έργα παρατίθενται στην έκδοση «LIFE — ανάμεσα στις ελιές: καλές πρακτικές για τη βελτίωση των περιβαλλοντικών επιδόσεων στον τομέα του ελαιολάδου», που διατίθεται σε τέσσερις γλώσσες στην ηλεκτρονική διεύθυνση:
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/lifefocus/env.htm#olives

2. Ορισμένα έργα, ιδίως από τα εν εξελίξει έργα του LIFE που εφαρμόζονται σήμερα στην Ελλάδα, αντιμετωπίζουν τα απόβλητα του ελαιόλαδου. Για παράδειγμα, το έργο INTEGRASTE στοχεύει στην αξιοποίηση διαφόρων τύπων αγροτικών αποβλήτων (συμπεριλαμβανομένων των ελαιουργικών) με σκοπό την παραγωγή ανανεώσιμων καυσίμων και περιλαμβάνει την κατασκευή πιλοτικού εργοστασίου. Επιπλέον, σειρά προγραμμάτων διαχείρισης αποβλήτων που τελούν υπό εκτέλεση στην Ελλάδα (όπως το PRODOSOL) μπορούν να συμβάλουν στη βιωσιμότερη διαχείριση των ελαιουργικών αποβλήτων. Η υιοθεσία των οικολογικών τεχνολογιών και μεθόδων που έχουν αναπτυχθεί στο πλαίσιο του προγράμματος LIFE της ΕΕ μπορεί να ενισχυθεί σε μεγάλο βαθμό από τις τοπικές ή εθνικές αρχές, οι οποίες θα μπορούσαν να απαιτήσουν την εφαρμογή τους ως προϋπόθεση για τη χορήγηση αδειών στους παραγωγούς.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000401/12
to the Commission
Nikolaos Chountis (GUE/NGL)
(20 January 2012)

Subject: Olive mill waste

Olive mill waste is a major source of pollution being classified as hazardous. The management thereof is hence a matter of vital concern to scientists, local and central government authorities and local communities. A considerable number of research projects have been funded, over recent years, by the European Union and national bodies such as Life, in a bid to find solutions to the problem of olive mill waste management. However, waste treatment and disposal methods have changed very little. Meanwhile, the problem of pollution and environmental deterioration around disposal sites remains unresolved.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say what have been the findings of research projects regarding the optimal management of olive oil waste and measures to keep the environmental impact thereof to a minimum? What best practices have been adopted?

2. Are any olive oil treatment waste management programmes being carried out in Greece? Which additional action can be taken by the Commission in cooperation with the Greek Government?

Answer given by Mr Potočnik on behalf of the Commission
(2 March 2012)

1. A number of projects addressing different environmental impacts in the olive sector have been financed by the LIFE programme. The projects 'Doñana Sostenible', 'Tirsav', 'Tirsav Plus', 'Olivewaste' and 'EnviFriendly' are only a few examples of projects that have delivered promising results and could help to reduce the environmental impact of olive cultivation and olive oil production in the EU.

More information about these and other projects can be found in the publication 'LIFE among the olives: good practice in improving environmental performance in the olive oil sector', which is available in four languages under: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/lifefocus/env.htm#olives.

2. A number of projects and in particular ongoing LIFE projects are currently being implemented in Greece, addressing olive oil waste. For instance, the Integraste project aims at using different types of agricultural waste (including olive mill waste) in order to produce sustainable fuel sources and include the construction of a pilot plant. In addition, a number of waste management programmes under implementation in Greece (such as Prodosol) can contribute to a more sustainable management of olive oil wastes. Adoption of greener technologies and methods that have been developed under the EU's LIFE programme can be greatly boosted by local or national authorities, who could require their implementation as a condition for granting permits to producers.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-000402/12
προς την Επιτροπή
Nikolaos Salavrakos (EFD)
(20 Ιανουαρίου 2012)

Θέμα: Συνθήκες κράτησης κρατουμένων στην Ευρώπη και διεθνώς

Σύμφωνα με έρευνα της βρετανικής εφημερίδας Independent, εντοπίζονται ανά τον κόσμο συνθήκες κράτησης των γυναικών, που δεν τηρούν τα πρότυπα που έχουν αποφασιστεί με την Συμφωνία της Μπανγκόκ, η οποία έθεσε νέους όρους για την επικοινωνία των κρατουμένων με τις οικογένειές τους, άλλαξε τα δεδομένα για την ιατρική φροντίδα και την ψυχολογική υποστήριξή τους και, στις περισσότερες περιπτώσεις, απαγόρευσε τη σωματική έρευνα.

Η ισχύς κάποιων ελάχιστων προτύπων για τις συνθήκες κράτησης των φυλακισμένων ανδρών και γυναικών αντικατοπτρίζει το επίπεδο σεβασμού της κάθε χώρας για τους πολίτες της.

Επίσης, πάνω από 500 χιλιάδες γυναίκες βρίσκονται σήμερα σε φυλακές ανά τον κόσμο. Εκεί, αυτοκτονίες και απόπειρες είναι πολύ συχνότερες σε σχέση με τις ανδρικές φυλακές. Ωστόσο, πολύ λιγότερες γυναίκες κρατούνται για βίαια εγκλήματα, στην πλειονότητά τους είναι μητέρες και πολλές είναι εθισμένες σε ουσίες ή θύματα σεξουαλικής κακοποίησης.

Η εναρμόνιση του Ποινικού Κώδικα δεν αποτελεί στόχο διεθνώς αλλά οι συνθήκες κράτησης είναι δυνατόν να βελτιωθούν, ώστε να γίνονται σεβαστά τα ανθρώπινα δικαιώματα και να μην εκτυλίσσονται επιπλέον δράματα στα σωφρονιστικά ιδρύματα.

Ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

1. Σκοπεύει να ζητήσει την αποδοχή κάποιων ελάχιστων συνθηκών κράτησης εντός της ΕΕ;

2. Θεωρεί ότι μπορεί να υπάρξει ένας νέος γύρος προσπαθειών διεθνώς για τη βελτίωση των συνθηκών κράτησης βάσει ελάχιστων προτύπων;

Απάντηση της κας Reding εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(16 Φεβρουαρίου 2012)

Η Επιτροπή γνωρίζει τα προβλήματα που συνδέονται με τις συνθήκες κράτησης, ιδίως ευάλωτων ομάδων φυλακισμένων, όπως οι γυναίκες.

Τα θέματα κράτησης, είτε αυτά σχετίζονται με προσωρινά κρατουμένους είτε με πρόσωπα που έχουν καταδικαστεί, εμπίπτουν κατ' ουσίαν στην ευθύνη των κρατών μελών.

Η Επιτροπή προβληματίζεται σχετικά με τους τρόπους ενίσχυσης της αμοιβαίας εμπιστοσύνης και της αμοιβαίας αναγνώρισης σε ολόκληρη την Ένωση στον τομέα της κράτησης, σύμφωνα με την αρμοδιότητα της ΕΕ, και εντός των ορίων της αρμοδιότητας αυτής. Προς τον σκοπό αυτό, η Επιτροπή δημοσίευσε Πράσινη Βίβλο για την εφαρμογή της ενωσιακής ποινικής νομοθεσίας στον τομέα της κράτησης ([1]).

Η Επιτροπή έλαβε πολλές απαντήσεις από τα κράτη μέλη, καθώς και από άλλα ενδιαφερόμενα μέρη. Θα προβεί σε αναλυτική εξέταση όλων των απαντήσεων και θα διενεργήσει την απαιτούμενη έρευνα προκειμένου να αξιολογήσει αν χρειάζεται να αναληφθεί δράση σε ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο.

Σε διεθνές επίπεδο, η Επιτροπή υποστηρίζει τις προσπάθειες που έχουν αναλάβει το Συμβούλιο της Ευρώπης και τα Ηνωμένα Έθνη για τη βελτίωση των συνθηκών κράτησης.

([1]) COM(2011)327, την οποία οι ενδιαφερόμενοι μπορούν να συμβουλευτούν στην ακόλουθη διεύθυνση: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/criminal/opinion/110614_en.htm

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000402/12
to the Commission
Nikolaos Salavrakos (EFD)
(20 January 2012)

Subject: Conditions of detention in Europe and throughout the world

According to a survey carried out by the British newspaper '*The Independent*', the conditions of detention of women throughout the world fail to comply with the Bangkok Rules, which set new standards regarding prisoners' contact with families, healthcare and psychological treatment and forbid body searches under most circumstances.

Compliance with minimum standards regarding the detention of both men and women reflects the level of respect shown by each country to its citizens.

Over 500 000 women are currently being held in prisons around the world. Suicide and attempted suicide are far more common in these prisons than in prisons for men. On the other hand, far fewer women are in jail for violent crimes. Most of them have children and many are drug addicts or victims of sexual abuse.

While no moves are afoot to harmonise the Criminal Code at international level, action could be taken to improve conditions of detention, so as to ensure respect for human rights and prevent any further tragedies occurring among prisoners.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission intend to seek the adoption of minimum standards regarding detention in the EU?

2. Does it consider it possible to launch a new round of efforts at international level to improve conditions of detention by introducing minimum standards?

Answer given by Mrs Reding on behalf of the Commission
(16 February 2012)

The Commission is aware of the problems linked with detention conditions, especially of vulnerable categories of prisoners such as women.

Detention issues, whether they relate to pre-trial detainees or convicted persons, essentially lie with the responsibility of Member States.

The Commission is reflecting on ways to strengthen mutual trust and mutual recognition across the Union in the area of detention, in accordance with and within the limits of EU's competence. To that effect, the Commission has published a Green Paper on the application of EU criminal justice legislation in the field of detention ([1]).

The Commission received many replies from the Member States as well as from other stakeholders and will analyse all responses and conduct all the necessary research to assess whether any action at the European level is required.

At the international level, the Commission supports the efforts taken by the Council of Europe and the UN to improve detention conditions.

([1]) COM(2011) 327, which can be consulted through the following link: http://ec.europa.eu/justice/newsroom/criminal/opinion/110614_en.htm

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-000403/12
προς την Επιτροπή
Nikolaos Salavrakos (EFD)
(23 Ιανουαρίου 2012)

Θέμα: Ρόλος των σερβικών ΜΜΕ στη ευρωπαϊκή πορεία της χώρας

Η Σερβία δεν πήρε τον Δεκέμβριο το πολυπόθητο καθεστώς της υποψήφιας προς ένταξη χώρας στην ΕΕ με αποτέλεσμα να υπάρχει φόβος για αύξηση του αντιευρωπαϊσμού, που ενόψει των επερχόμενων εκλογών, μπορεί να έχει αποτελέσματα στην πορεία της χώρας στο διεθνές σύστημα.

Τα ΜΜΕ καλούνται να παίξουν ρόλο στην υποστήριξη των δημοκρατικών μεταρρυθμίσεων που έχει υλοποιήσει η σερβική κυβέρνηση και τον εναρμονισμό στις απαιτήσεις του ευρωπαϊκού κεκτημένου.

Ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

Σχεδιάζει να προβεί σε κινήσεις για να βοηθήσει την προβολή της ευρωπαϊκής πορείας της χώρας από τα σερβικά ΜΜΕ, για να μπορεί να γνωρίσει ο Σέρβος πολίτης τη σημασία τους μεσοπρόθεσμα;

Απάντηση του κ. Füle εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(14 Μαρτίου 2012)

Η ελευθερία των ΜΜΕ είναι πρωταρχικής σημασίας για τις χώρες της διεύρυνσης στην πορεία τους προς την Ευρώπη. Η ελευθερία των ΜΜΕ δεν αποτελεί μόνο σημαντική πτυχή της ελευθερίας της έκφρασης, αλλά και εξασφαλίζει πρωταρχικής σημασίας ενημέρωση όσον αφορά πολιτικά κριτήρια, όπως η δημοκρατία και το κράτος δικαίου. Η Επιτροπή προωθεί συστηματικά και υπογραμμίζει τη σημασία της ελευθερίας των ΜΜΕ, για παράδειγμα μέσω της διάσκεψης «Μιλήστε ανοικτά! Ελευθερία έκφρασης και μέσα ενημέρωσης» που οργάνωσε στις Βρυξέλλες τον Μάιο του 2011.

Η ΕΕ υποστηρίζει ενεργά την ελευθερία των ΜΜΕ στη Σερβία. Η Επιτροπή έχει συμβάλει στην ανάπτυξη νέας στρατηγικής για τα ΜΜΕ, που θα πρέπει να προσφέρει μια σταθερή βάση για την περαιτέρω ανάπτυξη του τομέα των ΜΜΕ. Βάσει του προγράμματος του 2012 του Προενταξιακού Μέσου (ΠΜ), η Επιτροπή προβλέπει τη χορήγηση κονδυλίων της ΕΕ για σχέδιο που αποσκοπεί στην εφαρμογή της νέας στρατηγικής. Αυτό θα πρέπει να ενισχύσει την ανάπτυξη περιβάλλοντος ανεξαρτησίας για τα ΜΜΕ στη Σερβία.

Επιπλέον, έχει τεθεί σε εφαρμογή το σχέδιο «Ενίσχυση της ικανότητας των ΜΜΕ στον τομέα της ευρωπαϊκής ολοκλήρωσης», που χρηματοδοτήθηκε το 2008 στο πλαίσιο του ΠΜ. Σκοπός του είναι να ενισχύσει τις ικανότητες των ΜΜΕ για τη βελτίωση της ενημέρωσης του κοινού σχετικά με όλες τις πτυχές της ολοκλήρωσης της ΕΕ, μέσω της κατάρτισης των δημοσιογράφων στη Σερβία όσον αφορά θέματα που σχετίζονται με το κεκτημένο της ΕΕ.

Τέλος, στις ημερήσιες επαφές της με τον Τύπο, η Επιτροπή δίνει ιδιαίτερη έμφαση στην επικοινωνία με τους Σέρβους δημοσιογράφους τόσο στις Βρυξέλλες όσο και στη Σερβία. Επίσης, η Επιτροπή εξετάζει με τα επιμέρους μέσα ενημέρωσης συγκεκριμένα σχέδια και δραστηριότητες για την προβολή της ΕΕ και της διαδικασίας προσχώρησης.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000403/12
to the Commission
Nikolaos Salavrakos (EFD)
(23 January 2012)

Subject: Role of Serbian media in the country's progress towards EU accession

Serbia did not acquire the coveted status of candidate country for EU accession in December, resulting in the fear of increased anti-European sentiment which, given the upcoming elections, may have an impact on the country's progress in the international system.

The media are called upon to play a role in support of the democratic reforms implemented by the Serbian government and in meeting the requirements of the EU *acquis*.

The Commission is asked:

Does it plan to take action to help the Serbian media promote the country's progress towards EU accession so that the citizens of Serbia can recognise its importance in the medium term?

Answer given by Mr Füle on behalf of the Commission
(14 March 2012)

Freedom of the media is crucial for the enlargement countries on their path towards Europe. It is not only an important aspect of the freedom of expression, but also ensures critical reporting on political criteria such as democracy and rule of law. The Commission regularly promotes and underlines the importance of media freedom, for example through the Speak Up! Freedom of Expression and Media Conference organised in Brussels in May 2011.

The EU actively supports media freedom in Serbia. The Commission has contributed to the development of a new media strategy, which should provide a solid basis for further developing the media sector. Under the 2012 programme of the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA), the Commission is envisaging EU funding for a project aimed at implementing the new strategy. This should strengthen the development of an independent media landscape in Serbia.

In addition, the project 'Support for media capacity in the area of European integration', financed under IPA in 2008, is currently being implemented. Its purpose is to strengthen media capacities for improving public information about all aspects of EU integration, through trainings of local journalists on issues related to the EU *acquis*.

Finally, in its every day press contacts, the Commission places special emphasis on communicating with Serbian journalists both in Brussels and in Serbia. It also discusses with individual media outlets specific projects and activities to boost information about the EU and the accession process.

(Deutsche Fassung)

Anfrage zur schriftlichen Beantwortung E-000406/12
an die Kommission
Jutta Steinruck (S&D)
(23. Januar 2012)

Betrifft: Inländerdiskriminierung für deutsche Handwerker

Der EuGH in Luxemburg hat in seinem Urteil vom 11. Dezember 2003 — Rechtssache C 215/01 — festgestellt, dass ausländische Unternehmer ohne Eintragung in die Handwerksrolle in Deutschland Aufträge permanent ausüben dürfen.

Deutsche Handwerker ohne Meisterbrief dürfen in Deutschland nicht selbstständig arbeiten. Die Dienstleistungsfreiheit gemäß europäischem Recht diskriminiert sie gegenüber ausländischen Handwerkern, die in Deutschland ohne Meisterbrief selbstständig arbeiten dürfen.

Durch den Meisterzwang in Deutschland registrieren viele deutsche Handwerker ihr selbstständiges Gewerbe im Ausland, um im Nachhinein in Deutschland arbeiten zu können. Damit können diese dann rechtmäßig ohne Meistertitel vom EU-Ausland aus in Deutschland arbeiten.

Damit liegt eine Inländerdiskriminierung für deutsche Handwerker ohne Meisterbrief vor.

1. Was gedenkt die Europäische Kommission gegen diese Diskriminierung und die nur teilweise Durchsetzung der Dienstleistungsfreiheit in der Europäischen Union zu tun?

2. Strebt die Kommission ein Verfahren gegen Deutschland an, um die Einhaltung der Dienstleistungsfreiheit durchzusetzen und die Inländerdiskriminierung zu beenden?

Antwort von Herrn Barnier im Namen der Kommission
(5. März 2012)

Inländerdiskriminierung wird durch das EU-Recht nicht grundsätzlich untersagt ([1]). Die Europäische Kommission hat daher keine Grundlage für die Einleitung eines Vertragsverletzungsverfahrens gegen Deutschland in der von der Frau Abgeordneten vorgebrachten Angelegenheit. Es ist Sache des Mitgliedstaats, geeignete Maßnahmen zur Lösung etwaiger Probleme aufgrund einer Inländerdiskriminierung zu treffen.

([1]) Vgl. Beschluss des Gerichtshofs vom 19. Juni 2008 in der Rechtssache C 104/08, Marc André Kurt v Bürgermeister der Stadt Wels (ABl. C 285 vom 8.11.2008, S. 13-14) zu einer nationalen Regelung, die für die Gründung einer Fahrschule ein Diplom zur Voraussetzung macht, zur Diskriminierung der eigenen Staatsangehörigen gegenüber den Staatsangehörigen anderer Mitgliedstaaten, die von ihren Rechten aus dem Gemeinschaftsrecht Gebrauch machen und nicht unbedingt dem Diplomzwang unterliegen. Der Gerichtshof befand, dass die Artikel 12 EGV, 43 EGV und 49 EGV einer Regelung eines Mitgliedstaats nicht entgegenstehen, nach der einem Angehörigen dieses Mitgliedstaats die Anerkennung von ihm erworbener beruflicher Befähigungsnachweise als dem Besitz des Diploms gleichwertig versagt wird, das nach dieser Regelung für die Ausübung einer selbstständigen Fahrschultätigkeit in diesem Mitgliedstaat erforderlich ist.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000406/12
to the Commission
Jutta Steinruck (S&D)
(23 January 2012)

Subject: Home-country discrimination suffered by German craftsmen

In its judgment of 11 December 2003 in Case C-215/01 the Court of Justice of the European Communities in Luxembourg found that foreign entrepreneurs may provide services in Germany at any time without any obligation to be entered on the trades register.

German craftsmen without a master's certificate may not work on a self-employed basis in Germany. The freedom to provide services laid down in European law means that they suffer discrimination vis-à-vis foreign craftsmen, who may work on a self-employed basis in Germany without a master's certificate.

Given this requirement to hold a master craftsman's certificate, many German craftsmen register as self-employed in another country in order then to be able to work lawfully in Germany.

German craftsmen without a master's certificate thus suffer discrimination in their own country.

1. What does the Commission intend to do about this discrimination and the only partial enforcement of the freedom to provide services in the European Union?

2. Does the Commission plan to initiate proceedings against Germany in order to enforce compliance with the freedom to provide services and end home-country discrimination?

Answer given by Mr Barnier on behalf of the Commission
(5 March 2012)

Reverse discrimination is not, in principle, prohibited by EC law ([1]). Therefore, the European Commission has no basis for initiating infringement proceedings against Germany on the issue raised by the Honourable Member of the European Parliament. It is in the prerogatives of the Member State to take appropriate action to resolve potential problems arising from reverse discrimination.

([1]) See Order of the Court of Justice of 19 June 2008 in Case C-104/08, *Marc André Kurt* v *Bürgermeister der Stadt Wels*, OJ C 285, 8.11.2008, p. 13-14, relating to a national legislation requiring a diploma for establishing a driving school and the discrimination against own nationals as compared to nationals of other Member States who avail themselves of their rights under Community law and who do not necessarily have to satisfy the diploma requirement. The Court ruled that Articles 23 EC, 43 EC and 49 EC do not preclude legislation of a Member State which refuses to recognise professional qualifications acquired by a national of that Member State as equivalent to the possession of the diploma required by that legislation for the purposes of operating a driving school as an independent operator in that Member State.

(Versión española)

Pregunta con solicitud de respuesta escrita P-000407/12
a la Comisión
Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE)
(25 de enero de 2012)

Asunto: Supervisión del cumplimiento de transferencias presupuestadas en instituciones de los Estados Miembros por parte de la UE

Durante el año 2011, el Gobierno central del Estado español ha incumplido en dos ocasiones sus compromisos presupuestarios con el Gobierno autonómico de Cataluña. En primer lugar, el pasado mes de mayo de 2011, el Gobierno español se negó a transferir los 1 350 millones del Fondo de competitividad comprometidos en el sistema de financiación autonómico para el Gobierno de Cataluña. En segundo lugar, en el mes de diciembre, el Gobierno español decidió no hacer efectivo la transferencia al Gobierno catalán de los 759 millones comprometidos y presupuestados para el año 2011 correspondientes a la disposición adicional tercera del Estatuto de Autonomía de Cataluña, que tiene categoría de ley orgánica. Hay que recordar que, en el Estado español, la recaudación de los impuestos recae principalmente sobre la Administración central, y que es esta quien posteriormente transfiere las cantidades acordadas en los estatutos de autonomía o la LOFCA.

Las administraciones autonómicas, a pesar de que sólo recaudan el 17 % de los impuestos ([1]), tienen la responsabilidad de atender los servicios básicos de los ciudadanos, ya que tienen competencias en sanidad, educación y bienestar social.

En estos momentos, el Gobierno ha declarado que planea que el régimen de **sanciones** a las comunidades comprometido en la futura **Ley de Estabilidad Presupuestaria** permita al Estado **congelar** o incluso reducir las aportaciones que realiza a las **autonomías** que no cumplan los **objetivos** de **déficit público** ([2]). Paralelamente, la Comisión Europea ha propuesto nuevas normativas, que, con el objetivo de reforzar la gobernanza económica europea, establezcan el marco para los mecanismos de supervisión presupuestaria en los Estados Miembros de la zona del euro.

1. ¿Considera la Comisión que los mecanismos de supervisión presupuestaria deberían tener en cuenta el pago de los compromisos adquiridos por ley por parte de los Estados Miembros?

2. ¿Considera la Comisión la posibilidad de reservarse a sí misma la autorización final o la opinión sobre una supuesta sanción interna en un Estado Miembro de la zona del euro con tal de asegurar que esta es consistente con los principios de la gobernanza económica europea?

Respuesta del Sr. Rehn en nombre de la Comisión
(14 de marzo de 2012)

La cuestión que plantea Su Señoría se inscribe entre las competencias exclusivas de las autoridades nacionales. Los Estados miembros son soberanos para decidir sobre las relaciones financieras entre las distintas Administraciones públicas.

La Comisión evaluará si el anteproyecto de Ley de estabilidad presupuestaria y sostenibilidad financiera de las Administraciones Públicas recientemente aprobado por el Gobierno español se ajusta a los principios de gobernanza económica europea y, en particular, a los nuevos requisitos a escala de la UE contemplados en la Directiva relativa a los marcos presupuestarios y en el Pacto Presupuestario.

([1]) http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/35/48/44632452.pdf
([2]) http://www.lavanguardia.com/politica/20120111/54244270900/gobierno-estudia-congelar-aportaciones-cc-aa.html

(English version)

Question for written answer P-000407/12
to the Commission
Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE)
(25 January 2012)

Subject: EU oversight of transfers of budgetary funds within Member States

In 2011 the Spanish Government twice failed to meet its budgetary commitments to the Autonomous Government of Catalonia. In May 2011, it refused to transfer EUR 1 350 million from the Competitiveness Fund pledged under the autonomous system for financing the Government of Catalonia, then, in December, it decided not to transfer the sum of EUR 759 million that it had committed to the Catalan Government and set aside in the 2011 budget under the third additional provision of the Catalan Autonomy Statute, which has the force of constitutional law. In Spain, tax collection is primarily the responsibility of central government, which subsequently transfers the amounts specified in the statutes of autonomy or the Autonomous Regions Financing Law (LOFCA).

The autonomous communities, although they collect only 17 % of taxes ([1]), are responsible for providing basic services: health, education and social welfare fall within their competence.

The Government recently **stated that the system of sanctions for the autonomous communities provided for in the future Budgetary Stability Law would allow the State to freeze, or even reduce, the contributions made to regions if they fail to meet public deficit targets ([2])**. At the same time, the Commission has proposed new rules establishing a framework for budgetary oversight mechanisms in Member States of the euro area, with a view to strengthening economic governance in Europe.

1. Does the Commission consider that the budgetary oversight mechanisms should take into account payment by Member States of commitments required by law?

2. Is the Commission considering stipulating that it should approve or be consulted on penalties that may be imposed on euro area Member States, in order to ensure that these are consistent with the principles of European economic governance?

Answer given by Mr Rehn on behalf of the Commission
(14 March 2012)

The issue raised by the Honourable Member falls within the sole responsibility of national authorities. Member States are sovereign to decide on the financial relations at different levels of government.

The Commission will assess whether the new draft Budget Stability Law recently adopted by Spanish Government is in line with the principles of European economic governance, in particular with the new requirements at EU level regarding the fiscal framework directive and the fiscal compact.

([1]) http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/35/48/44632452.pdf
([2]) http://www.lavanguardia.com/politica/20120111/54244270900/gobierno-estudia-congelar-aportaciones-cc-aa.html

(Dansk udgave)

Forespørgsel til skriftlig besvarelse E-000409/12
til Kommissionen
Morten Løkkegaard (ALDE)
(23. januar 2012)

Om: Opfølgning på markedsføringstilladelser for lægemidler

I skriftlig forespørgsel nr. P-009324/2011 angående Markedsføringstilladelser for lægemidler anmodes der om svar på årsagen til, at de eksisterende procedurer for markedsføringstilladelse ikke afløses af enklere procedurer, når disse er mulige. Desuden foreslås der en eksisterende, enklere, mindre bureaukratisk ansøgningsprocedure, som uden at forringe lægemiddelkvalitet eller -sikkerhed med relativt få ændringer kunne erstatte de nuværende procedurer.

Kommissionens svar af 7. november 2011 indeholder en klar og omhyggelig juridisk gennemgang af den gradvise udvikling af EU's lægemiddellovgivning. Her bekræftes de forhold, der nævnes i indledningen til mit tidligere spørgsmål af 13. oktober 2011.

Jeg takker for svaret, som jeg her tillader mig at stille et opfølgende spørgsmål til med fokus på en mere fremadrettet aktivitet og vurdering fra Kommissionen.

Kunne man — i lyset af de betydelige bureaukratiske implikationer, der er forbundet med de eksisterende procedurer — overveje at anvende en enklere ansøgningsprocedure, hvor ansøgningen indsendes nationalt, og hvor det professionelle lægemiddelagentur efter en forskriftsmæssig vurderingsprocedure godkender lægemidlet, der herefter er godkendt i alle de af de 27 EU lande?

Et sådant initiativ vil ikke blot have den fordel, at de administrative byrder lettes, men vil også føre til, at hvert EU lands lægemiddelagentur automatisk har pligt til — og bliver interesseret i — at holde sig 100 % ajour med EU kravene, som er knyttet til dette ansøgningssystem for at EU landet ikke mister sin ret til lægemiddelgodkendelser.

Hvordan forholder Kommissionen sig til dette inspirerende initiativ, og de fordele, der er forbundet hermed?

Svar afgivet på Kommissionens vegne af John Dalli
(28. februar 2012)

Den centraliserede godkendelsesprocedure gælder for højteknologiske lægemidler (lægemidler til avanceret terapi, bioteknologiske lægemidler, lægemidler til sjældne sygdomme osv.) og er indført, således at man kan opretholde det høje niveau for videnskabelig evaluering på EU-plan og bevare tilliden hos patienterne og de ansatte i sundhedssektoren. Denne mekanisme er også en vigtig garanti for ensartede afgørelser i Unionen vedrørende højteknologiske lægemidler og for, at det indre marked fungerer effektivt. Proceduren resulterer nemlig i en fælles markedsføringstilladelse, der er gyldig i hele Unionen og indebærer samme rettigheder og forpligtelser i alle medlemsstater som en markedsføringstilladelse udstedt af den pågældende medlemsstat.

For lægemidler, der ikke skal underkastes den obligatoriske »centraliserede« procedure, kan virksomheder, som ønsker at markedsføre et lægemiddel i en eller flere medlemsstater, følge enten proceduren for »gensidig anerkendelse« eller den »decentraliserede« procedure. Begge disse procedurer tager udgangspunkt i, at de nationale kompetente myndigheder anerkender den første vurdering, der er foretaget af myndighederne i en medlemsstat (referencemedlemsstaten). Ved afslutningen af proceduren for »gensidig anerkendelse« eller den »decentraliserede« procedure udsteder de relevante medlemsstater en national markedsføringstilladelse.

De principper for godkendelse, som det ærede medlem foreslår, indgår derfor naturligt i alle tre procedurer. Man har indført de tre procedurer for at imødekomme de forskellige behov for markedsføring af forskellige lægemidler.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000409/12
to the Commission
Morten Løkkegaard (ALDE)
(23 January 2012)

Subject: Marketing authorisations for medicines: follow-up question

In my Written Question P-009324/2011 on marketing authorisations for medicines, I asked why the existing procedures for marketing authorisations are not replaced by simpler procedures when these are possible. I also suggested an existing, simpler and less bureaucratic procedure that could replace the current procedures with relatively few changes and without affecting the quality or safety of the medicine.

The Commission's answer of 7 November 2011 contains a clear and considered legal summary of the gradual development of EU medicines legislation, confirming the situation mentioned in the introduction to my previous question of 13 October 2011.

I am grateful to the Commission for its answer and would like to ask a follow-up question focusing on more forward-looking action and evaluation by the Commission.

Taking into consideration the significant bureaucratic implications associated with existing procedures, would it be possible to consider implementing a simpler application procedure in which the application is submitted nationally and where, following an evaluation in accordance with the regulations, the professional medicines agency approves the medicine, which is thereafter approved in all 27 EU Member States?

Such an initiative would not only lessen the administrative burden, but would also result in the medicines agency of each Member State being automatically obliged to keep itself100 % up to date on the EU requirements associated with this application system — and also having an interest in doing so — so that the Member State would not lose its right to grant authorisations for medicines.

What is the Commission's opinion on this inspirational initiative and its associated advantages?

Answer given by Mr Dalli on behalf of the Commission
(28 February 2012)

The centralised authorisation procedure has been established for high technology medicinal products (e.g. advanced therapy medicinal products, medicines developed by means of biotechnology, orphan medicinal products, etc) in order to maintain the high level of scientific evaluation at EU level and thus preserve the confidence of patients and the healthcare professionals. This mechanism is also important in order to warranty uniform decisions in the Union with regard to high technology medicines and ensure the effective functioning of the internal market. Indeed this procedure results in a single marketing authorisation which is valid throughout the Union and confers the same rights and obligations in each of the Member States, as a marketing authorisation granted by that Member State.

For medicines that do not fall under the mandatory scope of the 'centralised' procedure, companies that wish to market a medicinal product in one or more Member States can follow the 'mutual recognition' or 'decentralised' procedures. Both these procedures are based on the recognition by national competent authorities of the first assessment carried out by the authorities of one Member State (Reference Member State). At the end of the 'mutual recognition' or 'decentralised' procedures, a national marketing authorisation is issued by the relevant Member States.

The principles of authorisation suggested by the Honourable Member are therefore intergraded into all three procedures. The existence of the three procedures reflects the different needs for the marketing of different medicinal products.

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000410/12
to the Commission
Diane Dodds (NI)
(23 January 2012)

Subject: Purchasing a car in a Member State

What mechanisms have been put in place in relation to purchasing a car in a Member State, in particular Italy, if a European citizen does not have resident status in that country?

Answer given by Mr Almunia on behalf of the Commission
(20 March 2012)

The Commission is unaware of any national legislation in Italy that would prohibit or restrict the purchase of motor vehicles by non-residents. Therefore, the Commission presumes that the situation to which the Honourable Member refers results from a refusal to sell by economic operators.

In the specific case that a refusal to sell a car stems from an agreement between the car dealer and the car manufacturer to restrict sales to customers on grounds of their place of residence, such an agreement is likely to fall foul of EU competition rules. The Commission has long established a detailed regulatory framework concerning the application of these rules to the motor vehicle sector. These rules are currently found, in particular, in Regulation (EU) No 461/2010 ([1]) and the Supplementary guidelines on vertical restraints in agreements for the sale and repair of motor vehicles and for the distribution of spare parts for motor vehicles ([2]). The Commission and National Competition Authorities enforce these rules as well as the general provisions of EU competition law.

If the Honourable Member has more specific information about potential sales restrictions linked to the country of residence of customers, she is invited to submit this to the Commission.

([1]) OJ L 129, 28.5.2010, p. 52.
([2]) OJ C 138, 28.5.2010, p. 16.

(Ελληνική έκδοση)

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-000291/12
προς την Επιτροπή
Georgios Koumoutsakos (PPE)
(19 Ιανουαρίου 2012)

Θέμα: Δηλώσεις του πρώην πρωθυπουργού της Τουρκίας Μ. Γιλμάζ και δημοσιεύματα τουρκικού Τύπου σχετικά με παράνομες δραστηριότητες μηχανισμών του τουρκικού κράτους

Σε συνέχεια των πρόσφατων αποκαλυπτικών δηλώσεων του πρώην πρωθυπουργού της Τουρκίας Μεσούτ Γιλμάζ στην εφημερίδα «*BirGün*» περί προσχεδιασμένου εμπρησμού ελληνικών δασών από τις τουρκικές μυστικές υπηρεσίες, την περίοδο 1993-1996, ακολούθησαν σειρά δημοσιευμάτων στον τουρκικό Τύπο που αναφέρονται εκτενώς σε παράνομες δραστηριότητες του τουρκικού κράτους, επιβεβαιώνοντας ουσιαστικά τις αρχικές δηλώσεις Γιλμάζ.

Ενδεικτικά, οι εφημερίδες «Μιλιέτ» και «Βατάν» δημοσίευσαν άρθρα που αναφέρονται στη διαβόητη υπόθεση «Σουσούρλουκ» και συγκεκριμένα στην ύπαρξη έκθεσης που είχε συντάξει ο διευθυντής του γραφείου του τότε πρωθυπουργού της Τουρκίας Μεσούτ Γιλμάζ, η οποία, όπως αναφέρουν τα σχετικά δημοσιεύματα, περιγράφει εκτενώς τη δράση του τουρκικού «παρακρατικού» μηχανισμού και κάνει λόγο για πυρκαγιές σε ελληνικά δάση, τοποθέτηση βομβών σε αρμενικούς στόχους στην Ευρώπη, κ.λπ.

Κατόπιν των συγκλονιστικών αυτών αποκαλύψεων και με δεδομένη την έντονη ανησυχία και τον έντονο προβληματισμό που έχουν προκαλέσει οι σοβαρές αυτές αποκαλύψεις σχετικά με κατ' ουσίαν εχθρικές ενέργειες έναντι κράτους-μέλους, ερωτάται η Επιτροπή:

— Είναι ενήμερη για τις παραπάνω πληροφορίες που αφορούν σε παράνομες δραστηριότητες του τουρκικού κράτους και εάν ναι, προτίθεται να ζητήσει περισσότερες σχετικές πληροφορίες;

— Πιστεύει ότι θα πρέπει να υπάρξει άμεση και ενδελεχής διερεύνηση των δηλώσεων του πρώην πρωθυπουργού της Τουρκίας κ. Γιλμάζ, όπως με τη σύσταση κοινοβουλευτικής επιτροπής της Μεγάλης Τουρκικής Εθνοσυνέλευσης ή/και αυτεπάγγελτη κινητοποίηση της τουρκικής Δικαιοσύνης για τον ίδιο σκοπό;

— Εάν η τουρκική πλευρά τελικώς αποφασίσει να μην κινηθεί προς την κατεύθυνση της πλήρους διαλεύκανσης της παραπάνω υπόθεσης, τι θα μπορούσε αυτό να σημάνει για τις σχέσεις ΕΕ-Τουρκίας;

— Προτίθεται η Επιτροπή να θέσει το ζήτημα στις τουρκικές αρχές και να ζητήσει διευκρινίσεις για μια υπόθεση που φαίνεται να συνδέεται με επιθέσεις και σε άλλες πέραν της Ελλάδος χώρες της ΕΕ και διαβεβαιώσεις ότι τέτοιες πρακτικές δολιοφθορών δεν πρόκειται να επαναληφθούν ή να γίνουν ανεκτές;

Ερώτηση με αίτημα γραπτής απάντησης E-000482/12
προς την Επιτροπή
Mara Bizzotto (EFD)
(24 Ιανουαρίου 2012)

Θέμα: Ανάμειξη της τουρκικής κυβέρνησης στις πυρκαγιές στην Ελλάδα το 1995

Το 1998, η ελληνική κυβέρνηση διένειμε εσωτερικώς έγγραφο εντός της ΕΕ και του ΝΑΤΟ με το οποίο επισήμαινε την ανάμειξη της Άγκυρας στις πυρκαγιές που επανειλημμένα αφάνισαν ελληνικά δάση τη δεκαετία του 90. Η ελληνική κυβέρνηση ισχυρίστηκε ότι είχε λάβει τις σχετικές πληροφορίες από την εθνική της υπηρεσία πληροφοριών (την ΕΥΠ). Τον Δεκέμβριο του 2011, ο πρώην Πρωθυπουργός της Τουρκίας Mesut Yilmaz επιβεβαίωσε τις αποκαλύψεις του εγγράφου που είχε εκδώσει η Αθήνα, δηλώνοντας ότι η τουρκική κυβέρνηση είχε πράγματι διατάξει πράκτορες της εθνικής της υπηρεσίας πληροφοριών (ΜΙΤ) να θέσουν πυρκαγιές σε ελληνικά δάση.

Διαθέτει η Επιτροπή περαιτέρω στοιχεία σχετικά με την εν λόγω υπόθεση;

Σε περίπτωση που επιβεβαιωθούν οι κατηγορίες κατά της Άγκυρας και δεδομένης της σοβαρότητάς τους, ποια δράση θα αναλάβει η Επιτροπή;

Κοινή απάντηση του κ. Füle εξ ονόματος της Επιτροπής
(13 Μαρτίου 2012)

Η Επιτροπή παραπέμπει τα Αξιότιμα Μέλη στην απάντηση της στις προηγούμενες γραπτές ερωτήσεις E-012686/2012 και E-000036/2012 ([1]).

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/application/home.do?language=EL

(Versione italiana)

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000291/12
alla Commissione
Georgios Koumoutsakos (PPE)
(19 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Dichiarazioni dell'ex Primo ministro turco Mesut Yilmaz e notizie riportate dalla stampa turca riguardo ad attività illegali di agenzie del governo turco

A seguito delle recenti dichiarazioni rivelatrici rilasciate dall'ex Primo ministro turco Mesut Yilmaz al quotidiano turco BirGün secondo cui i servizi segreti turchi avrebbero appiccato il fuoco ai boschi della Grecia nel periodo compreso fra il 1993 e il 1996, sono stati pubblicati sulla stampa turca articoli che contengono dettagli sulle attività illegali del governo turco e che in sostanza confermano le accuse originarie di Mesut Yilmaz.

A titolo di esempio, i quotidiani *Milliyet* e *Vatan* hanno pubblicato articoli che fanno riferimento all'infame caso Susurluk e più in particolare all'esistenza di una relazione del Capo di Gabinetto di Mesut Yilmaz, all'epoca Primo ministro; in tali articoli si afferma che la relazione descrive dettagliatamente le attività del giro di organizzazioni «clandestine» turche e menziona gli incendi nelle foreste greche, il bombardamento di obiettivi armeni in Europa e via di seguito.

In considerazione delle sconvolgenti affermazioni di cui sopra e delle forti preoccupazioni causate da queste gravi rivelazioni riguardanti atti sostanzialmente ostili nei confronti di uno Stato membro, si chiede alla Commissione:

— È a conoscenza delle soprammenzionate informazioni riguardanti attività illegali del governo turco? In caso di risposta affermativa, intende la Commissione ricercare ulteriori informazioni sulla questione?

— Ritiene la Commissione che si debba procedere a un'indagine immediata e approfondita sulla base delle affermazioni dell'ex Primo ministro turco Yilmaz, ad esempio istituendo una commissione parlamentare in seno alla Grande assemblea turca e/o mobilitando ex officio il sistema giudiziario turco a tale scopo?

— Qualora la parte turca dovesse scegliere di non prendere provvedimenti in vista di una risoluzione globale della questione, questo sviluppo cosa potrebbe significare per le relazioni UE-Turchia?

— Intende la Commissione sottoporre la questione alle autorità turche e cercare chiarimenti riguardo a un caso apparentemente legato ad attacchi contro paesi dell'UE diversi dalla Grecia, nonché la garanzia che detti atti di sabotaggio non saranno ripetuti né tollerati?

Interrogazione con richiesta di risposta scritta E-000482/12
alla Commissione
Mara Bizzotto (EFD)
(24 gennaio 2012)

Oggetto: Coinvolgimento del governo turco negli incendi che hanno colpito la Grecia nel 1995

Nel 1998, il governo greco ha fatto circolare all'interno dell'UE e della NATO un documento che indicava il coinvolgimento del governo di Ankara negli incendi che hanno ripetutamente devastato le foreste della Grecia nel corso degli anni Novanta. Il governo greco sosteneva di aver ottenuto queste informazioni dal proprio servizio nazionale di intelligence (l'EYP). Nel dicembre 2011, l'ex Primo Ministro turco Mesut Yilmaz ha confermato quanto contenuto nel documento emesso da Atene, dichiarando che il governo turco aveva effettivamente ordinato ad agenti dell'intelligence nazionale turca (MIT) di appiccare incendi nelle foreste greche.

Dispone la Commissione di ulteriori informazioni al riguardo?

Nel caso in cui le accuse a carico di Ankara vengano confermate e considerata la gravità delle stesse, quali misure intende adottare?

Risposta congiunta data da Štefan Füle a nome della Commissione

(13 marzo 2012)

La Commissione rimanda gli onorevoli parlamentari alla sua risposta alle precedenti interrogazioni scritte E-012686/2012 e E-000036/2012 ([1]).

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/application/home.do?language=IT

(English version)

Question for written answer E-000291/12
to the Commission
Georgios Koumoutsakos (PPE)
(19 January 2012)

Subject: Allegations by the former Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz and reports in the Turkish press regarding illegal activities by agencies of the Turkish Government

Following recent revealing allegations by the former Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz to the Turkish newspaper *BirGün* regarding the intentional arson of Greek forests by the Turkish secret services in the period between 1993 and 1996, a series of stories have been printed in the Turkish Press, giving details on illegal activities by the Turkish Government and in essence confirming Yilmaz's original allegations.

By way of example, *Milliyet* and *Vatan* posted articles referring to the infamous 'Susurluk' case and more specifically to the existence of a report by the chief of the bureau of Mesut Yilmaz, Prime Minister at the time; these articles claim that the report describes in detail the activities of the Turkish ring of 'clandestine' organisations and cites fires in Greek forests, bombings of Armenian targets in Europe and so on.

Further to the above shocking revelations and in view of the major concern triggered by these grave revelations regarding essentially hostile acts against a Member State, will the Commission answer the following:

— Is the Commission aware of the above information referring to illegal activities by the Turkish Government? If so, does the Commission intend to seek further information on the matter?

— Does the Commission consider that an immediate and thorough investigation of the claims made by the former Turkish Prime Minister Mr Yilmaz must ensue, for instance by establishing a parliamentary committee of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey and/or the ex officio mobilisation of the Turkish legal system for the same purpose?

— Should the Turkish side eventually elect not to take steps towards comprehensively solving the above case, what could this development signal for EU-Turkey relations?

— Does the Commission intend to refer the issue to the Turkish authorities and seek clarification on a case apparently linked to attacks on further EU countries other than Greece, and assurances that such acts of sabotage will not be repeated or tolerated?

Question for written answer E-000482/12
to the Commission
Mara Bizzotto (EFD)
(24 January 2012)

Subject: Involvement of the Turkish government in the fires in Greece in 1995

In 1998, the Greek Government circulated a document internally within the EU and NATO which pointed to the involvement of Ankara in the fires which repeatedly devastated Greek forests during the 1990s. The Greek Government claimed to have obtained this information from its own national intelligence service (the EYP). In December 2011, the former Turkish Prime Minister, Mesut Yilmaz, confirmed the revelations in the document released by Athens, declaring that the Turkish government had in fact ordered agents of its national intelligence service (MIT) to start fires in Greek forests.

Does the Commission have any further information in this regard?

In the event that the charges against Ankara are confirmed and given their seriousness, what action will the Commission take?

Joint answer given by Mr Füle on behalf of the Commission

(13 March 2012)

The Commission would like to refer the Honourable Members to its reply to previous Written Questions E-012686/2012 and E-000036/2012 ([1]).

([1]) http://www.europarl.europa.eu/QP-WEB/application/home.do?language=EN