WRITTEN QUESTION No 1652/86
by Mr Christopher Jackson (ED-GB)
to the Commission of the European Communities (22 October 1986) (90/C 246/01)

Subject: Funding for cross frontier checks on food

Can the Commission state whether the cost of frontier checks of a veterinary and public health nature on food and animals within the European Community is normally borne by national authorities? In which countries is the cost borne in part by local authorities?

Supplementary answer given by Mr Mac Sharry on behalf of the Commission (19 January 1990)

Further to its answer of 1 July 1987 (1) the Commission can now give the following information.

In the case of food products for which public health and veterinary requirements are harmonized at Community level there is no provision for systematic frontier checks and hence no fees to finance such checks may be charged. The purpose of harmonization is to move control away from the receiving to the consigning Member State and so replace systematic protective measures at the frontier by a uniform system of checks on food products and animals for slaughter that are to be sent to another Member State.

Article 1 (1) of Directive 85/73/EEC of 29 January 1985 on the financing of health inspections and controls of fresh meat and poultrymeat (2) requires Member States to ensure that from 1 January 1986 fees for the costs occasioned by health inspections and checks are collected when the animals covered by the Directive are slaughtered and that any direct or indirect refund of fees is prohibited. It should be pointed out in this connection that the Council Decision of 15 June 1988 (3) on the levels of the fees to be charged for health inspections and controls of fresh meat pursuant to Directive 85/73/EEC is to be applied by the Member States by 31 December 1990 at the latest.

In view of the significance of fee-charging arrangements for the conditions of competition between the products concerned the Commission will in 1990 thoroughly survey the Member States' application of the harmonized financing system outlined above, which is due to enter fully into force on 1 January 1991.

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(1) OJ No C 270, 8.10.1987.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 840/89
by Mr Ben Visser (S)
to the Commission of the European Communities (29 November 1989) (90/C 246/02)

Subject: Air transport of animals

According to an article appearing in 'Het Parool' of 17 October 1989, the National Animal Protection Inspectorate carried out daily checks in Schiphol on the transport of animals between August and November 1988. These checks show that animals with a high commercial value, being transported by air, such as horses and cattle, were properly cared for but that less valuable creatures, such as birds and fish, were treated as
disposable articles. Many dead birds and fish were discovered in the course of the inspections.

1. Have such disgraceful practices connected with the air transport of animals been discovered in Member States other than the Netherlands?

2. Does the Commission consider that it is necessary to take measures to improve the (air) transport of animals?

3. If so, when does the Commission intend to make relevant proposals?

Answer given by Mr Mac Sharry on behalf of the Commission
(19 January 1990)

1. In 1987 the Commission financed a field study throughout the Community on the application of Council Directive 77/489/EEC on the protection of animals during international transport (*) and Council Directive 81/389/EEC established measures necessary for the implementation of Directive 77/489/EEC (2). That study found that the facilities for, and care of, animals at Schiphol airport were of a good standard. The Commission services have studied the report of the Dutch National Animal Protection Inspectorate, referred to by the Honourable Member, and find nothing in it to contradict the findings of the 1987 study.

2 and 3. The Commission does indeed consider it necessary to take measures to ensure the protection of animals during transport, including air transport. To this end, a proposal, COM(89) 322 final, of 29 June 1989 (3), has been made to the Council for a Regulation on the matter, which will replace the two existing Council Directives covering the protection of animals during international transport.


WRITTEN QUESTION No 895/89
by Mr Carlos Carvalhas (CG)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(1 December 1989)
(90/C 246/03)

Subject: Report on the transport sector

The Commission recently informed the Council of its intention to set up a working party to consider the European transport sector up to the year 2000 and to draw up a report similar to the Cecchini report.

Will the transport unions and workers have any real say in the drawing up of the report and will the main purpose of the latter be to give substance to the principle of economic and social cohesion, including the peripheral countries such as Portugal, or the 'liberalization' of all transport agreements?

Answer given by Mr Van Miert on behalf of the Commission
(14 May 1990)

The Commission has indeed set up a high-level working party on the prospects for the European transport between now and the year 2000.

The working party's remit is to take the medium and long-term view and look at the Community's internal and external transport problems from all angles.

This is part of an exercise which takes a wide view allowing for such factors as the needs of the single market and technological developments and taking into account parameters such as conservation of the environment, the situation in the Community's outlying countries and the expansion of existing networks in Central and Eastern Europe.

This working party, whose members are independent of the Commission, will use the most recent studies and experiences to help it tackle each problem area.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 922/89
by Mr Carlos Robles Piquer (PPE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(1 December 1989)
(90/C 246/04)

Subject: Timing of an ERDF subsidy used to make political capital

On 26 October 1989 the Commission approved, as part of the national programme of Community interest, an ERDF subsidy of 76 281 000 ECU (approximately Pta 10 000 million) to assist the development of 79 districts in the southern and eastern areas of the province of Ciudad Real (Spain). This programme will benefit 76% of the province by area and 58% of the population.

However, the previous day, 25 October, news of this had already been reported by the 'Lanza' newspaper of Ciudad Real. On 27 October it was the subject of a
jubilant press conference given by the socialist regional and provincial authorities.

Since general elections to the national parliament were held in Spain on 29 October and given the undoubtable influence of such publicity on the mood of the electorate, can the Commission give exact details concerning the timing of the various stages of the proceedings and explain why news of the measure was published prior to signature and why the proceedings were timed to coincide with the final and decisive days of the election campaign?

Answer given by Mr Millan on behalf of the Commission
(20 February 1990)

In December 1988 the Spanish authorities submitted to the Commission a draft National Programme of Community Interest (NPCI) for the southern and western areas of the province of Ciudad Real. Following entry into force of the reform of the structural Funds, the draft required revision and a new version was submitted to the Commission in July 1989. The Commission checked that the operational programme was in conformity with the Community support framework guidelines for Objective 1 regions and approved it on 26 October 1989, together with a number of programmes in other Member States.

The Commission published a press release concerning the various programmes on 26 October, the day of their adoption.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1029/89
by Mr Filippos Pierros (PPE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(18 December 1989)
(90/C 246/05)

Subject: Failure to appoint a Director-General for DG XXIII

In January 1989 the Commission set up a new Directorate-General responsible for enterprise policy, distributive trades, tourism and the social economy. Despite the considerable importance of the sectors of the economy covered by this Directorate-General (DG XXIII), a Director-General has yet to be appointed thereby reducing the effectiveness of its work on the integration of the Community market, the European Year of Tourism, etc.

What steps does the Commission intend to take to resolve this serious problem forthwith?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1040/89
by Mr Jean-Claude Pasty (RDE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(18 December 1989)
(90/C 246/06)

Subject: DG XXIII

Eleven months after its creation, DG XXIII (Enterprise Policy, Distributive Trade, Tourism and 'Economie Sociale') is still without a Director-General.

Does the Commission not consider that this matter should be attended to as soon as possible?

Joint answer to Written Questions No 1029/89 and No 1040/89 given by Mr Cardoso e Cunha on behalf of the Commission
(18 April 1990)

At its meeting on 14 February 1990, the Commission appointed Mr Heinrich von Moltke Director-General of DG XXIII.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1030/89
by Mr António Marques Mendes (LDR)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(18 December 1989)
(90/C 246/07)

Subject: Portuguese translation services

It is now nearly four years since Portugal joined the European Community and there is still a failure to comply with the rules relating to language services, namely in the Commission, with regard to Portuguese.

This situation, which is presumably due to the lack of Portuguese translators, is unlawful and constitutes an infringement of the legal right of Portuguese-speaking citizens to have access to information.

Can the Commission state:

1. How many translators and interpreters does the Commission currently employ for each Community language?
2. What is the proposed total for language service staff in 1990, especially in relation to Portuguese?
3. How many LA 3 posts are currently held per nationality and how many will be held per nationality by the end of 1990?
4. Does the Commission consider that senior posts (LA 3) are evenly distributed amongst the various nationalities and, if not, what measures should be adopted in 1990 to ensure that such a balance is
achieved, bearing in mind that the current rules on the language service attach equal importance to each of the Community languages?

Answer given by Mr Cardoso e Cunha on behalf of the Commission
(27 February 1990)

1. The breakdown by language of LA officials (translators and interpreters) is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Posts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Danish</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>173</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch</td>
<td>135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portuguese</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. The Translation Service and the Joint Interpreting and Conference Service are continuing the efforts they have made since before Portugal joined the Communities to select and train qualified Portuguese translators and interpreters while maintaining the same standards as for other languages.

In particular, it should be noted that:
- the successful candidates in the two open competitions for Portuguese translators and assistant translators will be appointed shortly and;
- a training course for Portuguese interpreters organized on the Commission's initiative is currently being held at the National Institute of Administration in Lisbon.

As a result the Commission hopes to recruit around thirty LA officials in 1990.

3. The breakdown by nationality of LA 3 posts currently filled is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Posts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greece</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portugal</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is planned to fill the five posts now vacant in the course of 1990.

4. It should not be forgotten that the Translation Service and the Joint Interpreting and Conference Service are not organized purely along language lines: they have general management units as well.

As required by the Staff Regulations, the Commission tries to ensure that a reasonable geographical balance is observed in the distribution of managerial posts.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1085/89
by Mr George Patterson (ED)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(19 December 1989).
(90/C 246/08)

Subject: Wearing of crash helmets on mopeds

In view of the resolution passed by Council representative on the EEC Road and Traffic Policy Committee some years ago, which called for the mandatory wearing of crash helmets on mopeds and scooters, and in view of the various initiatives taken by the European Commission in the road safety field, is the Commission considering bringing forward proposals to recommend that crash helmets should be worn on mopeds and scooters throughout the European Community? In the UK, for example, it has been compulsory to wear protective helmets on any motorized two wheel vehicle since 1973. Does the Commission agree that the wearing of crash helmets on mopeds would be a safety measure on the roads, in the same way as the wearing of seat belts in cars?

Could the Commission also comment on the current discussions involving the standards for crash helmets in relation to the Directive on personal protective equipment. The current standard which has been proposed, EC22, is less stringent than the current UK standard, BS6658, and, if adopted, would mean that the United Kingdom would have to lower its standards for the wearing of crash helmets. Does the Commission not agree that such a measure would not give consumers the highest level of protection, as provided for in the Single European Act and that it would be detrimental to the safety of motorcyclists in the UK if their helmets became less safe as a result of the new EC standard? If so, will the Commission comment on the progress of discussions on this standard?

Answer given by Mr Van Miert on behalf of the Commission
(14 May 1990)

The Commission is convinced that the wearing of crash helmets provides a significant contribution to road safety, the evidence is overwhelming.
It is the Commission's intention to bring forward proposals for the mandatory wearing of crash helmets on motorcycles and mopeds. The Commission has not yet decided upon the exact classification of moped that will require compulsory wearing, or indeed whether helmet wearing should be mandatory for all types of motorized two wheel vehicles, as is the case in the UK.

Concerning the technical standard for the manufacture of these helmets the Commission has taken on board the request from the EEC Road and Traffic Policy Committee for the setting of standards for motorcycle crash helmets. The Commission has requested to the CEN (Comité Européen de Normalisation) to research and draft standards for all types of protection helmets including firemen's helmets, work place helmets, bicycle helmets and motorcycle helmets. The proposals concerning crash helmets are at an advanced stage and, as suggested by the Honourable Member they are largely based on ECE Reg. 22 with a slight amendment to take on board at least some of the UK's misgivings on the regulation. It is important that whatever standard is reached it is of the highest practical level and we are aware of the UK's misgivings regarding ECE Reg. 22 and what they consider to be a short fall between that and the current British standard. This issue is being looked into and CEN will be advised accordingly.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1272/89
by Mr Florus Wijsenbeek and Mr Klaus Riskjaer Pedersen (LDR)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(15 January 1990)
(90/C 246/09)

Subject: Refund of tax on motor vehicles upon export

1. Is the Commission aware that, in addition to VAT, special motor-vehicle taxes are imposed in some countries?

2. Is the Commission aware that there are considerable disparities between the levels at which such taxes are set and considerable disparities between assessment bases?

3. Is the Commission aware that, partly as a result of the differences in tax burdens and taxation systems, there are wide variations between countries in the prices charged by manufacturers for the same products?

4. Is the Commission aware that this gives rise to unfair competition and that there is a brisk trade in new and used cars between the Member States? Such trade puts official dealers in the countries concerned at a disadvantage, since they neither can bring influence to bear on the situation nor gain from it.

5. Is the Commission aware that the Netherlands imposes a special tax on private motor vehicles imported into the country, graduated according to the age of the vehicle, but that there is no provision whatever for this tax to be refunded when used cars are exported?

6. Is the Commission aware that this unfairly circumscribes the extent to which the Dutch car industry can be involved in the European Community used-car trade and that, in addition, distortions of competition make it impossible to export to countries outside the European Community?

7. If so, does the Commission propose to approach the Dutch Government or take other action to counter the uncalled-for disadvantaging of a branch of industry in one or more Member States and put an end to this disruption of the market.

Answer given by Mrs Scrivener on behalf of the Commission
(5 April 1990)

1 and 2. Yes. For details the Commission would refer the Honourable Members to its answers to Written Questions No 836/85 by Mrs De March (1) and No 2616/86 by Mr Abelin and others (2).

3. The Commission is aware that the widely differing levels of tax on the purchase, registration and use of a vehicle contribute to the segmentation of the Community motor vehicle market. Quite apart from the clear influence which such a tax charge pattern may have on the volume of demand, segmentation is reflected in differences in technical components, standard equipment and the range of versions marketed in the various Member States. This situation does not make comparison any easier and results in what are sometimes considerable disparities in the pre-tax prices of apparently similar vehicles.

The Commission has already commented on this matter. Its aim with regard to motor vehicle taxation is to limit the associated distortion and segmentation; this might be achieved through a process of aligning the total tax charge. Where specific taxes other than VAT are concerned, however, this objective must necessarily be achieved gradually since views on the social cost of the car differ and since any major change in tax levels would have a budgetary and commercial impact. Nevertheless, where the Commission has found that such discrimination produced effects which were in breach of the Treaty, it has acted to put a stop to it. For example, proceedings
have been initiated under Article 95 of the EEC Treaty against Member States whose tax structure has been judged to be discriminatory or to give rise to distortions in intra-Community trade.

4. The Commission is also aware that disparities in pre-tax prices for similar models trigger a certain amount of parallel imports within the Community. It should be stressed, however, that the scale of this trade is marginal at Community level, even though it may be of some importance in frontier areas or regions. It is clear that official dealers in such areas or regions of Member States in which price levels are generally higher are at a disadvantage compared to dealers on the other side of the frontier.

This situation does indeed give rise to imperfect conditions of competition, which cannot, however, be attributed either to the privileged dealers or to manufacturers. The dealers do not have to discriminate between resident and non-resident buyers in their country, and manufacturers set their ex-works sales price on the basis of the specific characteristics of the versions marketed and the conditions on the markets for which these versions are normally intended. As stressed at point 3 above, it is partly the tax disparities between countries which cause such situations, and not any reprehensible conduct of market participants.

5. In the case of imports of used vehicles, the taxable amount, pursuant to Article 11 B 1 of the Sixth VAT Directive of 17 May 1977 (1), is either the amount of the invoice, if the vehicle has been purchased from a taxable reseller, the price of the transaction, if the vehicle has been purchased from a private individual, or the ‘open market value’, i.e. the amount which an importer would have to pay to a supplier at arm’s length in the country from which the vehicle is exported in the absence of such a price.

The Commission has never been informed that the Netherlands does not comply with these rules. The Honourable Members are consequently requested to supply any information they might have on the matter.

As regards the export of a used vehicle, a distinction must be made between the VAT charged on the transaction carried out by the taxable reseller and the residual VAT still contained in the value of the used vehicle.

Where the vehicle is exported, its supply by the taxable reseller is not taxable in the Netherlands and no VAT can therefore be refunded. On the other hand, the Community rules currently in force do not provide for a refund of the residual VAT contained in the value of the used vehicle either.

The Commission would draw the Honourable Members' attention, however, to the fact that where a used vehicle from the Netherlands is imported by a private individual into another Member State of the Community and that person is able to prove that VAT has been paid as a final charge on the vehicle in the Member State of export, no VAT will be claimed from the importer without the residual VAT being deducted. The Commission would refer the Honourable Members to its communication on this subject (2).

6. As far as the Commission is aware, no Member State has at this stage provided for a refund of the residual VAT contained in the value of used cars. It is therefore not clear to the Commission how residual VAT should give rise to a distortion of competition on the Dutch used vehicle market.

Since other Member States impose a higher rate of VAT on vehicles than the rate applicable in the Netherlands, those Member States should — if the rate of residual VAT were a decisive factor in fixing the price of used cars, which economically speaking it is not — actually experience a greater distortion of competition.

7. The closer alignment of VAT rates as progress is made towards 1992 will clearly bring a significant improvement in the conditions of competition between firms operating in the same sector in the various Member States.

However, as indicated at point 3, disparities will persist as long as other taxes (such as the special Dutch tax on motor cars) continue to weigh upon the cost of motor vehicles.

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(2) OJ No L 277, 15. 10. 1987, p. 23.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1289/89
by Mr Miguel Arias Cañete (PPE) to the Commission of the European Communities
(15 January 1990)
(90/C 246/10)

Subject: Agreement on fisheries between the European Economic Community and the Governments of Denmark and Greenland

The first paragraph of Article 7 of the agreement on fisheries between the European Economic Community, on the one hand, and the Government of Denmark and the local Government of Greenland, on the other (Council Regulation (EEC) No 223/85 of 29 January 1985 (4)) says: "Where, for a given fishing year, biological circumstances require the total volume of catches from a particular stock to be fixed at a level which does not permit Greenland to meet the obligation arising from Article 2 and, at the same time, to maintain its fishing activities at a level corresponding to minimum quantities
laid in the Protocols referred to in Article 2 (1), the
respective quotas agreed with the Community for
the stock or stocks concerned shall be reduced
accordingly, 
On the basis of this Article, could the Commission say
what quantities of catches have been authorized annually,
in particular during the five years to which the first
Protocol applied?

Answer given by Mr Marin
on behalf of the Commission
(22 February 1990)

Article 7 of the Fisheries Agreement between the
Community and Greenland was only used as regards cod
off West Greenland in those years where the Community
was not granted its full quota of 12 000 tonnes of cod
in area NAFO 0/1 during the period 1985—1988 (see
Table I).

TABLE I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>EEC quota of cod in area NAFO 0/1 (in tonnes)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>3 597 (*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>7 000 (*)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>12 000 (+ 4 000) (?)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*) Remainder of 1984 quota to be fished until 31 March 1985.
(2) In 1988 the situation of the cod stock improved somewhat.
(3) An additional quantity of 4 000 tonnes was granted due to the strong
recovery of the cod stock.

With reference to Article 7.2 of the Fisheries Agreement,
the Parties agreed on compensation for this non-allocation of the 12 000 tonnes of cod in additional
redfish, shrimps and capelin (see Table II).

TABLE II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>NAFO 0/1</th>
<th>ICES XIV/V</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1986  | 4 500 tonnes redfish
300 tonnes shrimps | 20 000 tonnes capelin
300 tonnes shrimps |
| 1987  | 4 500 tonnes redfish
250 tonnes shrimps | 20 000 tonnes capelin
400 tonnes shrimps |
| 1988  | 2 500 tonnes redfish | 20 000 tonnes capelin |

WRITTEN QUESTION No 23/90
by Mrs Anita Pollack (S)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(26 January 1990)
(90/C 246/11)

Subject: Drift net fishing

Will the Commission take urgent steps to ban the use of
purse seine and drift nets in Community waters, and do
everything within its power to discourage the use of these
nets in the Pacific, in order to stop indiscriminate death to
dolphins, seals and other species?

Answer given by Mr Marin
on behalf of the Commission
(20 February 1990)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to
its answer to Written Question No 564/89 by Mr De
Vries (1).

The Commission would refer also to the resolution
adopted by consensus by the General Assembly of the
United Nations on 22 December 1989, concerning the use
of drift-nets. The Community participated actively in the
formulation of this resolution, which recommends that all
members of the international community should agree to:

(a) a moratorium of all large-scale pelagic drift-net
    fishing on the high seas by 30 June 1992;

(b) take immediate action to reduce progressively
    large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing activities in the
    South Pacific region, leading to the cessation of such
    activities by no later than 1 July 1991;

(c) an immediate cessation to further expansion of
    large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing on the high seas
    of the North Pacific and all the other high seas
    outside the Pacific Ocean.

The question will figure again on the agenda of the
General Assembly in the course of 1990.

As regards purse seines and taking into account the
particular characteristics of this gear, the Commission
does not intend to propose measures forbidding their use
in Community waters. In fact, in the Atlantic Ocean they
do not cause problems related to the death of marine
mammals.

(1) OJ No C 90, 9.4.1990.
WRITTEN QUESTION No 85/90
by Mr François-Xavier de Donnea (LDR)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(2 February 1990)
(90/C 246/12)

Subject: Dispersal of DG IX following the transfer of the translation services to the JECL premises

The Commission's translation services are soon to be transferred to the JECL premises.

Once more large removal costs will be incurred.

In addition, the transfer of the translation services to the JECL premises will mean moving and dispersing much of DG IX, whereas the advantages of the present arrangement is that most of the staff administration services are situated together at the Rond-Point Schuman.

Following the dispersal of DG IX, it is highly probable that anyone seeking information concerning social security, remuneration and missions, for example, will need to go to several different buildings situated a long way apart from each other.

Can the Commission indicate:

1. the cost of ‘centralizing’ the translation services and ‘dispersing’ DG IX,
2. whether its has carried out a cost-benefit analysis of these removals,
3. whether the social and professional organizations were properly consulted on this matter,
4. why the translation services were not centralized in the new ‘Breydel’ building?

Answer given by Mr Cardoso e Cunha on behalf of the Commission
(14 March 1990)

1. The total cost of the removal is estimated at ECU 1 700 000; however, what the Commission hopes to gain from reorganizing the Translation Service and relocating its various units in a single building should enable it to recoup the cost swiftly.

It is inexact to speak of ‘dispersing’ the Directorate-General for Personnel and Administration, since the departments leaving the JECL building will all be located in and around the Square Frère-Orban. For example, the units dealing with remuneration and missions will be housed in the same building and those dealing with social security in a neighbouring building.

2. A cost-benefit analysis is the basis for all major decisions of this type. The relocation of the Translation Service — one of the Commission’s key departments — will make it even more effective.

3. The trade unions and staff associations were informed of the decision, bringing the Translation Service under one roof being one of their specific desiderata.

4. The translators were not moved to the Breydel building, because it had been reserved under the accommodation plan for Directorates-General XI (Environment, Nuclear Safety and Civil Protection) and XIII (Telecommunications, Information Industries and Innovation) and organized to meet their requirements. Furthermore, unlike the JECL building, it was not large enough to house all the translation units.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 102/90
by Mr Victor Manuel Arbeloa Muru (S)
to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community meeting in European Political Cooperation
(8 February 1990)
(90/C 246/13)

Subject: Disappearance of a trade unionist in Colombia

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation make representations to the Government of Colombia concerning the case of Guillermo Ramirez, primary school teacher, trade unionist and political activist, who appears to have been arrested at the headquartes of the Teachers' Union of Santander (SES) by a patrol of uniformed soldiers belonging to the Fifth Brigade of the army, based in Bucaramanga, calling for his immediate unconditional release unless he is charged with a recognized criminal offence and brought before a competent court?

Answer
(8 August 1990)

The specific case raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in EPC. However, the 12's position on human rights is well known to the Colombian authorities. Most recently, at the meeting between the 12 and the Rio group in Dublin on 10 April 1990, the 12 stressed the necessity for all countries in the region to respect human rights and the rule of law.
WRITTEN QUESTION No 103/90
by Mr Victor Manuel Arbeloa Muni (S)
to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community meeting in European Political Cooperation
(8 February 1990)
(90/C 246/14)

Subject: Disappearances in Peru

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation make representations to the Government of Peru on behalf of the citizens from Atcas, Jorge Parraga Castillo, Guzmán Estrada, Inicias Estrada Pascual, Alinio Torrealba, Herbert Santos, Andrés Estrada and Rafael Castillo Mendoza, who were arrested on 24 October 1989 by a group of uniformed soldiers in a mopping-up operation, calling for their legal situation to be clarified and for them to be given humanitarian treatment and allowed access to their relatives and lawyers while they are in prison?

Answer
(8 August 1990)
The specific issue raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed within European Political Cooperation. There can be no doubt, however, that the Peruvian authorities are well aware of the 12's position on human rights and on the fundamental freedoms of the individual, especially as Peru participated in the meeting between the 12 and the Rio group in Dublin on 10 April 1990, which provided Foreign Ministers with the opportunity of expressing concern about the human rights situation in Latin America.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 107/90
by Mr Victor Manuel Arbeloa Muni (S)
to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community meeting in European Political Cooperation
(8 February 1990)
(90/C 246/15)

Subject: The safety of Juan Ajanel Pixcar in Guatemala

In view of the climate of permanent insecurity affecting thousands of people in Guatemala, especially human rights activists, can the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political cooperation investigate, by the appropriate means, the safety of the symbolic figure Juan Ajanel Pixcar, a member of the Mutual Support Group for the Reappearance of our Relatives Alive (GAM), from Pachoj in the department of El Quiché, who has been subjected to harassment and threats after ordering the exhumation from a clandestine graveyard of the bodies of three of his relatives, who had lost their lives in the area at the hands of the local civil patrol in the early 1980s?

Answer
(8 August 1990)
The specific case raised by the Honourable Member has not been discussed in EPC. However, the 12 have made their concern known to all the countries of Central America on the increasing levels of violence in the area and in particular on the need to respect human rights. The Guatemalan authorities are fully aware of the importance the 12 attach to these principles.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 171/90
by Mr Ian White (S)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(8 February 1990)
(90/C 246/16)

Subject: Poverty

What action can the Commission take to guarantee minimum income to protect the elderly, the disabled and unemployed against poverty?

Answer given by Mrs Papandreou on behalf of the Commission
(28 February 1990)
The Commission considers that the right to a guaranteed minimum income is one of the main components of a global policy to combat poverty and promote solidarity. It is in this context that the Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights of Workers recognizes a right to sufficient resources and appropriate social assistance for the persons who have been unable either to enter or re-enter the labour market and have no means of subsistence, and for the persons who have reached retirement but who are not entitled to a pension or who do not have other means of subsistence.

Moreover, in their Resolution on combating social exclusion, the Council and the Ministers for Social Affairs meeting within the Council (') have underlined that 'the existence of a series of measures guaranteeing adequate aid and resources adapted to the situation of each
individual is a fundamental factor in combating social exclusion'.

The initiatives of the Commission in this field are defined in its Action programme concerning the implementation of the Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights, which provides within its chapter on Social Protection for a recommendation on the common criteria of measures guaranteeing adequate aid and resources for people in poverty.

The timetable adopted foresees that this recommendation will be proposed during 1991.

In parallel, the Commission intends to stimulate exchanges of information and deepening of knowledge on existing mechanisms in Member States. A seminar took place in Windsor in November 1989 on this issue and further research work is planned on this subject.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 212/90
by Mr Friedrich Merz (PPE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(14 February 1990)
(90/C 246/17)

Subject: Funding of the Kagiso Trust in South Africa

The Kagiso Trust in South Africa receives considerable financing from the European Community for humanitarian purposes. It has recently provided considerable funds for the foundation and organization of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers (NADEL) and the Black Lawyers' Association (BCA) which can, it is admitted, be used for delegates’ travel and other expenses. How can the Commission justify this use of Community funds for aims which cannot be described as humanitarian?

Answer given by Mr Marin
on behalf of the Commission
(16 May 1990)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answers to Written Questions No 1213/88 by Mr Pearce (1), No 295/87 by Mr Habsburg (2) and No 584/87 by Mrs Lehideux (3), where it was stated that details of individual projects supported under the Community’s special programme for victims of apartheid are not publicly divulged. Confidentiality of information is maintained in this case not to disguise what activities are taking place, but rather to safeguard project holders in South Africa from possible harassment and intimidation.

It should be reiterated, however, that all the projects supported through the special programme are non-violent in nature, and contribute towards peaceful change through activities in the humanitarian, social, training and education and legal assistance fields. All such projects so far decided by the Commission have received the prior positive opinion of the ad hoc group of Member States experts.


WRITTEN QUESTION No 220/90
by Mr Yves Verwaerde and Mr Jean-Pierre Raffarin (LDR)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(14 February 1990)
(90/C 246/18)

Subject: Community environment policy

What means, other than a few isolated data banks, does the Commission have at its disposal to monitor the quality of the environment and implementation of standards?

What Community assessment scheme could be set up rapidly?

What are the prospects for the proposed European Environment Agency?

Answer given by Mr Ripa di Meana
on behalf of the Commission
(15 March 1990)

The Commission has at its disposal means and information systems which have become operational in certain environmental areas. First, there is the CORINE system, which can already be used in particular with regard to the protection of biotopes, taking account of the risk of coastal erosion, the risks of soil erosion and air emissions. Second, pursuant to specific directives the Member States provide the Commission with data to enable the implementation of policy to be assessed. By way of example, there is the data supplied about the quality of the air and bathing water and about industrial installations posing risks.

The objective of the European Environment Agency is precisely to consolidate and supplement this initial information to form an overall, permanent system that will be used to gain knowledge about the state of the environment and to monitor changes.
WRITTEN QUESTION No 261/90
by Mr Jean-Pierre Raffarin (LDR)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(19 February 1990)
(90/C 246/19)

Subject: ENSMA and the STRIDE programme

In his answer to Written Question No 559/89 (1), Mr Bruce Millan said, on behalf of the Commission, that the application for assistance for the transfer of the National College of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (/90ENSMA) from Poitiers could not be approved by the ERDF Committee, since the project could be considered only if it came under objective No 2.

At a recent meeting of the Poitiers town council the Deputy Mayor announced that the project would now come under the STRIDE programme.

Does the Commission consider this is possible?

If it does, how long would it take to reach a decision on this application for assistance under the STRIDE programme?

Answer given by Mr Millan
on behalf of the Commission
(10 May 1990)

Following a request from the French government, the Commission has now re-considered the application for ERDF assistance for the construction of research laboratories at the national College of Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering (ENSMA) in Poitiers. In doing so the Commission had in mind a number of factors: the nature of the project, the date of submission of the application for ERDF funding and the impact of the project on the area of Poitou-Charente which is eligible for ERDF assistance under objective 2 of the Structural Funds. As a result of this review, a decision was taken on 21 March 1990 to contribute 33 million French francs towards this project.

As a result, small-scale bargemen are being penalized.

Why does the Commission not make special allowance for this category of bargemen whose earnings are ridiculously small compared to those of the shipping industry?

Why are these rationalization measures not being taken in all the Member States?

Answer given by Mr Van Miert
on behalf of the Commission
(14 May 1990)

The measures to bring about structural improvements in inland waterway shipping introduced under Council Regulation (EEC) No 1101/89 (1) and Commission Regulations (EEC) No 1102/89 (2) and No 3685/89 (3) in order to reduce existing structural overcapacity is based on the principle of solidarity between transport operators. All owners of vessels carrying goods for hire or reward or on own account are required to help finance this action by paying an annual contribution for each of their vessels. This is used to refund the sums the Member States involved in the scheme have advanced interest-free so that the scrapping operation can begin immediately and simultaneously in those Member States.

Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1102/89 allows for the special economic position of small-scale bargemen. For instance, the annual contributions for the various types and categories of river craft are reduced by 30% for vessels with a deadweight capacity of less than 450 tonnes. For vessels with a deadweight capacity of between 650 and 450 tonnes, the annual contribution is reduced by 0.15% for every tonne by which the deadweight capacity of the vessel in question is less than 650 tonnes. In addition, Council Regulation (EEC) No 1101/89 provides that Member States may take measures to make it easier for inland waterway carriers leaving the industry to obtain an early retirement pension or to take up other work.

Community rules are applicable in all Member States. In fact, all vessels of those States carrying goods on inland waterways linked to those of another Member State are subject to the rules. It is precisely on these waterways that there is a very large structural overcapacity which, because the waterways are interconnected, can be eliminated only by simultaneous action in all the Member States affected.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 308/90
by Mr Jean-Pierre Raffarin (LDR)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(21 February 1990)
(90/C 246/21)

Subject: Consultation of the regions qualifying for Community financing

Does the Commission plan to consult the regions affected by the plans for communications networks which qualify for Community financing?

Answer given by Mr Van Miert on behalf of the Commission (22 May 1990)

Communications networks of Community interest are established by the Commission after consultation with the Infrastructure Committee, which includes Member States Governments. It is for the latter to consult the regions concerned according to the relevant national procedures, particularly in planning routes.

The aid granted to communications networks by the European Regional Development Fund or other Community structural instruments are negotiated by the Commission, the Member States and the regions concerned in partnership when establishing the Community support frameworks and implementing operation programmes or other types of aid.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 363/90
by Mr Alain Lamassoure (LDR)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(26 February 1990)
(90/C 246/22)

Subject: Market organization for pigmeat

After a three-year slump followed by a brief rally in 1989, pigmeat prices have dropped by FF 5 on the Breton Index since last August.

This spectacular fall is the result of the Commission's decision to curb the price increase by reducing export refunds from ECU 25 to ECU 5 per tonne.

This restriction has encouraged Denmark to sell on the Community market about 150 000 tonnes normally exported to Japan and the United States.

The market upheaval has been further aggravated by the decision to grant Poland and Hungary an annual quota of 18 000 tonnes at a reduced levy.

While the motives for this open-market policy can be readily understood, in a self-sufficient sector, such as the pigmeat sector in Europe, it should have been accompanied by export refunds for quantities equivalent to the additional quotas granted by the EEC.

Given the growing concern felt by producers, what measures will the Commission take to stabilize the market in pigmeat?

Answer given by Mr Mac Sharry on behalf of the Commission (9 April 1990)

The crisis in the pigmeat sector in 1987 and the first half of 1988 was succeeded in 1989 by a sharp rise in prices, which, by August 1989, were 40% higher than for the same period in 1988. The improvement was due to a shortage of pigmeat on the Community market, which led the Commission to cut the amounts of the export refunds.

The purpose of such a measure was to maintain some balance by not encouraging exports of a product which was in short supply and showing a strong upward price trend.

Cyclical crises tend to occur in the pigmeat sector every three or four years. Such crisis are always triggered by an improvement in production margins, which encourages producers to expand their enterprises. Profitability last August was so great that a substantial increase in pig numbers was to be feared, bringing a new crisis in the sector.

The successive decreases in the amount of the refunds succeeded in bringing pigmeat prices down to more reasonable levels.

It was only in mid-January that a seasonal drop — due mainly to the increase in carcase weights and hence production — put the future stability of the market in jeopardy.

The Commission reacted at that stage by increasing the rates of refunds, which brought an improvement in prices that can now be seen.

The import quota opened for Poland and Hungary represents only 0.1% of Community production. It is true that the Community is self-sufficient but it cannot seriously be thought that the quantity in question and the conditions attaching to such imports could possible damage the Community market.

In any case, the Commission can assure the Honourable Member that its staff will continue to monitor
developments in the sector and apply the measures most appropriate to each situation that arises so as to stabilize the Community market in porkmeat as much as possible.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 365/90
by Mr Jean-Pierre Raffarin (LDR)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(26 February 1990)
(90/C 246/23)

Subject: Consequences of the low rainfall in the Atlantic regions of western France

During the 1990 winter there has been insufficient rainfall in the Atlantic regions of western France. In view of the drought in previous years, can the Commission make provision now for action which will probably be necessary in the course of the summer of 1990?

If there is no change in the weather between now and then, such action will involve both agriculture and the environment.

Answer given by Mr Mac Sharry on behalf of the Commission
(17 April 1990)

Following the reform of the Structural Funds, approved by the Council in 1988, the Community can, taking account of the need for proper water resource management, apply two categories of assistance to deal with the problems described by the Honourable Member. In the Community as a whole, assistance for farms may be granted for various types of investments, notably for individual items of irrigation equipment, providing that the investment forms part of plans for the material improvement of a farm.

In the areas listed as qualifying for Community assistance under Objective 5 (b), notably the Atlantic regions of western France, projects to install, renovate or improve collective irrigation networks or other types of irrigation systems may also be covered. However, such projects will receive Community assistance only where they have been specified under the Community Support Framework for the area concerned. Community financing will be made available, where appropriate, for such projects once approval has been granted for the operational programme(s), or other forms of assistance, which constitute the Community's financial commitment to implementation of operations provided for under the Community Support Framework.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 435/90
by Mr Jean-Pierre Raffarin (LDR)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(5 March 1990)
(90/C 246/24)

Subject: Changes in Eastern Europe — regional policy implications

Can the Commission say what effects the changes in Eastern Europe might have on EEC regional policy?

Example: the Zonenrand-Gebiet (West German areas bordering the GDR).

Answer given by Mr Millan on behalf of the Commission
(27 April 1990)

It is not possible to predict with any certainty the outcome of the present process of far-reaching political and economic reform in Central and Eastern Europe, or its impact on the Community's regional policy. The Commission is launching several studies to provide the necessary economic and statistical data needed to assess objectively the current situation of the Eastern European economies, and their position relative to countries of the Community. The results of these studies will provide a basis for policy decisions in the medium term.

In the shorter term, the Commission has announced an initiative under Article 11 of Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 (1) which will provide Structural Funds support for border regions in the Community, including borders with third countries. The draft guidelines for this initiative (INTERREG) have been transmitted to the European Parliament for an opinion.

In addition, the Commission is proposing to help finance interregional cooperation between Community regions and their emerging counterparts in Poland and Hungary, through the intermediary of European-level organizations of local and regional authorities. In agreement with the governments concerned Funds for this purpose could be taken into consideration for the PHARE programme and the ERDF under Article 10 of Regulation (EEC) No 4254/88 (1).

As to the Zonenrand-Gebiete of the Federal Republic of Germany, parts of these areas are eligible for Structural Funds assistance under Objectives 2 and 5b, as well as under the RESIDER and RENAVAL Community programmes. Eligibility is determined by reference to criteria laid down in the regulations concerned, for example levels of unemployment and sectoral employment patterns. Present developments will not of
themselves affect the eligibility of areas for Structural Funds assistance. Eligibility will in any case be reviewed for Objective 2 in 1991 and for Objective 5b in 1993.


WRITTEN QUESTION No 444/90
by Mr Juan Bandrés Molet (V)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(5 March 1990)
(90/C 246/25)

Subject: Export refunds for Spanish citrus fruits

On 1 January 1990 the second phase of the transitional period for the horticultural sector established by the Treaty for the accession of Spain to the European Communities came into effect for the Spanish citrus fruit sector.

Under the Accession Treaty, in this phase of the transitional period the Commission may authorize export refunds for Spanish citrus fruit to promote exports and open new markets, particularly in the countries of Eastern Europe.

However, the Commission has not authorized the Spanish Government to grant export refunds to the citrus fruit sector for the 1989—1990 marketing year.

Does the Commission intend to authorize the Spanish Government to grant aid in the form of export refunds for citrus fruit in the 1990—1991 marketing year?

Answer given by Mr Mac Sharry
on behalf of the Commission
(3 May 1990)

The commencement of the second stage of the transition period marked a change in the refund arrangements for Spanish fruit and vegetables. Instead of the Spanish Government being authorized to grant export aid out of national funds, any refunds are to be granted from Community funds.

For the 1989/90 marketing year Spain was authorized to grant from national funds a refund of ECU 5.88/100 kg on exports of oranges up to 31 December 1989. The Commission then decided to set the Community refund from 1 January 1990 to the end of the marketing year at the same amount in order not to adjust the refund during the marketing year.

The same line was taken for lemons, for which the Community refund from 1 January 1990 was set at ECU 3.92/100 kg, the amount authorized for Spain to grant from national funds up to 31 December 1989.

The Commission considered that given the trend of Community exports of small citrus fruit and the export market position there was no need to introduce Community refunds for the 1989/90 marketing year.

It is too early for the Commission to come to a decision on citrus fruit export refunds for the 1990/91 marketing year.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 476/90
by Mr Francesco Speroni (ARC)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(7 March 1990)
(90/C 246/26)

Subject: Mobile telephones and road safety

Concentration and unremitting attention when driving are essential conditions for road safety: consequently, any activity that distracts the driver, however briefly, from the business of driving is a risk to be added to those already inherent in road traffic.

The use of mobile telephones in vehicles is certainly one such risk, both when dialling a number and when holding a conversation.

In the interests of road safety, is the Commission therefore thinking of introducing restrictions on the use of mobile telephones in vehicles when the user is driving at the same time?

Answer given by Mr Van Miert
on behalf of the Commission
(16 May 1990)

The Commission has considered the problem raised by the Honourable Member and recently organized a survey
of the Member States to obtain information on their current national regulations on and position with regard to the question.

The survey shows that hardly a Member State has any specific provisions prohibiting drivers from using the telephone whilst at the same time driving a car. On the other hand, the situation is covered by one of the general rules of the highway code which requires drivers to be in control of their vehicles at all time and not to let themselves be distracted.

The Commission shares the Honourable Member's view about the potential danger of using a telephone whilst driving. Nevertheless, the development of a 'no-hands' telephone should reduce the risk and the instruction manuals recommend that the telephone should be used only when the vehicle is stationary.

Also, information reaching the Commission in connection with the desirability of introducing Community legislation on this matter shows that the Member States are not in favour of such a law — considering it unnecessary in view of the fact that incorrect use of such telephones, and road safety, are covered by the general rules mentioned above.

The Commission is therefore not at present considering including such legislation in its programme.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 526/90
by Mr Gerardo Fernandez Albor (PPE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(16 March 1990)
(90/C 246/27)

Subject: Uniform 'minimum wage' provisions at Community level

The increasingly widespread introduction of 'minimum wage' provisions by different Community regions in an attempt to alleviate the poverty of some of their citizens has involved great discrepancies in the rules and procedures followed.

Starting from the principle that a minimum wage should be introduced throughout the Community, does the Commission consider that uniform provisions should be introduced at Community level to ensure that this purportedly social measure is effectively implemented to eradicate poverty wherever it may exist on Community territory?

Answer given by Mr Bangemann on behalf of the Commission
(22 March 1990)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question No 171/90 by Mr White (').

(') See page 9 of this Official Journal.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 544/90
by Mr Jean-Pierre Raffarin (LDR)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(16 March 1990)
(90/C 246/28)

Subject: Electric road vehicles

Following the constituent meeting of European cities interested in the use of electric road vehicles which was attended by Mr Van Miert, Member of the Commission, what steps is the Commission considering to promote this non-polluting form of transport?

Answer given by Mr Van Miert on behalf of the Commission
(14 May 1990)

As proved by the studies, demonstration projects and research contracts it has funded, its participation in COST 302 and, more recently, its support for the newly created association of European cities interested in the use of electric road vehicles (CITELEC), the Commission is making every effort to encourage the spread of this type of vehicle in urban transport.

Thanks to appropriations obtained through Parliament's good offices in 1988, and with a view to reducing pollution, the Commission is currently having a study done on advanced electric driver systems for buses, vans and private cars. One section of the study is devoted to the infrastructure that will be required if electric vehicles are to be introduced into the urban environment.

The Commission expects to continue supporting the necessary research on batteries and fuel cells (JOULE programme), permanent magnets (BRITE-EURAM) and electronic circuits (ESPRIT).

It will continue to support CITELEC, whose programme might include projects eligible for Community support. The association might be a key to the use of electric vehicles in so far as European cities could use it as a channel through which to make known the size of the
market to be supplied and, if that is significant, to interest entrepreneurs at last in launching competitively priced products.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 546/90
by Mrs Teresa Domingo Segarra (GUE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(16 March 1990)
(90/C 246/29)

Subject: EC aid to the Euskadi inshore fishing fleet for suspending fishing operations

In a reversal of the practice of previous years, the Community has not granted the inshore fishing fleet of the Autonomous Region of Euskadi (Spain) aid for suspending fishing operations requested for 1989, even though other Spanish autonomous regions have received such aid.

The Deputy Counsellor for Fisheries in the Basque Government has hinted that this could be due to a 'bureaucratic error'.

Could the Commission say why the request for aid by the Euskadi inshore fishing fleet for suspending fishing operations was rejected?

Answer given by Mr Marin on behalf of the Commission
(24 April 1990)

Article 22 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86 of 18 December 1986 (*) specifies that Member States may grant a laying-up premium for temporary withdrawals and that the Community is to contribute towards the expenditure incurred by the Member States.

For 1989, the most recent estimates by the Spanish authorities put the amount of eligible expenditure at approximately ECU 14 million, of which ECU 4.7 million for Euskadi. By decision of 20 December 1989, the Commission adopted, within the limits of its available financial resources, a sum of ECU 4 721 million in eligible expenditure on laying-up premiums granted in Spain in 1989.

Since the granting of laying-up premiums is the responsibility of the Member States, the Commission is unable to inform the Honourable Member why the Spanish authorities refused to grant aid to the Euskadi inshore fishing fleet.


WRITTEN QUESTION No 552/90
by Mr Patrick Cox (LDR)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(16 March 1990)
(90/C 246/30)

Subject: Extension of the Disadvantaged Areas Scheme in the Republic of Ireland

Has the Irish Government yet submitted documentation to the Commission in relation to the extension of the Disadvantaged Areas Scheme in the Republic of Ireland?

Can the Commission indicate the likely time-scale in considering and deciding on the contents of such a submission?

Has the Irish Government informed the Commission of its intention to establish an appeals mechanism to deal with borderline cases?

Is the Commission prepared to facilitate the Irish Government's intention to establish such an appeals mechanism to consider borderline cases in relation to the extension of the Disadvantaged Areas Scheme?

Answer given by Mr Mac Sharry on behalf of the Commission
(27 April 1990)

At the time of writing, the Commission had not received any proposals from the Irish authorities regarding the extension of the less-favoured areas in Ireland, though it is understood that such proposals are imminent.

Pending receipt of the communication, it is not possible to indicate a position in relation to the other elements of the question.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 553/90
by Mr Stephen Hughes (S)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(16 March 1990)
(90/C 246/31)

Subject: IDOs and Articles 15 and 19 (finance)

What importance does the Commission attach to Articles 15 and 19 in the approval of funds for IDOs within the UK?
As far as integrated Development Operations approved under the pre-reform Regulations of the Structural Funds are concerned, the Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to his oral question H-445/88 ('). This made clear the Commission's view that Article 15 and Article 19 measures of ERDF Regulation No 1787/84 (2) are particularly suitable for the restoration of economic and social balance in areas of industrial decline.

For the programmes already approved or to be approved under the Community support frameworks for Objective 2 regions in the United Kingdom, provision has been made for the inclusion of a range of actions similar in nature to the Article 15 and 19 measures, covered by the priorities relating to: assistance for the development of businesses, in particular small and medium-sized enterprises; the development of tourist activities; support for research and development. The Commission expects that a significant number of projects will be undertaken in these fields under the Objective 2 Operational Programmes in the United Kingdom.

1. The Commission report on the use of agricultural raw materials for non-food uses (') concluded, inter alia, that a greater emphasis needs to be placed on demonstration projects which bridge the gap between research work and commercial activity in this area.

The Commission would not like to pre-judge which projects or which plants could attract new funding for this purpose. The choice of projects will necessarily depend on their chances of success, economic viability, and environmental contributions. However, the Commission has reason to believe that acceptable project proposals are likely to be submitted at least for those crops listed in the report. These are castor, rape, high oleic acid varieties of sunflower, linen and flax, kenaf, fibre sorghum, elephant grass and bitter lupin.

2. For the case of demonstration projects, funding arrangements will be made when the Council has formally adopted the third framework programme. The budget for that programme will provide co-finance for demonstration projects, the remainder of the cost being made up by the project proposers.

For the case of the proposal (annexed to the above report) for industrial set-aside, which means growing and selling cereals cheaply for non-food uses in return for a per hectare premium, the Community contribution comes from budget line III B, item 390, which covers all set-aside expenditure and directed revenue aid expenditure. The Commission estimates that the cost of all these can be financed within the limit on that line.

3. The cereals produced under the industrial set-aside scheme will, like any other cereals, be included in the annual calculation which determines whether or not the Maximum Guaranteed Quantity of 160 million tonnes is exceeded.

4. The constraints included in the industrial set-aside proposal were put there for three purposes, which are to make sure that the scheme achieves its desired objective, to avoid distortions of competition, and to provide safeguards against abuse. The Commission would therefore certainly not want to see any of the constraints relaxed unless alternative ones are imposed. This is not envisaged at present.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 565/90
by Mr Hugh McMahon (S)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(16 February 1990)
(90/C 246/33)

Subject: Recruitment procedure by the European Commission for social workers

Can the Commission inform the House how many applications were received for the above vacancy and what were the nationalities of both the successful and unsuccessful applicants?

Answer given by Mr Cardoso e Cunha on behalf of the Commission (14 March 1990)

The Honourable Member is referring to the Commission's Open Competition COM/B/510 to set up a reserve of Welfare Officers. There were 638 candidates admitted to the written tests but only 329 of them actually sat the examination.

There were 15 candidates who were successful in the competition and put on the reserve list.

A breakdown of these figures by nationality is given in the following table.

Commission of the European Communities open competition for the recruitment of welfare officers
COM/B/510

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<th>DK</th>
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<td>Candidates successful in the competition</td>
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WRITTEN QUESTION No 585/90
by Mr Gérard Deprez (PPE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(16 March 1990)
(90/C 246/34)

Subject: Implementation of the reform of the Structural Funds

Can the Commission provide information on the implementation of the reform of the Structural Funds regarding:

1. the assessment and efficiency of programmes in terms of job creation and optimizing the regional productive fabric?
2. the Commission’s monitoring arrangements to ensure that Member States keep to the priorities set for the reform of the funds?

Answer given by Mr Christophersen on behalf of the Commission (27 April 1990)

Whether considered separately or together, job creation and making the best use of the region's productive capacity constitute the essential components of the Community support frameworks (CSFs).

The assessment and efficiency of programmes submitted under the CSFs is the subject of procedures established by the Commission, particularly through the Monitoring Committees, which will enable the socio-economic impact of the measures taken under each CSF on the regional economy and their contribution to the specific objectives referred to by the Honourable Member to be evaluated through the partnership process.

The results of the impact analysis will be included in the reports required by the Regulations introducing the reform of the structural Funds and sent to Parliament.

Apart from financial control, which, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, is primarily the responsibility of the Member State (Article 23 of coordinating Regulation (EEC) No 4253/88 (1)), the arrangements to ensure that the Member States keep to the priorities set for the reform of the Funds will be laid down by the common will of the Member States and the
Commission to implement the guidelines of the Community's structural policies.


WRITTEN QUESTION No 588/90
by Mr Gérard Deprez (PPE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(16 March 1990)
(90/C 246/35)

Subject: Food aid to Romania

The Commission is to release ECU 40 million for emergency aid to Romania.

Goods will be distributed to the people through the Romanian distribution system at the same prices as the goods on the Romanian market. The revenue from the sale of the goods will be put into a special account.

1. Can the Commission guarantee that this Community aid will really go to the Romanians? Has it provided for supervision to ensure this?

2. Can the Commission provide information on the purpose of the special account and on how it will work?

Answer given by Mr Mac Sharry on behalf of the Commission (6 June 1990)

In order to avoid disrupting the distribution of the initial, urgently-needed, food aid, the Romanian authorities have not yet introduced a reform of the distribution system for food in Romania. It would therefore be difficult for Community supplies of free agricultural products to be distributed other than through the existing Romanian state system. Deliveries of the first tranche of the food supplies to Romania are now underway and the Commission will be sending experts to Romania to monitor the distribution. The Romanian authorities have already given the Commission every assurance that the supplies will be distributed fairly, to the benefit of the Romanian population.

The Commission has asked the Romanian authorities to sell the food supplies provided by the Community on the market at prevailing market prices. These prices remain low in Romania at present as the authorities are continuing to subsidise the most essential food stuffs to ensure that they are available to all. The proceeds or the sales will, at the Commission's request, be put into a special bank account. The Commission and the Romanian authorities are now considering possible uses for this money.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 592/90
by Mr Ian White (S)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(16 March 1990)
(90/C 246/36)

Subject: St Helena

Has EEC money ever been available for any purpose for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Atlantic island of St Helena?

Has any application ever been made for help or assistance, direct or indirect, financial or otherwise, for or on behalf of St Helena?

Answer given by Mr Marin on behalf of the Commission (2 May 1990)

A financing proposal for the improvement of sea defences in St James' and Rupert's Bays on the island of St Helena will shortly be presented to the Commission.

The project, which is to be carried out in response to a request of October 1986 from the St Helena Government, will protect infrastructure vital to the preservation of shore facilities and the well-being of the island's population. It will absorb remaining balances of approximately ECU 2.7 million under the 4th, 5th and 6th EDFs (European Development Fund).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 602/90
by Mr Yves Verwaerde and Mr Jean-Pierre Raffarin (LDR)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(20 March 1990)
(90/C 246/37)

Subject: Cooperation with Mediterranean third countries

Can the Commission provide an update on the state of the Community's relations with Mediterranean third countries, particularly as regards the volume of foreign investment in the food self-sufficiency sector?

Answer given by Mr Matutes on behalf of the Commission (22 May 1990)

Financial protocols have been signed with Mediterranean non-member countries linked with the Community by
cooperation or association agreements in force for an unlimited period. Financial protocols are valid for five years and may be renewed. It is through these protocols, which often involve budget appropriations and European Investment Bank (EIB) own resources, that the Community contributes to the financing of development projects in the various sectors. The funds provided under the protocols have been increasingly used to help improve food self-sufficiency of non-member countries in the southern and eastern Mediterranean whose need for imported foodstuffs has greatly increased. This is indeed the main priority under the third financial protocols covering the period 1 November 1986—31 October 1991.

Thus, as at 31 December 1989, ECU 983 million of budget appropriations had been committed in total under the three series of financial protocols signed with SEM countries. Of this amount, ECU 323 million (33%) has gone to agriculture. Under the third protocols ECU 276 million have been committed out of a total of ECU 615 million, of which 42% for the agriculture sector.

The EIB’s commitments as at 31 December 1989 totalled ECU 1 306 million and under the three series of financial protocols ECU 205 million (16%) has been allocated to the agricultural sector. Under the third protocols, these figures are ECU 382 million and ECU 108 million (28%) respectively.

The share allocated to the agriculture sector has thus clearly increased.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 605/90
by Mr Yves Verwaerde and Mr Jean-Pierre Raffarin
(LDR)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(20 March 1990)
(90/C 246/38)
Subject: Taxation of road transport

Does a comparative study exist on levels of taxation in the field of road transport in the different Member States of the Community?

If so, what are the findings?

Answer given by Mr Van Miert
on behalf of the Commission
(6 June 1990)

The Honourable Members are asked to refer to the 1986 Commission report (') which analyses taxes specifically relating to transport and was sent to Parliament for its opinion.

(') COM(86) 750 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 639/90
by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (S)
to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community meeting in European Political Cooperation
(20 March 1990)
(90/C 246/39)

Subject: Justice — equal treatment for the Republic of Cyprus

1. The European institutions and, in particular, the European Parliament have expressed their moral support in various ways for the peoples of Eastern, Central and Southern Europe who have risen up to overthrow despotic regimes imposed on them by force,

2. They have given their active support to promote the success of the people’s struggle for freedom, democracy and self-determination,

3. They are making a practical contribution to restoring their battered economies through providing special loans and various other benefits,

4. They have welcomed the demolition of the Berlin Wall, that symbol of a divided city and a divided people.

However, while these laudable actions on the part of the main European institutions mark the end of a long period of violation of individual, social, political and sovereign rights of so many nations, in the Republic of Cyprus — a Member State of the UN — arbitrariness and violence continue to hold sway, flying in the face of the European and international communities’ sense of justice.

Given that all nations have an equal right to self-determination, does the Council not agree that it is time to take up the case of Cyprus? Has the time not come to make firmer demands — instead of mere requests — for an end to the outrages perpetrated by the Turks over the past 16 years? Have matters not reached the point where the European Community can raise its voice and put forward its own proposal for the immediate withdrawal of Turkish troops who are holding 40% of the territory of an independent country under armed occupation and sabotaging inter-communal talks in Cyprus?

Answer
(8 August 1990)

The 12 remain committed to a settlement of the Cyprus question, in accordance with the principles they have repeatedly enunciated, most recently at the special European Council in Dublin on 28 April 1990, where the question of Cyprus, in particular the impasse in the latest round of inter-communal talks, was discussed at the highest level.
On that occasion, the 12 expressed their deep concern at the present situation while at the same time reaffirming their previous declarations and their support for the unity, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Cyprus in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions. They also stressed the need for a prompt resumption of the intercommunal talks on the basis of the mission of good offices of the Secretary General of the United Nations, as was recently reaffirmed by resolution 649/90 of the Security Council.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 652/90
by Mr Jose Valverde Lopez (PPE) to the Commission of the European Communities
(23 March 1990)
(90/C 246/40)

Subject: Technical assistance funded by the ERDF

Article 7 of Regulation (EEC) No 4254/88 (') provides for the financing of technical assistance measures for studies closely related to preparatory, accompanying and assessment measures in respect of operations of the Fund.

What measures have been financed under this provision?

Answer given by Mr Millan on behalf of the Commission
(2 May 1990)

In the course of 1989 — which was when the reform of the Community's structural policies first became operational — the Commission's activities were focused on the preparation and establishment of Community support frameworks for regions whose development is lagging behind (Objective No 1) and for declining industrial regions (Objective No 2).

The financing plans included in the Community support frameworks, more particularly those relating to the regions covered by Objective No 1, allocate substantial amounts for the financing of technical assistance connected with the preparation, implementation and evaluation of measures funded under the Community support frameworks.

Details of these measures, which will be financed i.a. under Article 7 of ERDF Regulation (EEC) No 4254/88, will be made available as and when the structural operations provided for under the Community support frameworks are approved and implemented.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 742/90
by Mr Eugenio Melandri (V) to the Commission of the European Communities
(27 March 1990)
(90/C 246/42)

Subject: State of war in Sudan

The former Prime Minister of Sudan, Sadiq El-Mahdi, is attempting to impose 'Sharia' (Islamic law throughout Sudan, thereby aggravating the internal conflict dividing
the country which the recent military coup of 30 June 1989 did nothing to help to alleviate not even the non-governmental organizations are able to operate in this country any longer as has been shown by the recent decision by 'médecins sans frontières' to suspend their activities in Sudan.

1. Does the Commission intend to take the necessary political and diplomatic steps with a view to mediating between the conflicting parties and opening peace negotiations between John Garang's SPLA and the government forces?

2. Can the Commission say what forms of economic relations and cooperation have been established with Sudan apart from those existing under the Fourth Convention of Lomé?

Answer given by Mr Marin on behalf of the Commission
(18 May 1990)

Since the military coup of 30 June 1989 which brought to power the Revolutionary Command Council led by Brigadier General El Bashir, the Commission has followed closely developments in Sudan. In this context, particular attention has been given within the framework of European Political Cooperation to the situation regarding the conflict in the South, respect for human rights, the introduction of internal reforms and the distribution of humanitarian assistance.

This concern led the Community to issue a statement on 10 November 1989 deploring the resumption of fighting in the South, and the resulting human suffering and loss of life.

The statement made an urgent appeal for an end to the fighting and for the launching of peace negotiations and a process of national reconciliation to lead to a definitive solution to the conflict and to national reconstruction.

A further Community declaration was issued on 20 February 1990, urgently appealing for an end to hostilities and for all necessary steps to be taken promptly to launch the second phase of Operation Lifeline, Sudan.

In this context, the Commission welcomes the recent initiatives of Presidents Mubarak of Egypt and Moubutu of Zaire to bring the two parties to the conflict back to the negotiating table. The Commission stands ready to play a constructive role in the framework of a peace process, if required.

The trade and cooperation relations between Sudan and the European Community are mainly governed by the provisions of the successive Lomé Conventions. Certain areas of cooperation are provided outside the Lomé framework, financed from the Community budget, notably the provision of food aid and assistance to non-governmental organizations. Since 1975, assistance to Sudan from such non-Lomé sources has totalled approximately ECU 140 million. This compares to around ECU 710 million provided within the Lomé framework.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 768/90
by Mr Jacques Vernier (RDE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(29 March 1990)
(90/C 246/43)

Subject: Community employment initiatives in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region

1. Can the Commission given a sector — by sector — estimate of the number of jobs created and/or saved in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais from 1979 to 1989, directly or indirectly as a result of the aid from the various Community funds (ESF, ERDF, EAGGF, etc.) and of the EIB and the ECSC?

2. Can it provide a qualitative and quantitative description of the various initiatives undertaken in this region from 1979 to 1989?

Answer given by Mr Christophersen on behalf of the Commission
(5 July 1990)

In view of the length of its answer, which includes a number of tables, the Commission is sending it direct to the Honourable Member and to Parliament’s Secretariat.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 779/90
by Mr Francesco Speroni (ARC)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(29 March 1990)
(90/C 246/44)

Subject: Motor vehicle licence plates

In view of the plans to introduce uniform characteristics for the identification of motor vehicles within the
Community, does the Commission intend to take steps to persuade Italy to bring licence plates for motor vehicles registered in Rome into line with others, since the lettering on them is different from that used generally for licence plates?

Answer given by Mr Van Miert on behalf of the Commission

(6 June 1990)

As part of its work on the technical characteristics of licence plates, the Commission has agreed with the Member States that the sequence of figures and letters used to identify vehicles would remain the responsibility of the national authorities. They can therefore decide to alter licence plates when they see fit.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 819/90
by Mrs Ana Miranda de Lage and Mr Eusebio Cano Pinto

(5)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 April 1990)

(90/C 246/45)

Subject: Progress and the real needs of East Germany, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania

East Germany, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and Romania have requested to benefit from the 'aid to reform' (FARO programme) offered by the Group of 24 (which has already been granted to Poland and Hungary). The extension of aid to these countries is dependent on the following conditions: the rule of law, respect for human rights, political pluralism (democratization), the holding of free elections before the end of the year and economic liberalization. The Commission of the European Communities (entrusted with the coordination of the work of the Group of 24) has sent a mission to those countries to ascertain what progress has been made and what is needed to carry out the reforms.

Can the Commission say how the reforms are proceeding, what the priorities are and what the opportunities are for offering these countries assistance?

Answer given by Mr Andriessen on behalf of the Commission

(6 June 1990)

The Commission is sending the 'Summary report on Commission information missions to countries eligible for assistance under the Group of 24's coordinated assistance programme' direct to the Honourable Member and Parliament's Secretariat.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 850/90
by Mr Carlos Robles Piquer (PPE)

to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community meeting in European Political Cooperation

(4 April 1990)

(90/C 246/46)

Subject: No lessening of interest by the European Community in Latin America

In recent statements the Spanish Foreign Minister indicated his concern that, as a result of the political changes which have occurred in Eastern Europe, European Community aid for Latin America might be affected by that intended for the European countries involved and stressed that our Community should not abandon its foreign policy because serious problems of all kinds had occurred in neighbouring European countries.

Such statements have given rise to evident concern in both Spain and Latin America, which are afraid that the Community may in fact, for that reason, distance itself further from Latin America.

Do Ministers believe that the concern of their Spanish colleague is justified and do they consider that it is necessary — and that this would be a good opportunity — to devise a Community policy on Latin America which is not at the mercy of fluctuations caused by changes in circumstances whether in Eastern Europe or in any other region of the world?

Answer

(8 August 1990)

The Community and its Member States have repeatedly stressed, in particular at the last meeting of the San José Dialogue on 9 and 10 April, that the intensification of our relations with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe will in no way lessen our commitment to the countries of Latin America.

Tangible evidence of this commitment was provided by the signature of the agreement on the Central America payments system, in the margins of the San José meeting, which should result in EC financial support of ECU 120 million over 30 months to aid the economic and commercial development of the region. Other ambitious programmes are under way concerning both the countries of Central America and those of the Andean Pact. In
addition, the Commission adopted on 14 May a communication to the Council regarding the deepening of cooperation with the developing countries of Latin America and Asia, including assistance to the poorest countries and economic cooperation. Such assistance would be granted in the framework of a substantially increased budgetary allocation. This proposal, which was initially discussed at the Development Council on 29 May 1990, reflects the importance the Community and its Member States attach to their relations with the countries of Latin America.

It is therefore appropriate to await the findings of this study before any decisions are taken on possible Community measures in the field of urban transport.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 855/90
by Mr Joaquín Siso Cruellas (PPE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(9 April 1990)
(90/C 246/47)

Subject: Encouraging the use of public transport in urban areas

The decision of the City Council of Saragossa (Spain) to reduce by ten pesetas the price of a ticket for travel on the city bus service constitutes an altogether revolutionary approach to the problem of promoting the use of public transport at the expense of the private car and hence of relieving traffic congestion.

This measure, coupled with the renovation and modernization of the urban bus fleet, has resulted in an undoubted improvement in the flow of traffic in the Aragonese capital.

In view of the positive results obtained, does the Commission think that it could help solve the problem of urban traffic congestion by promoting a Community campaign to encourage the more frequent use of public transport in towns through the provision of a better service and the charging of more modest fares?

Answer given by Mr Van Miert
on behalf of the Commission
(6 June 1990)

The Commission attaches great importance to public transport and appreciates the particular benefits, economic, social and environmental, that urban public transport can bring. It has commissioned a study to examine the present position as regards urban traffic in general in various community conurbations, and the strategies applied by the public authorities. The study will identify the issues relevant to the Community and indicate possible action at the Community level.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 904/90
by Mr Thomas Megahy (S)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(17 April 1990)
(90/C 246/48)

Subject: Japanese restrictions on trade in leather

Japan currently protects its tanning industry by applying a rate of 60% to most types of dressed leather, with a reduced duty of 20% applied to a very small tariff quota which amounts to only 1—2% of total Japanese production. This high level of protection is totally unjustifiable for an economically successful country such as Japan. Would the Commission indicate in relation to the current GATT negotiations and the ending of the trade agreement with Japan in 1991 whether in accepts the view of the British Leather Confederation (amongst others) that the EC should settle for nothing less than a basic tariff of 10% and abolition of the quota system?

Answer given by Mr Andriessen
on behalf of the Commission
(15 May 1990)

The Commission agrees with the Honourable Member that the present high level of protection for the leather and shoe industry in Japan is not justifiable for an economically successful country such as Japan. It will therefore, both in the GATT Uruguay negotiations and in bilateral talks with Japan, insist on significant market opening for this important sector to the benefit of European industry. The Honourable Member may be assured that the Commission will seek a substantial reduction in Japanese tariffs on leather and shoes, as well as an abolition of the quota system itself.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 950/90
by Mr Heinz Kohler (S)
to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community meeting in European Political Cooperation
(17 April 1990)
(90/C 246/49)

Subject: Restructuring in arms supplies and garrisons

The Vienna negotiations on the reduction of conventional forces will soon be leading to structural changes in the
arms industry and its suppliers. The expected troop reductions will lead to a steady loss of civilian jobs and a fall in demand at military garrisons.

This will also affect the weaker regions of the Community.

Are the ministers responsible in the Member States prepared and able to pass on to the Commission of the European Communities information from the Vienna Negotiations on conventional forces, to enable it to take regional policy measures?

Answer
(8 August 1990)

This question is not dealt with in the EPC framework. However the 12 welcome the progress attained in this negotiation and look forward to its early and successful conclusion.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1134/90
by Mrs Winifred Ewing (ARC)
to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the European Community meeting in European Political Cooperation
(14 May 1990)
(90/C 246/50)

Subject: Growth of anti-semitism in the USSR

Do the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation have information on the rise in the number of attacks on Jewish people in the Soviet Union, particularly in the Azerbaij city of Baku where Moslem revivalism and the pogrom against Armenians have forced Jews to flee? Will they take the earliest opportunity to express their concern about this situation to the Soviet authorities?

Answer
(8 August 1990)

On many occasions, the 12 have welcomed the positive developments in the Soviet Union concerning the exercise of human rights. However, they remain vigilant and avail themselves of suitable opportunities to draw to the attention of the Soviet authorities situations that give rise to concern. The incidents of antisemitism to which the Honourable Member refers do not appear to have been endorsed by the Soviet authorities.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1644/90
by Mr Joachim Dalsass (PPE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(4 July 1990)
(90/C 246/51)

Subject: Italian Presidential Decree No 223 of 30 May 1989, Article 7 (3) — infringement of Community rules on freedom of movement

Article 7 (3) of the Italian Presidential Decree No 223 of 30 May 1989 contains the following provision:

'Foreigners registered with the registration office are obliged to renew annually the declaration of their usual domicile in the municipality and to enclose their residence permit. The registrar shall in any event make the relevant enquiries, take the necessary measures and inform the Prefect thereof.'

In view of the fact that this provision also applies to citizens of Community countries, and is patently inconsistent with the completion of the single market and the existing provisions governing freedom of movement for persons, can the Commission say:

1. whether it knows about Italy's issuing of this provision, which restricts freedom of movement?

2. whether it is not also convinced that this provision contravenes the rules governing the free movement of persons within the Community in so far as it also applies to Community citizens?

3. what steps it intends to take to ensure that freedom of movement for citizens is completely reestablished in Italy?

Answer given by Mr Bangemann
on behalf of the Commission
(3 August 1990)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question No 91/90 by Mrs Larive (i).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1855/90
by Mrs Christine Crawley (S)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(20 July 1990)
(90/C 246/52)

Subject: Ban on political activity

It has recently been announced that one of the results of the UK's Local Government and Housing Bill, enacted last year, is that approximately 32,000 people working within Local Government are now banned from taking part in political activity — at the time when the bill was introduced, it was estimated that the figure would be about 13,000. In the light of the Commission's oft-stated commitment to the safeguarding of individuals' civil liberties across Europe, and in the context of the Commission's welcoming of the burgeoning democracy in Eastern Europe, does the Commission not believe that this represents an unacceptable curtailment of individuals' civil liberties in a country which purports to be among the leaders of the free world? What representations will the Commission make to the UK to press upon them that involvement in bona-fide political activity should be an inviolable right in a free country?

Answer given by Mr Delors on behalf of the Commission
(3 August 1990)

The matter referred to by the Honourable Member does not fall within the jurisdiction of the Community.