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Contents

I *Information*

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Written Questions with answer

No 560/80 by Mr Jürgens to the Commission Subject: Surplus production of apples in the Community (Supplementary answer)	1
No 1361/80 by Mr Fanton to the Commission Subject: Respect for multi-lingualism	1
No 1443/80 by Mrs Buchan to the Commission Subject: Problems of the disabled	2
No 1449/80 by Mr Van Miert to the Council Subject: Combating tax evasion	3
No 1459/80 by Miss Quin to the Commission Subject: EEC decision to put Tylasin antibiotic on free sale food additive list	3
No 1469/80 by Mr Fanton to the Council Subject: Measures to revive the economy	4
No 1520/80 by Mr Antoniozzi to the Council Subject: The disturbing economic situation	4
Joint answer	4
No 1480/80 by Mr Bocklet to the Commission Subject: System of aids for cherry conserves	5
No 1491/80 by Lord O'Hagan to the Commission Subject: The Community legislative process	6
No 1510/80 by Mr Diana to the Commission Subject: Production and consumption of tobacco of Community origin	6

(Continued overleaf)

Contents (continued)

No 1523/80 by Mrs Lizin to the Commission Subject: Setting-up of a data bank in Ispra for incidents occurring in European nuclear power stations	7
No 1528/80 by Mr Seefeld to the Commission Subject: Entry formalities for Community citizens	8
No 1543/80 by Mr Glinne to the Commission Subject: Trade between the Member States of the Community and Chile	9
No 1544/80 by Mr Glinne to the Council Subject: Terrorist attacks in Europe	10
No 1545/80 by Mr Buttafuoco, Mr Almirante, Mr Petronio and Mr Romualdi to the Commission Subject: Effects of Greek accession on the economy of the Italian Mezzogiorno	10
No 1547/80 by Mrs Castellina to the Council Subject: Presentation of the draft budget of the Communities	11
No 1580/80 by Mrs Lizin to the Council Subject: Staff Regulations of officials of the European Communities	11
No 1584/80 by Mr Ansquer to the Commission Subject: Role of micro-chips in economic development in the next 20 years	12
No 1587/80 by Mr Ansquer to the Council Subject: Worker participation	12
No 1591/80 by Mr Ansquer to the Commission Subject: Role of the chemical industry in energy-saving	13
No 1596/80 by Mr Vernimmen to the Commission Subject: The steel crisis plan and its effects on the Flemish steel industry	13
No 1624/80 by Mr Cousté to the Commission Subject: Telematics and micro-electronics in the Community	14
No 1627/80 by Mr Michel to the Council Subject: Conflicting legislation on industrial relations within the Community	15
No 1637/80 by Mr Cousté to the Commission Subject: Implementation of Article 58 of the ECSC Treaty concerning the manifest crisis in the iron and steel sector	15
No 1641/80 by Ms Clwyd to the Commission Subject: Directive concerning the quality of bathing water	15
No 1655/80 by Mr Purvis to the Commission Subject: Radiation protection programme	16
No 1656/80 by Mrs Maij-Weggen to the Commission Subject: Exclusive selling arrangements	16
No 1658/80 by Mrs Maij-Weggen and Mr Verroken to the Commission Subject: Harmonization of diplomas for dispensing chemists	17
No 1661/80 by Mr Seal to the Commission Subject: Textile trade with China	17
No 1670/80 by Mr Seal to the Commission Subject: Trade deficit with China	18
No 1682/80 by Miss Quin to the Commission Subject: The effectiveness of the European Parliament	18

(Continued on inside back cover)

Contents (continued)

No 1696/80 by Mr Lipkowski to the Commission Subject: Means of enforcing compliance with safety and anti-pollution standards by ships flying flags of convenience.....	19
No 1698/80 by Mr Glinne to the Commission Subject: Application of Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty – nuclear power station at Chooz ..	19
No 1699/80 by Mr Cousté to the Commission Subject: Control of measures taken to tackle the state of manifest crisis in the steel industry ...	20
No 1703/80 by Mrs Ewing to the Commission Subject: Harmonization of taxation of sporting activity	20
No 1704/80 by Mrs Ewing to the Commission Subject: Oil pollution:	21
No 1705/80 by Mrs Ewing to the Commission Subject: EEC finance for the repair and reconstruction of existing farm buildings	21
No 1712/80 by Mr Konrad Schön to the Commission Subject: Article 290 of the draft budgets for 1980 and 1981	22
No 1713/80 by Mrs Lizin to the Commission Subject: Information on reactor shutdowns	22
No 1729/80 by Mr Key to the Commission Subject: Road safety of motor cyclists	23
No 1730/80 by Mr Kavanagh to the Commission Subject: Dumping of Polish cables on the Irish market	23
No 1732/80 by Mr Kavanagh to the Commission Subject: Community aid for a zinc smelter project in Ireland	24
No 1737/80 by Mr Van Miert to the Commission Subject: Derogation from the Sixth VAT Directive	24
No 1743/80 by Ms Clwyd to the Commission Subject: Effectiveness of Directive on equal treatment in matters of social security	24
No 1757/80 by Mr Van Miert to the Commission Subject: Trade relations between the European Community and Latin America	25
No 1758/80 by Mr Welsh to the Commission Subject: Customs form C 105 A	25
No 1761/80 by Mr Clinton to the Commission Subject: The variable premium	26
No 1763/80 by Mr Griffiths to the Commission Subject: An alternative energy programme to help developing countries	27
No 1779/80 by Mrs Pruvot to the Commission Subject: Implementation of the Council Directive of 25 July 1977 on the education of children of migrant workers	27
No 1856/80 by Mr Linde to the Commission Subject: Manufacture and sale of war toys	27
No 916/80 by Mr Coppieters to the Commission Subject: Accident at the nuclear waste reprocessing plant at La Hague	28
No 917/80 by Mr Coppieters to the Commission Subject: Accident at the nuclear waste reprocessing plant at La Hague	28
Joint answer given by Mr Brunner on behalf of the Commission	28

I

(Information)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWER

WRITTEN QUESTION No 560/80

by Mr Jürgens

to the Commission of the European Communities

(9 June 1980)

Subject: Surplus production of apples in the Community

1. Does the Commission feel that the inclusion of dessert apples in the system of countervailing duties is still out of the question, and, if so, why?
2. Does the Commission agree that the competitiveness of German fruit growers will be reduced as a result of measures to promote the conversion or replanting of apple orchards in Member States other than the Federal Republic of Germany, and what possibilities does it see for the restoration of equal conditions of competition?
3. What is the Commission's assessment of the danger of non-member countries increasing their sales of dessert apples on the Community market given the failure to conclude voluntary restraint agreements with apple-exporting countries in the southern hemisphere?
4. What steps has the Commission taken to date and what action will it take in future to deal with the problem of surplus apple production in the Community and to prevent a further rise in excess production?

**Supplementary answer by Mr Dalsager
on behalf of the Commission**

(11 February 1981)

As the Commission stated in its reply of 24 September 1980 ⁽¹⁾, it is aware of the effects which the failure to

implement this investment aid measure might have on German producers and has pursued its contacts with the German authorities with the result that the matter is on the point of solution.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1361/80

by Mr Fanton

to the Commission of the European Communities

(27 October 1980)

Subject: Respect for multi-lingualism

At a meeting of the Committee on Energy held at Ispra on 2 and 3 October an information folder was distributed to the participants: the six main documents in the folder were available only in English (apart from one which had been translated into Italian), including the two contributions from the Commissioner responsible for energy matters – the preface to a 62-page brochure entitled 'Joint Research Centre' and an article published in a periodical called 'Science News'.

The embarrassed replies given by those responsible when questioned on this matter were all the less convincing as, during the committee's subsequent visit to the Centre, the participants found that all the explanatory display boards for visitors carried texts in English alone (except for one model of the Super Sara project where the captions had been translated into Italian).

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 275, 23. 10. 1980, p. 7.

It would appear, therefore, that those responsible for the Centre have adopted a systematic approach which is all the more difficult to understand as the majority of visitors are Italian-speaking or of Italian nationality and as, according to information obtained on the spot, all the documents given to them are in English.

We thus have a situation where a European Research Centre, situated in Italy with staff who are mainly Italian-speaking or of Italian nationality, is ignoring without any justification the principles of that minimum of multi-lingualism which should be the norm in the Community.

The Commission cannot regard this situation as acceptable. Instructions must therefore be given as soon as possible to ensure that the principles of multi-lingualism are observed at Ispra as indeed in all institutions of the Community.

Will the Commission indicate the precise nature and contents of the instructions which it must issue on this matter?

**Answer given by Mr Davignon
on behalf of the Commission**

(13 February 1981)

The principles of multi-lingualism are obviously applied in all the activities of the Joint Research Centre, so that there is no need to issue instructions. The centre uses the Community languages in the normal way both in the work of all its establishments (Geel, Ispra, Karlsruhe and Petten) and in its external relations.

However, one particular Community language may be used for practical purposes; thus, the display boards in Ispra may well have been in English in the case in point without this necessarily being the only language used for the purpose.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1443/80

by Mrs Buchan

to the Commission of the European Communities

(27 October 1980)

Subject: Problems of the disabled

The Commission has, for some time, been running a series of study days on the problems of the disabled and

prevention and rehabilitation in the Member States of the Community.

Would the Commission please state:

1. What is the long term objective of these studies?
2. What has so far been produced in terms of information?
3. Whether any action has been taken to improve the situation of the disabled within the Community as a result of the Commission's study days?

Would the Commission further state:

4. In what Member States disability allowances are paid to the disabled as of right and would the Commission please give an approximate (preferably weighted) indication of the basic level of such allowances?
5. In which Member States is blindness considered a major disability?
6. Whether in any Member State a 'blindness allowance' is paid, either instead of or in addition to any disability allowance?

**Answer given by Mr Richard
on behalf of the Commission**

(16 February 1981)

1. The study days held on 11 and 12 February 1980 in Luxembourg had the following immediate objectives:

- to give committees preparing for the International Year in the Member States an opportunity to meet, exchange information and learn of Community activities in line with the objectives of the International Year;
- to provide the Commission with the information it needs to define its own work priorities.

2. An information campaign has been set up with a dual aim: to publicize Community measures and also the difficulties encountered by the disabled. The Community's activities are set out in 'European File', issue 8/80, and 'Euroforum', issue 10/80 (publications of a general nature), and the 2/80 issue of 'Vocational Training', 'Special Education in the European Community' and in 'The use of Technology in the Care of the Elderly and the Disabled' (specialist publications). The difficulties encountered by the disabled have been the subject of an audio-visual survey, begun in 1979, which will continue in 1981: the material compiled so far has been used in the production of a film which is currently being distributed on the educational and commercial circuits.

3. As indicated on 7 July 1980 in its reply to Oral Question H-245/80 by Mr Patterson, the Commission is preparing a statement on this point ⁽¹⁾.

4. In reply to Written Question No 491/78 by Mr Nolan ⁽²⁾, the Commission indicated that it asked Professor Brian Abel-Smith of the London School of Economics to make a study of this subject. The results of this study will shortly be available.

5. The Commission has already provided this information in reply to Written Question No 402/80 by Mr Collins ⁽³⁾.

6. At the present time the Commission is not in a position to carry out the research which would be needed to answer this question.

⁽¹⁾ Debates of the European Parliament, No 1-259 (July 1980), p. 22.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 257, 30. 10. 1978, p. 11.

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 338, 29. 12. 1980, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1449/80

by Mr Van Miert

to the Council of the European Communities

(12 November 1980)

Subject: Combating tax evasion

At its meeting of 19 December 1977, the Council of the European Communities adopted a Directive on mutual assistance between the relevant authorities of the Member States in the field of direct taxation.

This Directive, which is the first multilateral taxation Directive to be adopted by the Community, came into force on 1 January 1979. How does the Council assess the results, if any, achieved under this Directive as at 1 July 1980?

Does the Council not agree that the restrictions contained in this Directive, relating both to the fiscal sovereignty of the Member States and to secrecy, are unlikely to increase the scope and effectiveness of this Directive?

Does the Council not think that, in view of the considerable economic and financial difficulties confronting the Community, a considerably greater effort should be made to combat tax evasion on a multilateral basis?

Answer

(17 February 1981)

The Council has no information on the results achieved as at 1 July 1980 under the Directive referred to by the Honourable Member.

The provisions contained in the Directive regarding secrecy and restrictions on exchange of information are designed to ensure that information is used for tax purposes only and in compliance with the rights of citizens and undertakings.

Finally, as indeed it has stated on a number of occasions ⁽¹⁾, the Council shares the Honourable Member's opinion that a greater effort should be made to combat international tax evasion and avoidance.

⁽¹⁾ See in particular the replies to Written Questions No 386/79 (OJ No C 7, 9. 1. 1980, p. 6) and No 84/80 (OJ No C 251, 29. 9. 1980, p. 1).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1459/80

by Miss Quin

to the Commission of the European Communities

(12 November 1980)

Subject: EEC decision to put Tylasin antibiotic on free sale food additive list

1. Why has the EEC taken this decision?
2. What studies were made on the implications for encouraging resistant salmonella strains?
3. What was the consultation procedure, and what were the comments made by those consulted?

Answer given by Mr Dalsager on behalf of the Commission

(16 February 1981)

1. In 1978 the Commission authorized the use of tylosine in the Community as an additive in feedingstuffs for pigs and piglets, subject to specific conditions, on the grounds that the product met the requirements laid down

in Council Directive 70/524/EEC of 23 November 1970 on additives in feedingstuffs ⁽¹⁾. The product had already been authorized in several Member States since 1974.

2. The capacity of tylosine to induce resistance in salmonellae and the effects of a tylosine-supplemented diet on fecal elimination of salmonellae have been studied in chickens and pigs. No increase was noted in the resistance of salmonellae to the studied antibiotics and no significant influence was observed on the rate or duration of fecal elimination of salmonellae^(2, 3, 4).

The development of resistance to antibiotics in salmonellae has been the subject of numerous investigations and epidemiological surveys. Although there seem to be quite a large number of causative factors, there is no evidence that the use of tylosine or other macrolide antibiotics and related products authorized in feedingstuffs in the Community is to blame.

3. The Commission consulted the Scientific Committee for Animal Nutrition on the potential hazards of using macrolide antibiotics and related products in feedingstuffs. The consultation was extended by the circulation of a questionnaire prepared by the Committee to 25 European specialists in bacteriology, microbiology, pharmacology and epidemiology. On the strength of their conclusions the Committee issued a favourable opinion on 8 December 1977 on the use of tylosine and two other antibiotics in the group of macrolides and related products in feedingstuffs, and recommended further research into the development of resistant bacterial strains ⁽⁵⁾.

On the basis of this opinion and of the views of the government experts of the Member States responsible for studying the tylosine file, the Commission submitted draft measures laying down the conditions of use of tylosine to the Standing Committee for Feedingstuffs, in accordance with the procedure laid down in Council Directive 70/524/EEC ⁽⁶⁾. The draft text was endorsed by the Standing Committee on 20 October 1978 and was approved by the Commission on 16 November 1978.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 274, 14. 12. 1979, p. 1.

⁽²⁾ Ridgway F. and Ryden R. (1966), J. Comp. Path. 76, pp. 23-30.

⁽³⁾ Smith H. W. and Tucker J. F. (1975), J. Hyg. Camb. 75, pp. 293-301.

⁽⁴⁾ Bowen R. E. and Bennett T. H., unpublished data, Lilly Research Laboratories.

⁽⁵⁾ Report by the Scientific Committee for Animal Nutrition on the use of macrolides and related products in feedingstuffs. Report of the Scientific Committee for Animal Nutrition, First Series (1979), Official Publications Office of the European Communities, Luxembourg, Catalogue No CB-28-79-277.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ No L 270, 14. 12. 1970, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1469/80
by Mr Fanton
to the Council of the European Communities
(12 November 1980)

Subject: Measures to revive the economy

The Economic Policy Committee having noted a downward trend in industrial output during the second quarter of this year, does the Council envisage a revival of both investment and consumption?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1520/80
by Mr Antoniazzi
to the Council of the European Communities
(17 November 1980)

Subject: The disturbing economic situation

In their annual report for 1980, the Governors of the International Monetary Fund paint a bleak picture of the situation in 1979 and in the first months of 1980.

Given that there exist many sources of tension and instability owing to the high rates of inflation, to the increasing current-account imbalances in certain countries (especially the developing countries) and to the soaring rises in the cost of energy, can the Council indicate what measures it intends to take in order not to passively submit to a downward trend whose consequences are likely to worsen the already unstable situation?

Joint answer
(17 February 1981)

In December 1980 the Council adopted the annual report on the economic situation in the Community and set the economic policy guidelines for each Member State in 1981.

The Council took its decision on the basis of the Commission proposal, on which the European Parliament delivered its opinion.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1480/80**by Mr Bocklet****to the Commission of the European Communities***(12 November 1980)**Subject: System of aids for cherry conserves*

The system of aids for the production of cherry conserves, implemented for the first time in 1980, has caused considerable disturbance to the market in the Federal Republic of Germany. Would the Commission state what it intends to do to remedy the shortcomings in this system?

1. The limitation of aids to cherries conserved in syrup is detrimental to all other products produced from cherries. Is the Commission prepared to extend the provisions of the system to include other cherry products?
2. Owing to the disparities in 'green' exchange rates, the minimum prices for contractual sales of cherries calculated in EUA vary greatly when converted into national currency. Does the Commission consider it possible to extend the system of compensatory amounts to include cherries?
3. The limitation of processing aids to specific quantities of products inevitably places a heavy burden on the market for fresh cherries. Is the Commission prepared to include cherries in the intervention scheme for fruit and vegetables in order to stabilize prices?
4. Quality requirements and inspection revealed the existence of considerable differences from one Member State to another. Will the Commission issue quality standards for products made from cherries in order to establish minimum requirements for the marketing of cherry conserves in the Community?
5. Community preference is inadequately safeguarded in the case of cherries. Is the Commission prepared to extend the reference price system to include imported cherries intended for processing?
6. In view of the difficulty posed by improving the system of aids, does the Commission not feel that it would be appropriate to abolish this aid scheme completely in order to eliminate at least those distortions of competition which arise automatically from its implementation?

**Answer given by Mr Dalsager
on behalf of the Commission**

(9 February 1981)

1. The processing aid in question has been restricted to cherries preserved in syrup. Other processed cherry

products represent a different market from cherries in syrup and their sales are not handicapped in the Community by imports of products originating in non-member countries.

There is a system of export refunds for sulphurized cherries and candied bigaroon cherries.

2. The provisions of Article 1 (2) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 974/71 of 12 May 1971 ⁽¹⁾ on certain measures of conjunctural policy to be taken in agriculture following the temporary widening of the margins of fluctuation for the currencies of certain Member States, have the effect of excluding cherries from the system of monetary compensatory amounts, MCAs apply only to products covered by intervention arrangements, and there is no intervention system for cherries.

3. The Commission is not considering including cherries in the intervention system for fruit and vegetables.

4. The Commission currently has no plans to embark on this task.

5. If prices of cherries entering the Community from non-member countries remain below the reference price on two successive working days, the Commission introduces a compensatory levy on all cherries imported from the country in question regardless of the purpose for which they are being imported.

6. Aid was first granted for cherries in syrup in 1980. It is therefore not possible yet to evaluate the direct and indirect impact. The Commission is, however, checking to see that the system is working properly and will not hesitate to make any adjustments which prove necessary. It would also like to draw the Honourable Member's attention to a report which is to be sent to the Council before October 1982 so that the Council can ascertain whether the system is operating effectively and decide on the policy to be pursued in the matter of aids.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 106, 12. 5. 1971, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1491/80**by Lord O'Hagan****to the Commission of the European Communities***(12 November 1980)**Subject: The Community legislative process*

Since draft legislation in Britain is published by the Government, and normally passes into law within a year,

most people in Britain believe that any proposal published by the Commission is about to become law.

1. Is this true? What is the average length of time that a draft proposal or Regulation takes before it is finally agreed?
2. What opportunities are available to individuals and organizations to give their views to the Commission:
 - (a) before publication of draft legislation?
 - (b) after?
3. How long does a piece of draft legislation take on average to pass through the European Parliament?
4. How long does a piece of draft legislation take on average to pass through the working groups of the Council of Ministers before it reaches a final decision?

**Answer given by Mr Thorn
on behalf of the Commission**
(12 February 1981)

1 and 4. It is true that, except in a limited number of cases, the Council can take a decision only on a proposal from the Commission. This does not mean that such proposals will automatically be adopted as they stand on the expiry of a given period. To begin with, as a general rule, they are submitted to the European Parliament for its opinion, as a result of which the Commission may amend or, if necessary, withdraw them; subsequently, they are examined by the Council which may amend them provided there is unanimity. The duration of these procedures – which may be very short or, in certain cases, take some years – depends largely on the nature of the proposals in question.

In the case of proposals which are concerned simply with management or the implementation of secondary legislation, the average length of time is very short (approximately one to two months). As far as other proposals are concerned, calculation of the average length of time would be relatively meaningless in view of the extremely wide divergences that exist.

2. (a) In drawing up its proposals and, in particular, when laying down policy guidelines, the Commission enters into very wide-ranging consultations, seeking among others the opinions of trade associations and trade union organizations.

(b) Proposals on which Parliament must deliver an opinion are regularly published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*. Citizens and organizations therefore have an opportunity to acquaint themselves with them and to put forward their own points of view, either through their representatives in the European Parliament or in the Economic and Social Committee, or by approaching the Commission directly. The Commission examines all observations communicated to it regarding proposals which it has submitted to the Council.

3. The Honourable Member is advised to address his enquiry to the Secretariat of the European Parliament.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1510/80
by Mr Diana
to the Commission of the European Communities
(12 November 1980)

Subject: Production and consumption of tobacco of Community origin

According to figures circulating during the 17th Congress of the International Tobacco Growers Union (UNITAB) held on 8 to 13 September 1980, between 1977 and 1979 the developing countries' share of world tobacco production rose from 44.73 to 52.17% with a reasonable prospect of further growth, whilst the industrialized countries' share fell over this three-year period from 38.7 to 32.57%.

Will the Commission state what action it intends to take, giving due consideration to the developing countries' problems, in order to:

- reach a more satisfactory balance between trade policy and agricultural policy in the tobacco sector;
- achieve greater respect for Community preference in the marketing and utilization of tobacco products in the EEC;
- have new measures adopted to bring the support policies back into balance;
- set up interprofessional bodies to oversee the maintenance and necessary development of tobacco growing within the Community?

**Answer given by Mr Dalsager
on behalf of the Commission**

(16 February 1981)

1. The Commission has already taken steps to balance the requirements of agricultural policy against the problems of the developing countries. Every year when the rates for the generalized preferences are fixed the Commission undertakes to take account of the concessions granted under that system when it calculates the amount of the premiums provided for under the organization of the market in raw tobacco to encourage sales of Community tobacco. It will also shortly adopt new measures for the monitoring of imports from the ACP states while, of course, taking account of the preferential trade arrangements agreed for Zimbabwe for an interim period pending Zimbabwe's accession to the second Lomé Convention.

2. Sales of Community tobacco varieties are encouraged by the premium which represents the difference between cost prices for one Community variety and world prices for a comparable variety, including customs duty. Therefore any reduction in the common customs tariff generally results in an increase in the premium. The premium consists of a fixed amount corresponding to the Community preference. The premium is therefore, a vital factor in the guidance of production towards varieties for which there is the greatest market demand. The special feature of the Community and international market in tobacco is the specificity of manufacturers' requirements which is not only a matter of the different varieties (flue-cured, air-cured, fire-cured etc.) but also of the intrinsic characteristics of these varieties (neutral reaction tobacco, aromatic tobacco, nicotine and/tar content etc.). This explains the fact that the Community, although it has a quantitative deficit, actually exports or indeed has a surplus in certain varieties and/or qualities.

Since the degree of utilization of Community tobaccos is a consequence of this special feature, it cannot depend exclusively on compliance with Community preference which has in any case been guaranteed. For the varieties which are most representative of Community production (Paraguay and Burley I), the premiums were increased between 1970 and 1980 by a percentage (+ 146 % for Paraguay and + 151 % for Burley) considerably higher than the increase in prices on the world market for competing varieties, which was about 5 % per year).

3. The Commission is uncertain how it is to interpret the request to 'bring the support policies back into balance'. In the tobacco sector the support policy has not been based only on a premium (to encourage sales of tobacco) but also on a guarantee that the intervention agencies will buy-in both leaf and baled tobacco.

4. It has always been the Commission's aim to encourage contractual production in the raw tobacco

sector (already provided for in the basic Regulation). To that end a Community outline contract has been defined for cultivation contracts between planters and buyers and a financial incentive for using them provided. The Commission considers that the strengthening of this contract system will be a decisive contribution towards solving the problems raised by the Honourable Member, and in particular that of encouraging Community tobacco production to develop along lines which correspond with actual market requirements.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1523/80

by Mrs Lizin

to the Commission of the European Communities

(17 November 1980)

Subject: Setting-up of a data bank in Ispra for incidents occurring in European nuclear power stations

In the vote on the JRC multi-annual programme in March 1980, the Council approved the installation of a data bank, one of whose four functions would be to collect information on incidents (and/or accidents) occurring in the European Community's nuclear power stations.

This is an important objective and would satisfy public concern over safety by putting an end to the operating companies' reticence and refusal to provide information.

Can the Commission say:

- by what means the various Member States currently provide the information requested,
- whether the concept of industrial secrecy in certain Member States, in particular Belgium and Germany, is an insurmountable obstacle as regards the use, even internally, of this information, and its external communication,
- whether it intends to draw up a regulation to harmonize the legislation of the Member States compelling them to provide data and amend the restrictions in their legislation or internal administrative practices,
- what short-term measures it intends to take to compel the two Member States in question to provide information for the data bank?

**Answer given by Mr Burke
on behalf of the Commission**

(9 February 1981)

After completing the feasibility study on a European reliability data bank, the Commission – in the context of the 1980 to 1983 multiannual research programme of the Joint Research Centre – initiated work on setting up this bank. The Commission shares the Honourable Member's views on the importance and usefulness of creating such a system.

The difficulties encountered in the setting-up of this research-oriented bank are not so much associated with industrial secrecy as with identification of the sources of information, which vary according to the type of internal organization in the Member States, with the definition of the data transfer methods and, in particular, with the establishment of unified formats for the reports on incidents, such formats being necessary for the rational computer storage of the data transmitted. The JRC has gradually established contacts along these lines with the Member States. The results obtained so far are as follows: the JRC regularly receives information from France and Italy; contacts with Belgium, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom have reached an extremely advanced stage; and such contacts have been established with the Federal Republic of Germany. The Commission would further point out that at European level the JRC is also receiving data from Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

In this context, attention should also be drawn to the fact that Article 45 (5) of the Council Directive of 15 July 1980 amending the Directives laying down the basic safety standards for the health protection of the general public and workers against the dangers of ionizing radiation stipulates that: 'Any accident involving exposure of the population must be notified as a matter of urgency, when the circumstances so require, to neighbouring Member States and to the Commission'.

As regards the possible preparation of a regulatory instrument, discussions are being conducted to explore ways and means of setting up a standardized system for the rapid transmission of information on abnormal occurrences liable to affect nuclear installations.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1528/80

by Mrs Seefeld

to the Commission of the European Communities

(17 November 1980)

Subject: Entry formalities for Community citizens

1. Is the Commission aware that passengers landing at Italian airports are still required to fill out and hand in a disembarkation card ('carta di sbarco')?
2. Can the Commission state why Italy, which is a Member State, applies these entry formalities to Community citizens and whether this practice is in keeping with the passport union provided for in the final communiqué of the Paris summit conference of 9 and 10 December 1974?
3. What approaches, if any, has the Commission made to the Italian government in recent years to have the entry card abolished and what response has it received?

**Answer given by Mr Narjes
on behalf of the Commission**

(11 February 1981)

1. Yes.
2. Border officials are entitled in principle to take note of personal particulars contained in passports or identity cards. In order to save time on entry formalities certain countries, including Italy, ask travellers to fill in disembarkation cards. This practice, now applied by only one Member State other than Italy, is objectionable when applied to Community citizens. The only papers which may be demanded for entry purposes are specified in Article 3 (to be read in conjunction with Article 1) of Council Directive 68/360/EEC of 15 October 1968 on the abolition of restrictions on movement and residence for workers of Member States and their families ⁽¹⁾ and in Article 3 (1) (to be read in conjunction with Article 1) of the corresponding Council Directive 73/148/EEC of 21 May 1973 ⁽²⁾ for self-employed nationals of Member States. These Directives entitle the persons referred to above to enter another Member State simply on production of a valid identity card or passport. No further entry formality is permissible. This was clearly reaffirmed by the Court of Justice in its judgment of 3 July 1980 in Case 157/79 (Pieck). Border officials may be

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 257, 19. 10. 1968, p. 13.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 172, 28. 6. 1973, p. 14.

entitled to take down personal particulars but the filling in of a disembarkation card is tantamount to a further entry formality, since anyone refusing to comply will obviously be denied access.

3. As the filling in of disembarkation cards by citizens of the Member States runs counter to the spirit of the Treaties this formality has been discontinued by two Member States within the past year.

The Commission will urge Italy and the other Member State concerned to do likewise.

1. The volume, value and nature (imports and exports) of trade between the Member States and Chile for the Community as a whole and in respect of each individual Member State for the reference years 1972, 1974, 1976, 1978 and 1979?
2. The sums granted to Chile by the official credit organizations of the Member States of the Community for the reference years 1972, 1974, 1976, 1978 and 1979?

**Answer given by Mr Haferkamp
on behalf of the Commission**

(16 February 1981)

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1543/80

by Mr Glinne

to the Commission of the European Communities

(20 November 1980)

Subject: Trade between the Member States of the Community and Chile

Can the Commission provide the following information:

1. The Honourable Member will find set out in the tables below the figures (value) for the EEC's (9) exports to and imports from Chile for 1972, 1974, 1976, 1978 and 1979 and the Member States' trade with Chile for 1976, 1978 and 1979.

A table showing the structure of trade between the EEC (9) and Chile (imports and exports for 1975 to 1979) is being sent direct to the Honourable Member and to the Secretariat of the Parliament.

2. The Commission does not have all the figures for bilateral funds granted by Member States of the Community to Chile.

TABLE I

Trade between the EEC (9) and Chile

(Value: USD million)

	1972	1974	1976	1978	1979
EEC exports	292	337	251	444	684
EEC imports	405	798	770	932	1 486
EEC balance	- 113	- 461	- 519	- 488	- 802

TABLE II

Trade between EEC Member States and Chile

(Value: USD million)

	Exports			Imports		
	1976	1978	1979	1976	1978	1979
France	62	75	148	109	90	166
Germany	86	192	268	301	389	558
Italy	15	37	74	96	162	222
United Kingdom	65	72	97	145	158	279
BLEU	10	36	41	69	91	175
Netherlands	9	19	38	45	36	80
Denmark	5	12	13	6	4	7
Ireland	—	1	4	1	1	—

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1544/80

by Mr Glinne

to the Council of the European Communities

(20 November 1980)

Subject: Terrorist attacks in Europe

On 17 October 1980 the European Parliament adopted a resolution on terrorist attacks in Europe ⁽¹⁾, paragraph 2 of which 'Urges that legislators and the competent authorities should devote particular attention to the danger of a resurgence of fascism, racism, xenophobia and antisemitism.'

In reply to my Written Question No 285/80 ⁽²⁾ on the need for a Community initiative to secure the introduction by all the Community Member States of legal penalties for acts inspired by racialism, antisemitism or xenophobia in line with their international obligations, the Council stressed that 'the question . . . falls within the realms of the public policy of the Member States and is outside the jurisdiction of the Community, unless there are any effects on freedom of movement, in particular as regards workers'.

Does the Council not consider that it should review its position in the light of recent events and the resolution adopted unanimously by the European Parliament?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 291, 10. 11. 1980, p. 91.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 206, 11. 8. 1980, p. 14.

Answer

(17 February 1981)

The Council, which is acquainted with the resolution of the European Parliament of 17 October 1980 on terrorist attacks in Europe ⁽¹⁾, has noted that under paragraph 1 thereof it is Governments of the Member States which are requested to implement effective measures to coordinate the campaign against terrorism.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 291, 10. 11. 1980, p. 91.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1545/80

by Mr Buttafuoco, Mr Almirante, Mr Petronio and Mr Romualdi

to the Commission of the European Communities

(20 November 1980)

Subject: Effects of Greek accession on the economy of the Italian Mezzogiorno

The imminent accession of Greece to the European Community will have adverse effects on the economy of the Italian Mezzogiorno given the similarity of the two countries' produce.

What practical steps have been or will be taken at Community level to offset these adverse effects, particularly as regards the production of citrus fruits, olive oil and table wine and grapes?

**Answer given by Mr Dalsager
on behalf of the Commission**

(11 February 1981)

Over a recent period the Commission has proposed and the Council decided a number of important measures to assist the economy of the Mezzogiorno and to improve producers' revenues and the marketing prospects. In particular, a Community-financed consumption aid has been introduced in the olive oil regime in order to maintain the volume of consumption. Major changes have been made in the support system for wine, which are based on the need to encourage those areas 'à vocation viticole'. In addition to structural measures, a penetration premium to aid the marketing of certain citrus fruit in other Member States is in effect. A major scheme of Community-financed aid for the processing of fruit and vegetables, such as tomatoes, peaches and pears has been introduced.

The terms of Greek accession to the Community were negotiated and established in the Treaty of Accession signed on 28 May 1979. This involves, where appropriate, transitional measures for aligning prices in Greece and those in the present Community over the transitional period. The detailed proposals on prices and aids in Greece submitted by the Commission to the Council were adopted on 1 January 1981.

Answer

(17 February 1981)

1. The preliminary draft budget which the Commission places before the Council and which it forwards at the same time to the European Parliament (Article 12 (1) second paragraph of the Financial Regulation of 21 December 1977 applicable to the general budget of the European Communities) ⁽¹⁾ is circulated to all the members of that institution. The European Parliament thus has at its disposal the information contained in the preliminary draft in exercising the budgetary powers conferred upon it by the Treaties. Furthermore, when it establishes the draft budget, the Council complies with Article 16 of the Financial Regulation ⁽²⁾ and, when it forwards the draft budget to the European Parliament, it attaches 'to that draft budget an explanatory memorandum defining in particular its reasons for departing from the preliminary draft budget, if it has done so' (second sentence of Article 13 (1) second subparagraph of the Financial Regulation ⁽³⁾).

2. The Council is prepared to examine this suggestion in the context of the revision of the Financial Regulation to take place shortly, on the basis of a proposal from the Commission.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 356, 31. 12. 1977, p. 6.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 356, 31. 12. 1977, pp. 7 to 8.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 356, 31. 12. 1977, p. 7.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1547/80

by Mrs Castellina

to the Council of the European Communities

(20 November 1980)

Subject: Presentation of the draft budget of the Communities

Is there a reason why the Council, in publishing the draft general budget of the European Communities, omits the proposals made by the European Commission in the preliminary draft budget it submitted to the Council?

Does the Council agree that to include a column with the Commission's figures would contribute to the transparency of the budget procedure, and thus to greater public understanding and more effective democratic control?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1580/80

by Mrs Lizin

to the Council of the European Communities

(21 November 1980)

Subject: Staff Regulations of officials of the European Communities

1. Can the Council provide an assurance that the provision of the Staff Regulations (Annex II, Article 1, sixth indent), which states that 'The duties undertaken by members of the Staff Committee and by officials appointed by the Committee to organs set up under the Staff Regulations or by the institution shall be deemed to be part of their normal service in their institution. The fact of performing such duties shall in no way be prejudicial to the person concerned' is genuinely observed in practice?

2. Has the Council adopted implementing provisions or rules, or *ad hoc* procedures designed to ensure

observance of this provision of the Staff Regulations, notably as regards the assessment and career of the officials and other servants concerned and, if so, what are they?

3. Has the Council been informed of any cases where the application of the aforementioned provision has given rise to difficulty? In particular, has the Commission any knowledge of situations where officials or other servants of the Commission have been asked, either directly or indirectly, to choose between performing duties within their department and holding an office as staff representative?

4. What would be the Council's attitude to any such cases as those outlined above?

5. Is the Council aware that the holding of office as staff representative either full-time or part-time, in joint or other bodies, constitutes a form of the very mobility which the Council itself has been advocating?

Answer

(17 February 1981)

1. The authorities of the institutions of the European Communities must comply with the provisions of Annex II, Article 1, sixth indent, as with all the other provisions of the Staff Regulations.

2. The Council has not adopted any implementing provisions for the provisions referred to above; no need has yet appeared for such provisions.

3. No.

4. The Council's attitude would depend on the nature of the situation brought to its attention.

5. The holding of office as staff representative can be considered as contributing to staff mobility.

In the Commission's view, what role will be played by micro-chips in the economic development in the next 20 years, both in Europe and in the Third World?

Does it agree with the view expressed by some writers that micro-chips will enable the developing countries to leap ahead to a more advanced stage of development in the near future?

**Answer given by Mr Davignon
on behalf of the Commission**

(16 February 1981)

Microprocessors represent just one particular class of products which result from the application of microelectronic technology. Whether this particular product is going to have a major influence on economic development in the long term is disputable.

The technology which underlies microelectronic products, on the contrary, is certainly expected to heavily influence the rate and orientation of economic development, through its innumerable possible applications in practically all economic sectors from agriculture to the tertiary.

It is in the light of this that the Commission has prepared and submitted to the Council on 4 September 1980 the proposal for actions in the field of microelectronic technologies ⁽¹⁾.

Microelectronics will certainly allow or facilitate some new developments in the third world. But, given that most of the population of the developing countries still belong to the rural subsistence sector, it would be exaggerated to conclude without nuances that micro-chips are a panacea for all developing countries in all circumstances.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. COM(80) 421.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1584/80

by Mr Ansquer

to the Commission of the European Communities

(21 November 1980)

Subject: Role of micro-chips in economic development in the next 20 years

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1587/80

by Mr Ansquer

to the Council of the European Communities

(21 November 1980)

Subject: Worker participation

When does the Council intend to adopt the Directive on worker participation?

Answer*(17 February 1981)*

The Council is not able to indicate at what date the fifth company law Directive on the structure of public limited liability companies and the powers and obligations of their organs might be adopted particularly since the European Parliament, which was consulted on the Commission proposal, has not yet given its opinion.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1591/80**by Mr Ansquer****to the Commission of the European Communities***(21 November 1980)*

Subject: Role of the chemical industry in energy-saving

How does the Commission intend orienting the European chemical industry towards making an appropriate contribution to energy-saving, particularly in connection with the car industry?

**Answer given by Mr Davignon
on behalf of the Commission**

(13 February 1981)

The chemical industry has already made a number of changes with energy-saving in mind. The chemical industry and the car industry are carrying out an intensive research programme aimed at promoting wider use of plastics in car construction.

It is not the responsibility of the Commission to lay down specific measures in this case. Its function is rather to provide encouragement and support, notably in the form of research and development programmes and demonstration projects.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1596/80**by Mr Vernimmen****to the Commission of the European Communities***(25 November 1980)*

Subject: The steel crisis plan and its effects on the Flemish steel industry

The world steel crisis has of course had repercussions on the European steel industry. The Commission has drawn up a crisis plan, which has been adopted by the Council of Ministers, but this does not mean that the problems will now solve themselves.

The steel industry in the European Community ought, during this period, to be equipping itself for the future. It ought not, because of the crisis plan, be content simply to bide its time until the economic situation becomes better. Work must go ahead to prepare the future of European steel, since ultramodern steelworks are being built elsewhere in the world incorporating a higher level of technology and increasing the capacity of the steel sector.

1. Can the Commission state what effect the Davignon crisis plan will have on the Sidmar steel works in Flanders?
2. What does the Commission intend to do meanwhile to safeguard the future of the European steel sector?
3. Does not the Commission believe that, partly in order to safeguard the future of European steel, measures to boost a stronger qualitative growth are needed in other social and economic sectors? What practical action is the Commission taking on this?

**Answer given by Mr Davignon
on behalf of the Commission**

(12 February 1981)

With almost all Community steel firms unable to cover fully their variable costs and with their losses greater than depreciation costs, the Commission decided, having obtained the Council's assent and having consulted the ECSC Consultative Committee, to introduce a system of production quotas.

These quotas are determined on the basis of a reference production figure reflecting the actual technical structure of the production equipment as well as demand structure, to both of which are applied reduction rates which apply uniformly to all firms.

In view of the equitable and non-discriminatory nature of this system, its effects on Sidmar should not be different from those experienced by the other steel firms in the Community, i.e. the provision of a more stable market.

After 30 June 1981, when the production quota system will end, the Commission will try to keep the market stable, so as to enable firms to continue as usual with restructuring plans, notably by reverting to voluntary delivery programmes.

- three draft Council recommendations to the Member States relating to:
 - the implementation of the harmonization of the new services which are to be set up by the telecommunications administrations;
 - the establishment of a Community market in terminals for these new services;
 - the initial phase in the extension of the right to tender for public telecommunications contracts ⁽²⁾,
- the first report in the field of new information technologies and the course of action which it intends developing in the future in regard to the main objectives which it specified in its communication COM(79)650 final to the European Council held in Dublin ⁽³⁾.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1624/80

by Mr Cousté

to the Commission of the European Communities

(25 November 1980)

Subject: Telematics and micro-electronics in the Community

Can the Commission state what progress has been made in the field of telematics and micro-electronics as a result of the European Council held in Dublin in November 1979 and the work carried out by experts in conjunction with the post and telecommunications authorities of the various countries of the Community and indicate the proposals which it has made in this field? Which Member States have already applied for Community aid in respect of projects and how have these applications been treated?

**Answer given by Mr Davignon
on behalf of the Commission**

(16 February 1981)

The Commission forwarded to the Council on 4 September 1980:

- a proposal for a Regulation concerning Community actions in the field of microelectronics technology ⁽¹⁾,

The proposals are the culmination of discussions held in recent years with all circles concerned at the level of industries, national administrations and national, European and international organizations in the telecommunications field.

The opinions of Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee on the abovementioned proposals are being formulated.

The Commission would remind the Honourable Member on this occasion of the high priority which it attaches to these proposals and of the fact that the rapidity of the Council's decisions mainly depends on the promptness with which it receives Parliament's opinions.

The Commission would also point out to the Honourable Member that, in response to the call for proposals which it issued in February 1980 ⁽⁴⁾ in connection with the Community multiannual programme in the field of data processing adopted by the Council in September 1979 ⁽⁵⁾, it received 65 proposals from consortia in which all the Community countries were represented. It has chosen 14 of these proposals in accordance with the programme criteria and is on the point of initiating the projects adopted.

⁽²⁾ COM(80) 422 final.

⁽³⁾ COM(80) 513 final.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ No C 46, 23. 2. 1980, p. 2.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ No L 231, 11. 9. 1979, p. 23.

⁽¹⁾ COM(80) 421 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1627/80**by Mr Michel****to the Council of the European Communities***(25 November 1980)*

Subject: Conflicting legislation on industrial relations within the Community

On 23 March 1972 the Commission forwarded to the Council a proposal for a Regulation containing provisions relating to conflicting legislation on industrial relations within the Community. The Economic and Social Committee delivered its unanimous decision on 30 November on the basis of a report by the chairman of the Confederation of Christian Trade Unions, Mr J. Houthuys.

Could the Council explain why, despite a modification proposed in 1976, it was unable to adopt this proposal, which had received the unanimous support of European employers and trade unions?

Answer*(17 February 1981)*

The Commission submitted its amended proposal for a Regulation to the Council in May 1976. The Council worked on the proposal until 1977, at which time proceedings were suspended.

It had in fact emerged during the work being carried out during that period on the Convention on the law applicable to contractual obligations that it was advisable to await completion of the discussions on this Convention, which concerns all contractual obligations including those relating to contracts of employment. Those discussions were duly completed and the Convention ⁽¹⁾ was opened for signature in Rome on 19 June 1980. Most of the Member States have already signed it. Since the Convention contains provisions which apply to employment relationships, the question arises of whether the Commission's proposal for a Regulation on conflicts of laws on employment relationships has become irrelevant or whether discussions on it should be resumed. This question will shortly be examined at the Council and the Commission will subsequently inform the Council of its position regarding the proposal.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 266, 9. 10. 1980.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1637/80**by Mr Cousté****to the Commission of the European Communities***(1 December 1980)*

Subject: Implementation of Article 58 of the ECSC Treaty concerning the manifest crisis in the iron and steel sector.

Now that a state of manifest crisis has been established in the iron and steel sector, does the Commission really have at its disposal the proper means to monitor the strict application of production quotas in each undertaking?

**Answer given by Mr Davignon
on behalf of the Commission***(11 February 1981)*

The Commission does have at its disposal the means to monitor compliance with the production quotas established by Decision No 2794/80/EEC ⁽¹⁾. On 6 October 1980, it set up an administrative unit responsible for organizing the work carried out by engineers and accounting and auditing experts who, as provided for in Article 1 (4) of Decision No 2794/80/EEC, helping the Commission to carry out the checks for which provision is made in Article 47 of the ECSC Treaty.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 291, 31. 10. 1980, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1641/80**by Ms Clwyd****to the Commission of the European Communities***(4 December 1980)*

Subject: Directive concerning the quality of bathing water

On 5 December 1975 the Council adopted a Directive concerning the quality of bathing water. Would the Commission give an opinion on the effectiveness in each member country of this Directive?

**Answer given by Mr Narjes
on behalf of the Commission**

(13 February 1981)

The Commission is at present unable to assess, for each Member State, the application of Directive 76/160/EEC on the quality of bathing water⁽¹⁾. The Commission wishes to remind the Honourable Member that Article 4 (1) of this Directive accords the Member State a period of 10 years from the date of ratification thereof in which to bring the quality of such water into conformity with the values laid down in the Annex.

In implementation of Article 13 of the above Directive, the Commission studies the consolidated reports submitted by the Member States on bathing water and on the most important characteristics thereof.

In accordance with that Article, the Commission will publish the information which it receives on this matter, and will not fail to send a copy of its report to the Honourable Member and to the Parliament Secretariat.

(¹) OJ No L 31, 5. 2. 1976, p. 31.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1655/80

by Mr Purvis

to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 December 1980)

Subject: Radiation protection programme

Would the Commission agree that it is important to investigate whether the incidence of leukaemia is higher in those people exposed to minor doses of radiation? Does it not think that research into the relationship between whole-body X-irradiation and the induction of myeloid leukaemia would be extremely valuable? Why, then, has a St Andrews University project into this very subject, under the expert leadership of Professor Brynmor Thomas, not been included in the current Radiation Protection Programme?

**Answer given by Mr Richard
on behalf of the Commission**

(11 February 1981)

The Commission is well aware of the importance of research on the relationship between irradiation and

leukaemia in humans, and does also think that research on radiation induced myeloid leukaemia is extremely valuable.

The Commission has received a number of proposals dealing with various aspects of this problem and, among them, a proposal from St Andrews University. Limited financial resources have compelled the Commission to make a choice and, after a thorough comparative evaluation, the decision was taken not to support this particular proposal.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1656/80

by Mrs Maij-Weggen

to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 December 1980)

Subject: Exclusive selling arrangements

The European Bureau of Consumer Organizations has submitted a complaint to the Commission concerning 'exclusive selling arrangements' whereby certain manufacturers and importers allow their products to be sold only by a particular group of retailers. This complaint refers in particular to manufacturers and importers of audio-visual goods (radio, television and hi-fi equipment).

Is the Commission prepared to investigate to what extent these practices lead to a restriction of competition and unnecessarily high prices for the consumer?

Does the Commission intend to take steps to regulate this situation and if so, what steps?

**Answer given by Mr Andriessen
on behalf of the Commission**

(12 February 1981)

The Commission has for many years been concerned to ensure that selective distribution systems are consistent with the rules of competition laid down in Article 85 of the EEC Treaty. It has taken formal decisions on this subject on a number of occasions⁽¹⁾. In the consumer electronics sector, it authorized in 1975 the Community-wide selective distribution system of a German manufacturer of radios, television sets and

(¹) See in particular the ninth report on competition policy (April 1980, point 5).

recorders ⁽²⁾. This authorization expired in July 1980 and has not yet been renewed because of enquiries which the Commission is carrying out into the conduct of several firms in this sector with regard to pricing and to anticompetitive practices involving the separation of national markets. These enquiries have been initiated in response, firstly, to the reservations expressed by the Court of Justice in its judgment of 25 October 1977 confirming the abovementioned Decision ⁽³⁾ and, secondly, to several complaints submitted to the Commission – quite apart from that submitted by the EBCO – concerning attempts which are alleged to have been made by some manufacturers to put an end to the activities of retailers charging prices they consider to be too low.

If these enquiries, which are being carried out pursuant to Regulation No 17 ⁽⁴⁾, show that Article 85 of the Treaty has been infringed, the Commission could either refuse to authorize certain manufacturers' distribution systems unless adjustments are made to remove the risk of restrictive practices, or it could actually impose fines on the relevant firms for restrictive practices not covered by notification.

At all events, before authorizing selective distribution agreements, the Commission will also examine to what extent such agreements are likely to improve services to consumers, both in technical and commercial terms and in terms of prices.

⁽²⁾ Decision of 15 December 1975 (SABA) – OJ No L 28, 3. 2. 1976, p. 19.

⁽³⁾ Case 26/76. Metro v. Commission (/1977/ECR 1875).

⁽⁴⁾ First Regulation implementing Articles 85 and 86 of the EEC Treaty – OJ No 13, 21. 2. 1962, p. 204/62.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1658/80

by Mrs Maij-Weggen and Mr Verroken

to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 December 1980)

Subject: Harmonization of diplomas for dispensing chemists

Will the Commission indicate whether it has already taken steps to harmonize the training of and diplomas for dispensing chemists in the Member States of the Community?

Answer given by Mr Narjes on behalf of the Commission

(16 February 1981)

The Commission has forwarded to the Council two proposals for Directives ⁽¹⁾ meeting the objectives referred to by the Honourable Members.

The first proposal introduces a minimum degree of coordination of, firstly, the activities open to holders of diplomas in pharmacy and, secondly, the training requirements for such diplomas.

The second proposal concerns the mutual recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualifications in pharmacy.

In accordance with Article 57 of the EEC Treaty, on which these proposals are based, the Parliament will have to be consulted on the proposals.

⁽¹⁾ COM(81) 4.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1661/80

by Mr Seal

to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 December 1980)

Subject: Textile trade with China

While noting the Commission's reply to my previous question, does this mean that the Commission will take no action during the next two years even if the imbalance in textile trade between China and the Community continues?

What are the Commission's own mechanisms for ensuring that the undertaking is adhered to?

Answer given by Mr Haferkamp on behalf of the Commission

(11 February 1981)

In the Commission's view it would be premature at this stage to give an opinion on the action which might be taken if it should turn out, after the EEC-China textile

agreement had been in force for two years, i.e. after the end of 1981, that the textile trade balance levels stipulated in the said agreement had not been observed.

The Commission will be reviewing the balance of textile trade with China in due course, once it has the necessary figures for 1980, the first year in which the agreement was fully in force.

The Honourable Member may rest assured that should it prove necessary, the Commission will take appropriate action in conformity with the terms of the agreement to secure compliance with the undertakings contained therein regarding the textile trade balance levels provided for between the Community and China.

Commission that the decline of imports from the Community into China in the first half of 1980 was only a temporary phenomenon.

In the light of this assurance, and on the bases of the rapid growth of bilateral trade in recent years (despite certain short term fluctuations largely caused by downturns in the Chinese investment cycle) the Commission proposed a number of quotas increases for Chinese exports to the Community to go into force from 1 January 1981.

At this time of economic readjustment in China the Commission has sought and received assurances from the Chinese authorities that Community exports will continue to be taken into favourable consideration when Chinese import plans are drawn up.

In addition, in order to further develop EEC-China trade, including Community exports to China, the Commission is sponsoring with the Chinese Government, the EEC-China Business Week from 30 March to 10 April 1981.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1670/80

by Mr Seal

to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 December 1980)

Subject: Trade deficit with China

At the recent joint meeting between EEC and Chinese officials, it was revealed that the two-year-old trend of trade in favour of the EEC had been reversed. Between January and June 1980 China held a £34.8 million (60 million EUA) credit with the EEC.

In view of this, what is the Commission's view regarding the relaxation of import quotas for China?

What measures will it take to halt the decline in EEC exports to China – given that China, the EEC's second largest steel export market, is now switching to light industry, with a resulting reduction in demand for steel?

**Answer given by Mr Haferkamp
on behalf of the Commission**

(13 February 1981)

At the EEC-China Joint Committee on Trade (3 and 4 November) the Chinese delegation assured the

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1682/80

by Miss Quin

to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 December 1980)

Subject: The effectiveness of the European Parliament

Since direct elections what percentage of draft Directives and Regulations to which the European Parliament has suggested amendments has been so amended by the Commission before consideration by the Council of Ministers? What percentage of those not amended by the Commission in accordance with Parliament's wishes has subsequently been accepted by the Council of Ministers? What percentage of amendments proposed by the European Parliament and incorporated by the Commission into its proposals has subsequently been accepted by the Council of Ministers?

**Answer given by Mr Thorn
on behalf of the Commission**

(12 February 1981)

Between the direct elections and 30 November 1980 the Council adopted 168 Regulations and Directives on

which Parliament was consulted. On these 168 proposals Parliament gave 149 opinions involving no amendments. In 11 cases the Commission accepted the amendments called for by Parliament; in eight cases the Commission preferred to stand by its original proposal.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1696/80

by Mr Lipkowski

to the Commission of the European Communities

(10 December 1980)

Subject: Means of enforcing compliance with safety and anti-pollution standards by ships flying flags of convenience

What means does the Community have to enforce compliance with safety and anti-pollution standards by ships flying flags of convenience?

**Answer given by Mr Contogeorgis
on behalf of the Commission**

(9 February 1981)

On 2 July 1980 ⁽¹⁾, the Commission sent to the Council a proposal for a Council Directive concerning the enforcement, in respect of shipping using Community ports, of international standards for shipping safety and pollution prevention. Under this Directive, each Member State would be expected – as port State – to identify all substandard vessels which call at its ports, whatever their flag, and further to see that deficiencies are remedied.

In addition, in its communication to the Council of 2 July 1980 ⁽²⁾ concerning a plan to combat oil pollution of the sea, and in the annexed draft Decision, the Commission proposed the creation of a Community information system involving the preparation of an oil-tanker file containing various items of information: this would enable the Member States to know, to identify and to

describe all vessels, the international rules and conventions regarding shipping safety and pollution prevention which apply to such vessels; there would also be recorded the infringements, incidents or accidents, or oil spills in which these vessels have been involved. In this way the Member States could keep abreast of the outcome of all visits and inspections carried out on board, and of the status of the safety or the pollution prevention certificates of the ships inspected.

The Commission's view is that if these instruments are adopted and brought into force, a very significant contribution would be made towards making vessels of all registrations respect the international standards governing shipping safety and pollution prevention.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1698/80

by Mr Glinne

to the Commission of the European Communities

(10 December 1980)

Subject: Application of Article 37 of the Euratom Treaty
– nuclear power station at Chooz

In reply to a written question tabled recently in the Belgian Parliament, the Foreign Minister announced that another meeting of French and Belgian experts was to be held before the end of the year to deal with all matters relating to the nuclear power station at Chooz.

In its reply to my question of 7 August 1979, the Commission stated that it had presented a proposal for the introduction of a Community consultation procedure concerning sites for power stations in frontier regions, but that the Council had not yet taken a decision.

Can the Commission state whether the above Franco-Belgian meeting is part of the proposed consultation procedure? What is the legal status of the meeting?

Is it true that the bilateral negotiations have produced assurances that:

- France will provide full compensation for the 3 m³/sec. of water removed from the Meuse;
- the discharge of liquid waste will not cause an excessive rise in the temperature of the water;

⁽¹⁾ COM(80) 360.

⁽²⁾ COM(80) 361.

- liquid chemical waste such as calcium sulphate or radioactive waste such as tritium and any waste gases such as iodine will not have a harmful effect on the Belgian environment;
- the design of the power station will allow for the risk of accidents due to external (earthquakes, plane crashes) or internal causes and that every precaution will be taken to strictly limit the effects of such accidents?

**Answer given by Mr Narjes
on behalf of the Commission**

(11 February 1981)

The Council has not yet taken a decision regarding the introduction of a Community consultation procedure concerning the siting of power stations in frontier regions. Consequently, the Franco-Belgian meeting mentioned by the Honourable Member could not be part of such a procedure.

The Commission has no knowledge of the outcome of the bilateral negotiations relating to the nuclear power station at Chooz.

The Commission expects that the information required under Articles 37 and 41 of the EAEC Treaty will be communicated to it in due course. However, the construction of the first unit of the new nuclear power station at Chooz is not programmed to start until 1982, commercial operation being due to start in 1988.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1699/80

by Mr Cousté

to the Commission of the European Communities

(10 December 1980)

Subject: Control of measures taken to tackle the state of manifest crisis in the steel industry

How does the Commission intend to monitor the measures taken to tackle the state of manifest crisis in the steel industry?

Is it planning to introduce a system of continuous daily contacts with the firms concerned?

Does it intend to recruit additional temporary staff or does it already have enough staff for this work?

**Answer given by Mr Davignon
on behalf of the Commission**

(12 February 1981)

The Honourable Member is asked to refer to the answer given by the Commission to Written Question No 1637/80 ⁽¹⁾ in which an explanation is given about the establishment and operation of the system for monitoring steel firms pursuant to Commission Decision No 2794/80/EEC. The Commission has not recruited any additional temporary staff, although it has had to make internal organizational changes in order to handle this new workload. The inspection teams appointed by the Commission send it weekly reports concerning the checks carried out on the spot.

⁽¹⁾ See page 15 of this Official Journal.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 291, 31. 10. 1980, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1703/80

by Mrs Ewing

to the Commission of the European Communities

(10 December 1980)

Subject: Harmonization of taxation of sporting activity

Will the Commission comment on the differences in sporting tax legislation in the Member States – with particular reference to VAT – and state what plans it has, if any, to harmonize such legislation?

**Answer given by Mr Tugendhat
on behalf of the Commission**

(16 February 1981)

Insofar as the field of sporting activities is concerned, the Sixth Council Directive of 17 May 1977 ⁽¹⁾ regarding a

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 145, 13. 6. 1977, p. 1.

uniform basis of assessment for value added tax allows Member States to exempt 'certain services closely linked to sport or physical education supplied by non-profit-making organizations to persons taking part in sport or physical education' (Article 13 (A) (m) under conditions which they shall establish.

Those sporting activities which cannot be exempted are therefore liable to value added tax at rates fixed by each national legislation.

The harmonization of VAT rates on goods and services generally can only be contemplated in the longer term.

the sea ⁽¹⁾. If the Council approves this proposal, information on oil tankers will be collected on a regular basis. The Commission is also considering the possibility of collecting regularly pertinent information relating to spillages resulting from the operation of oil rigs.

⁽¹⁾ Doc. COM(80) 361 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1704/80

by Mrs Ewing

to the Commission of the European Communities

(10 December 1980)

Subject: Oil pollution

Will the Commission list all incidents involving oil tanker spills in Community waters over the past 10 years and specify the following details:

1. the date, and place of the incident;
2. the name and age of the vessel involved;
3. the owner's identity, the user's identity and the flag carried by the vessel at the time?

Will the Commission list similar information (where appropriate) for incidents involving onshore and offshore oil installations?

**Answer given by Mr Contogeorgis
on behalf of the Commission**

(11 February 1981)

The Commission is not in possession of the information requested by the Honourable Member. However, it has launched studies on recent incidents involving both ships and oil rigs. It has also submitted a proposal for a Council Decision establishing a Community information system for preventing and combating hydrocarbon pollution of

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1705/80

by Mrs Ewing

to the Commission of the European Communities

(10 December 1980)

Subject: EEC finance for the repair and reconstruction of existing farm buildings

Will the Commission state what funds are available from the European Community for the repair and reconstruction of existing farm buildings and break down the amount spent in each of the Member States to date?

**Answer given by Mr Dalsager
on behalf of the Commission**

(10 February 1981)

In accordance with Article 8 of Council Directive 72/159/EEC of 17 April 1972 ⁽¹⁾ on the modernization of farms, investment aid may be granted for the repair and reconstruction of existing farm buildings provided that such investment is undertaken within the framework of a farm development plan.

The Commission cannot give the information sought by the Honourable Member on expenditures incurred to date in this connection by individual Member States as the data on the application of Directive 72/159/EEC supplied to the Commission on an annual basis by each Member State do not include such details.

However, it intends to solicit such details from each Member State forthwith. In the event of its receiving a positive response to this request, the additional information will be supplied in due course to the Honourable Member.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 96, 23. 4. 1972, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1712/80**by Mr Konrad Schön****to the Commission of the European Communities***(10 December 1980)*

Subject: Article 290 of the draft budgets for 1980 and 1981

1. How are the funds divided between further education establishments and residential training centres for adults?
2. For what purposes are the funds allocated?
3. Which further education establishments received funds from Article 290 in the financial year 1980?
4. Which further education establishments have already applied for subsidies for 1981?
5. Are there any general guidelines for subsidies? If so, what are they?

**Answer given by Mr Thorn
on behalf of the Commission***(12 February 1981)*

1. In 1980 the Article 290 appropriations were used exclusively for subsidies to institutions of higher education, as stated in the budget. For 1981, the Commission proposed a substantial increase in appropriations in Article 290, explaining in the preliminary draft that it was planning to initiate operations to assist residential training centres for adults. Unfortunately, this proposal did not pass and the appropriations entered in the 1981 budget (180 000 EUA) will not be sufficient for grants to those centres to be considered. The answers to Questions 2 to 5 below therefore apply solely to higher education establishments.

2 and 5. These appropriations are earmarked for higher education establishments which offer a functional teaching programme focusing on the development of European integration, mainly from the economic and legal angles. The purpose of the aid is to help in starting up or consolidating a programme. Aid is not permanent and normally there is nothing automatic in the award of these grants, the amount of which is usually modest.

3 and 4. In 1980 31 higher education establishments received funds under Article 290.

As at 15 January 1981 the Commission had received four applications from higher education establishments.

The Commission is forwarding the relevant lists direct to the Honourable Member and to Parliament's Secretariat.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1713/80**by Mrs Lizin****to the Commission of the European Communities***(10 December 1980)*

Subject: Information on reactor shutdowns

In its answer to Written Question No 1051/80 by Mr Coppeters on risks in nuclear power stations ⁽¹⁾, the Commission states that it is unable to report on emergency shutdowns at the Doel 2 nuclear power station, as the monitoring of this station is 'the exclusive responsibility of the national supervisory authorities'. This is surprising, given that in the Statistical Office's publication 'Operation of Nuclear Power Stations during 1978', a brief description of significant outages at Doel 2 is given on page 90, implying that information regarding reactor shutdowns is, in fact, available to the Commission. However, in the publication 'Operation of Nuclear Power Stations during 1979', this useful information is no longer provided.

Will the Commission explain the reason for this omission, and will it undertake that in future editions of this publication, information on reactor outages is once again provided?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 288, 6. 11. 1980, p. 24.

**Answer given by Mr Narjes
on behalf of the Commission***(11 February 1981)*

The publication referred to by the Honourable Member contains information that is made available to the Commission by the European electricity utilities on a voluntary (i.e. non-mandatory) basis. This information is

for the compilation of statistics on electricity production from nuclear sources and therefore includes data on the main station outages and causes thereof. This information is not, however, intended to highlight safety problems and could therefore under no circumstances give an exhaustive list of all the shutdowns that have occurred and the reasons therefore, since the Member States and 'a fortiori' the electricity utilities or nuclear power station operators are not required to inform the Commission of such shutdowns. On this point, the Commission can only confirm what it stated in its reply to Written Question No 1051/80 by Mr Coppieters, to which the Honourable Member refers,

As regards the 1979 edition of the publication in question, it can indeed be observed that the power station load diagrams and the brief descriptions of the main outages are not given as in previous editions. This omission, which is due to organizational difficulties internal to the Commission, should in the normal course be repaired in subsequent editions.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1729/80

by Mr Key

to the Commission of the European Communities

(10 December 1980)

Subject: Road safety of motor cyclists

Will the Commission seek to improve regulations in Member States that control the driving of motor cycles by inexperienced persons in view of the high injury and mortality rate of motor-cyclists involved in road traffic accidents.

Answer given by Mr Contogeorgis
on behalf of the Commission

(11 February 1981)

The high casualty rate among young motor-cyclists is one of the factors which is linked with a number of others that are being examined in a study the Commission is undertaking on a suitable minimum age for issuing a motor car driving licence.

The question of conditions of issue for motor-cycle licences, including standards of aptitude and physical fitness is likely to be considered during the second phase of the introduction of the European driving licence.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1730/80

by Mr Kavanagh

to the Commission of the European Communities

(10 December 1980)

Subject: Dumping of Polish cables on the Irish market

1. Is the Commission aware that Polish house-wiring cables are being dumped on the Irish market to the detriment of employment in domestic companies?
2. Has the Commission received any request from the Irish Government for an investigation of the matter?

Answer given by Mr Haferkamp
on behalf of the Commission

(12 February 1981)

The Commission understands that 1 Irish manufacturer of house-wiring cables has indicated to the Irish Authorities its concern over imports of house-wiring cables from Poland at dumped prices. The Irish Authorities have, very correctly, informed this firm that action against dumped imports is a matter of Community competence and has advised it to contact the industry in other Member States (especially since the firm is a subsidiary of a manufacturer in another Member State) and lodge a complaint with the Commission under the terms of Regulation (EEC) No 3017/79 ⁽¹⁾.

The lodging of such a complaint is primarily a matter for the industry concerned rather than for the authorities of any Member State.

The Commission is prepared at all times to examine complaints made by industries which are being injured by dumped imports, if such complaints are found to contain sufficient evidence of dumping and of injury resulting therefrom.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 339, 31. 12. 1979, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1732/80**by Mr Kavanagh****to the Commission of the European Communities***(10 December 1980)*

Subject: Community aid for a zinc smelter project in Ireland

1. What Community aid is available for the building of a zinc smelter in Ireland?
2. Have the Irish authorities made any approaches at Community level towards acquiring any such available aid?

**Answer given by Mr Giolitti
on behalf of the Commission**

(10 February 1981)

1. The type of investment project mentioned comes within the ambit of the ERDF. The project might be given assistance under the Regulation establishing the Fund ⁽¹⁾ if it also received regional aid from Irish Government sources and if an application for ERDF assistance were submitted to the Commission by the Irish authorities.

The European Investment Bank might grant a loan for this project under Article 130 of the EEC Treaty.

2. No application for ERDF assistance in respect of this project has so far been submitted to the Commission by the Irish authorities.

The Commission would also point out that negotiations between the EIB and investors on the possible financing of projects remain confidential until loan contracts are signed.

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (EEC) No 724/75, as amended by Regulation (EEC) No 214/79 – OJ No L 36, 9. 2. 1979, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1737/80**by Mr Van Miert****to the Commission of the European Communities***(10 December 1980)*

Subject: Derogation from the Sixth VAT Directive

As the meeting of the Council devoted to taxation matters on 27 October 1980 in Luxembourg an exchange of views took place on a request from the Belgian Government for a derogation pursuant to Article 27 of the Sixth VAT Directive in respect of the method of payment of VAT on second-hand cars.

The derogation which is sought concerns measures aimed among other things at combating tax fraud.

The Council asked the Commission to reconsider the position it had adopted hitherto in this respect and to submit proposals.

What steps has the Commission taken so far to comply with the Council's request?

**Answer given by Mr Tugendhat
on behalf of the Commission**

(11 February 1981)

The Commission has not yet got down to dealing with the problem to which the Honourable Member refers in his question.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1743/80**by Ms Clwyd****to the Commission of the European Communities***(23 December 1980)*

Subject: Effectiveness of Directive on equal treatment in matters of social security

Would the Commission comment on the effectiveness of the Directive on the equal treatment for men and women in matters of Social Security? Are Member States implementing the Directive correctly?

**Answer given by Mr Richard
on behalf of the Commission**

(16 February 1981)

Directive 79/7/EEC of 9 December 1978 on the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security allows the Member States six years for its implementation ⁽¹⁾.

Accordingly the Commission will not be able to ascertain whether the Directive has been correctly applied in the Community until the end of 1984.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 6, 10. 1. 1979, p. 6.

**Answer given by Mr Haferkamp
on behalf of the Commission**

(6 February 1981)

The Commission has no control over the commercial and financial relations of private firms and banks in the Community with other countries.

The Honourable Member is requested to refer to the Commission's reply to Written Question No 1543/80 by Mr Glinne ⁽¹⁾ for information on the volume of trade between the (nine) Member States and Chile.

The Commission has no official information on any funds granted to Chile by consortia of North American and European banks.

⁽¹⁾ See page 9 of this Official Journal.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1757/80

by Mr Van Miert

to the Commission of the European Communities

(23 December 1980)

Subject: Trade relations between the European Community and Latin America

Does the Commission not agree that the relations entertained with Latin American countries by the Member States of the Community and by private firms and banks should be subjected to a critical examination, particularly in connection with respect for human rights, so that a consistent policy may be framed under which relations with democratic regimes are promoted and those with dictatorial regimes are discouraged?

Can the Commission give details of the trend in total imports from Chile in 1979 (compared with 1978) by each of the nine Member States?

Can the Commission also name the European banks belonging to the consortium of European, North American and Japanese banks which granted a loan of \$170 million to the Chilean 'Pacific Steel Company' at the beginning of 1980, and indicate the extent of their financial participation in this consortium?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1758/80

by Mr Welsh

to the Commission of the European Communities

(23 December 1980)

Subject: Customs form C 105 A

The customs authorities at Immingham in the United Kingdom replaced the entry form C 105 in May of this year with form C 105 A. The new form requires a great deal of extra information to be completed, much of which, including detailed breakdowns of transport costs, is not easily available. The new forms are causing inconvenience and delay to British importers of raw materials from Sweden, notably to my constituent Lundby Playtoys Ltd, of Blackpool.

1. Can the Commission explain why this new expanded form was introduced?
2. Will they approach the British Customs authorities at Immingham to see why delays are being caused in the processing of document C 105 A?
3. Will they develop a simplified procedure which will reduce the incidence of the delays experienced by British importers such as my constituent?

**Answer given by Mr Narjes
on behalf of the Commission**

(13 February 1981)

1. Form C 105 A was introduced in the United Kingdom with effect from 1 July 1980. The form is required by Community legislation which implemented the new international agreement on customs valuation negotiated in the GATT multilateral trade negotiations. The information required, particularly concerning transport costs, is not substantially more detailed than was previously required. Detailed information is needed, however, to ensure that goods are valued in conformity with the new legislation and, in particular, to ensure that additions to, and deductions from, the invoice price which are required by the GATT agreement are properly made. The new form C 105 A was discussed with representative trade bodies in the UK before it was introduced and was not considered by them as likely to create any special difficulties.

2. The British customs authorities at Immingham have no knowledge of the alleged difficulties or delays. Nor do they have any record of specific complaints by Lundby Playtoys Ltd or their representatives.

3. If the constituent of the Honourable Member is still experiencing difficulties he should approach the head of customs at Immingham.

exportation of beef to continental and third country markets;

2. creating a further distortion of competition by favouring Northern Ireland meat plants in competition for cattle in the Republic of Ireland, an advantage from which the Northern Ireland beef producer in no way benefits;
3. hinders the further processing of beef in the Republic of Ireland.

Accordingly, is the Commission prepared to review the application of the variable premium system in the United Kingdom and Ireland with a view to making a proposal for its uniform application and a harmonization of rules to apply in both countries?

**Answer given by Mr Dalsager
on behalf of the Commission**

(9 February 1981)

The Commission is not dissatisfied with the application of Commission Regulation (EEC) No 926/77 ⁽¹⁾, as last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1353/79 ⁽²⁾. The Commission would like to draw the Honourable Member's attention to Article 5 of Regulation (EEC) No 926/77 in particular which states:

'If the United Kingdom grants the premium referred to in Article 1 of Regulation (EEC) No 870/77 ⁽³⁾, Ireland and the United Kingdom shall take all necessary measures to ensure that meat from categories of adult bovine animals eligible for the premium, originating in Ireland and intended for consumption in the United Kingdom, shall receive the same financial advantages as those resulting from the granting of the premium provided for in the said Article for meat derived from animals slaughtered in the United Kingdom.'

The current premium system is valid for the 1980/81 marketing year. The future of the premium system will be examined by the Commission, the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee in the context of the price negotiations for the 1981/82 marketing year.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 109, 30. 4. 1977, p. 4.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 163, 2. 7. 1979, p. 7.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 106, 29. 4. 1977, p. 14.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1761/80

by Mr Clinton

to the Commission of the European Communities

(23 December 1980)

Subject: The variable premium

Is the Commission aware that the method of application of the variable premium in the United Kingdom and Ireland has the effect of:

1. creating a distortion of competition, by giving an advantage to United Kingdom and Northern Ireland exporters of the order of approximately £40 per animal over Republic of Ireland exporters in the

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1763/80**by Mr Griffiths****to the Commission of the European Communities***(23 December 1980)*

Subject: An alternative energy programme to help developing countries

Would the Commission be prepared to support as part of an alternative energy programme of particular help to many developing countries, a pilot project to test the feasibility of large-scale energy production from oil-bearing plants like Euphorbia Lathyris (the Gopher plant)?

**Answer given by Mr Cheysson
on behalf of the Commission**

(9 February 1981)

The Commission will certainly support any study or viable project aiming at producing energy from oil-bearing plants, provided an ACP State or a group of ACP States submit a request to this end.

As a matter of fact four such studies have already been financed on fourth EDF funds. They concerned sugarcane energy exploitation in the Sudan, Upper Volta, Ivory Coast and the Caribbean, in view of ethanol-fuel production.

Two of the above studies are over. They show that great caution is required in intensifying the production of energy from plants. So far only energy production from vegetable waste has shown promising in the ACP countries.

The Commission has already had preliminary discussions with Kenyan authorities, regarding possible studies for promoting new crops in the arid regions of this country. In this context plants like Euphorbia lathyris could be considered.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1779/80**by Mrs Pruvot****to the Commission of the European Communities***(12 January 1981)*

Subject: Implementation of the Council Directive of 25 July 1977 on the education of children of migrant workers

A Council Directive of 25 July 1977 on the education of children of migrant workers requires Member States to take the necessary measures to improve the reception and quality of education of children of migrant workers.

This Directive proposes that teaching of both the mother tongue and the culture of the country of origin of these children should be promoted in conjunction with normal education.

Now that almost four years have elapsed since the introduction of this Directive, what measures have been taken by the Member States?

**Answer given by Mr Richard
on behalf of the Commission**

(13 February 1981)

In April 1981 the Commission will publish a collection of regulations and circulars governing the education of children of migrant workers in the Member States of the Community in force in 1980.

Before Directive 77/486/EEC ⁽¹⁾ takes effect on July 1981, the Commission will issue the customary reminders to the Member States.

In July 1982 it will request the Member States to report on the actual implementation of the Directive and will report back to the Council and to Parliament in December 1982.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 199, 6. 8. 1977, p. 32.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1856/80**by Mr Linde****to the Commission of the European Communities***(13 January 1981)*

Subject: Manufacture and sale of war toys

Experience and scientific investigations have shown that selling and giving presents of toy weapons and other war toys can have an adverse effect on the character development of children and young people.

What scope does the Commission see for the framing of a European convention banning the manufacture and sale of toy weapons and other war toys in the countries of the European Community?

**Answer given by Mr Narjes
on behalf of the Commission**

(16 February 1981)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its reply to Written Question No 861/80 by Mr Glinne ⁽¹⁾.

(¹) OJ No C 312, 29. 11. 1980, p. 8.

4. that if the current had not been restored within three hours to the cooling tanks, they would have boiled, causing massive release of radioactivity;
5. that there was considerable release of radioactivity and that parts of the plant have had to be shut down;
6. that the only independent electric circuit which continued to function was that powering the security fence round the plant?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 916/80

by Mr Coppieters

to the Commission of the European Communities

(23 July 1980)

Subject: Accident at the nuclear waste reprocessing plant at La Hague

Is the Commission able to confirm the following key facts about what happened, according to press reports, at La Hague nuclear installations on 15 April 1980:

1. that when current from the French national grid was restored to the plant, following an interruption, it caused a fire in the transformers and put out of action the emergency generators, which functioned on the same circuit, thus leaving the plant without electricity;
2. that this put out of action the following circuits: the system by which workers can be warned of danger and told to evacuate the plant; the sensitive automatic control instruments which warn of a potential critical situation which could lead to an explosion; the ventilation system which ensures a pressure difference and prevents the escape of radioactivity to the air outside; the cooling system for the workshops where waste is processed to extract plutonium; the cooling system on the tanks where radioactive waste is stored;
3. that if the accident with the electrical circuits had taken place some minutes later, the reprocessing workshop would have been functioning, with a charge of 36 kW, capable of going critical if not continually cooled;

WRITTEN QUESTION No 917/80

by Mr Coppieters

to the Commission of the European Communities

(23 July 1980)

Subject: Accident at the nuclear waste re-processing plant at La Hague

1. Has the Commission been informed by the French authorities of what happened at the nuclear installations at La Hague on Tuesday 15 April?
2. Is the Commission prepared to make a special report to Parliament on the accident and the serious consequences which it might have had?

**Joint answer given by Mr Brunner
on behalf of the Commission**

(16 October 1980)

The Commission would remind the Honourable Member that the supervision of nuclear installations is the exclusive responsibility of the Member States' licensing and inspection authorities. The Commission has not been officially informed by the French authorities of the events that are said to have occurred at the La Hague reprocessing plant on 15 April 1980.

The Commission does not intend to draw up a special report on these events.