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I

(Information)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

WRITTEN QUESTION No 321/76

by Mr Hougardy

to the Commission of the European Communities

(13 July 1976)

Subject: Different conditions of sale for alcohol

What are the conditions of sale for alcohol in hotels, cafes and restaurants as well as in shops in each Community country?

Supplementary Answer

(18 April 1977)

Supplementing its answer of 30 July 1976, the Commission is now able to inform the Honourable Member of the result of its inquiries.

These general principles are applied differently in England and Wales, Scotland and in Northern Ireland.

UNITED KINGDOM

As a general rule, retail sales of alcoholic beverages are subject to licensing, but methods of applying the licensing laws vary as follows:

Licences vary according to whether the seller is authorized to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises, or to take away, or both.

Such licences generally authorize the sale of all types of alcoholic beverage but may also prohibit the sale of certain types.

There are special provisions prohibiting sale to persons under eighteen.

The opening hours of public houses and off-licences are subject to strict regulations.

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

A licence is required for the sale of spirits in restaurants and hotels, for consumption on the premises. In certain cases it may be refused. In addition, traders who sell spirits must be registered with the appropriate authority (Ordnungsamt or Gewerbeamt).

No licence is required for the sale of spirits in shops; even the food laws do not provide for any restriction. The only limitation concerns the sale of spirits to minors, which is governed by the law on the protection of minors.

LUXEMBOURG

Generally speaking, dealers in alcoholic beverages must have a trading licence.

The following special regulations concern the sale of such beverages as are obtained from distilling fermented musts, and not to wine and beer.

1. Hotel, cafe and restaurant sales

In order to open an establishment to sell alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises, a special licence ('droit de cabaretage') must be obtained and a tax paid. Such licences are divided into four categories with varying conditions for opening.

2. Shop sales

This is subject to payment of a tax.

3. Common regulations

Apart from the bookkeeping required by the 'Code de commerce', special registers must be kept, showing purchases and sales of spirits and liqueurs.

Only distillers, rectifiers, dealers and publicans are authorized to keep more than 100 litres of alcoholic liquid.

DENMARK

The sale of alcohol in hotels, cafes, restaurants and shops is subject to a licence, which is granted automatically if the applicant fulfils certain conditions of age and good character.

The only restrictions imposed on the sale of alcohol are for the purpose of protecting minors.

BELGIUM

The sale of spirits (beverages of an alcoholic strength exceeding 22° at a temperature of 15 °C) for consumption on the premises, and even the consumption of such beverages without payment, are forbidden in all public places, specifically public houses, hotels, restaurants, places of entertainment, shops, booths, ships, trains, trams, railway stations workshops or building sites and the public highway (Article 1 of the Law of 29 August 1919).

For sales or deliveries of two litres or more, the only persons authorized to sell or offer for sale spirits to be consumed off the premises, are tradespeople, other than publicans selling beverages for consumption on the premises.

On this final point, the Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question No 665/75 by Mr Cousté (1).

FRANCE

French legislation distinguishes between three categories of sale of alcoholic beverages:

- (a) places where alcohol is sold for consumption on the premises, with meals or to take away, fall into four categories, depending on the scope of the licence issued;
- (b) restaurants, divided into two categories, according to whether they may or may not sell alcoholic beverages other than wine, beer or beverages with an alcoholic strength of less than 3°;
- (c) outlets which sell alcoholic beverages on a take-away basis only. These fall into two categories; like restaurants.

The sale of alcoholic beverages:

- on credit,
- to persons who are clearly intoxicated,
- to minors under 14 years of age for consumption on the premises, or to minors under 16 years, to take away, except for wine and beer.

is prohibited.

NETHERLANDS

The sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises and of spirits in public houses requires a municipal licence, which is granted when:

1. the applicant is at least 25 years of age, not under guardianship, and meets certain conditions of morality, solvency, commercial knowledge and vocational ability (including knowledge of the effects of alcoholic drinks, social responsibility and business ethics);
2. the establishment meets certain social and hygienic requirements.

No licence is granted for sales outside of enclosed premises. It is forbidden to use the same establishment for consumption on the premises and take-away sales.

Among the restrictions placed on the sale of alcoholic beverages for consumption on the premises, and on

(1) OJ No C 80, 5. 4. 1976, p. 28.

the sale of spirits, is a ban on selling alcoholic beverages to minors under 16 years, and on selling spirits to minors under 18 years or to persons who are clearly intoxicated, or to sell for consumption on the premises if it may be reasonably presumed that such sale will bring about a disturbance of public order, safety or morality.

Alcoholic beverages for taking away must be sold in properly sealed containers, clearly indicating the alcoholic strength.

Municipal regulations may, in certain cases, provide for supplementary conditions or exceptions.

A tax on the sale of spirits is levied by local authorities. Spirits may not be sold on premises where anything other than alcoholic beverages is also retailed.

ITALY

The opening of hotels, cafes and restaurants requires a licence which authorizes the retailing of alcohol of a strength of less than 21°; a special licence is needed to sell alcohol of a strength of more than 21°.

In issuing such licences, local authorities must fix an overall density level for such establishments in the area.

The issue of a licence is subject to specific conditions and administrative procedures.

Inns, boarding houses, and commercial and non-commercial holiday camps are subject to the same regulations, but not to the limit set by local authorities on numbers.

IRELAND

Sales of alcoholic beverages are governed by licensing laws similar to those in the United Kingdom. Licences are issued for a maximum of one year and specify, within the law, the conditions of sale for alcoholic beverage and the types of beverages covered.

Legislation also exists to protect health and public order in public houses; there are notably regulations:

- (a) banning sales to minors under 18 years and intoxicated persons (in the case of off-licences, however, sales of intoxicating liquor may be made in corked and sealed vessels, containing not less than a reputed pint, to persons over 15 years);
- (b) laying down the hours and days when public houses may open; these times vary according to the season of the year (summer/winter) and the category of licence issued.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 601/76

by Mr Martens

to the Commission of the European Communities

(10 November 1976)

Subject: Misleading advertisements

The advertisement for margarine: 'prevents heart trouble' is undeniably one of the most effective. It is allegedly based on scientific research.

But the following will show that the results of other scientific research totally contradict this assertion.

On 13 September 1976, in a programme broadcast on channel 1 of the German television service on 'the treatment of heart disease', Professor Glätzel, Head of the Clinical Physiology Department of the

renowned 'Max Planck Institute for Nutritional Physiology' declared in an answer to the question whether excluding animal fats from the diet reduced the risk of heart trouble, that the experience and results gained so far did not justify raising the hopes of the sick and the healthy that a low-fat diet or one rich in poly-unsaturated fatty acids is able to reduce the risk heart trouble.

I believe that those responsible for public health in the Commission would endorse this view.

I have chosen this example from among several to serve as a background to the following questions on

the use for commercial ends of altogether disputed scientific findings in advertisements.

1. Can the Commission state what legal provisions are in force in the Member States governing food and drink advertisements, for both everyday products and the so-called health foods which,

according to the advertisements, have medicinal or prophylactic properties?

2. Does it intend drawing up in the near future Community Regulations in this field to protect gullible consumers?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 423/75

by Mr Martens

to the Commission of the European Communities

(10 October 1975)

Subject: Validity of advertisement claims for certain edible fats

In intensive advertising campaigns for certain brands of margarine and on their packaging, various slogans are appearing, such as: 'good for the heart and blood vessels', 'dietary margarine is a real help to the heart', 'your health is what you make it', 'helps to prevent arteriosclerosis of the heart and coronary arteries', etc. Suggestive illustrations are used to drive these claims home. In short, preventive if not medicinal properties are being attributed to these fats.

Can the Commission tell me whether in the present state of scientific research it can be shown that particular preventive or medicinal properties may be attributed to moderate use of the fats contained in these margarines?

If not, has the Commission already drawn up proposals for Community Regulations on advertising dietary foodstuffs with a view to protecting the consumer against invalid claims?

Have any of the Member States already introduced regulations on this subject? If so, which ones and in what form?

Answer and Supplementary Answer

(30 April 1977)

1. The Commission is not in possession of the facts for all the Member States. It is, however, in a position to inform the Honourable Member that advertisements for foodstuffs, including health foods, which claim to prevent or cure diseases to which human beings are subject are banned in Denmark, France, Italy and Luxembourg. In Germany this ban covers ordinary foodstuffs but not health foods, although it is prohibited to attribute to health foods properties which they do not possess or which are not scientifically confirmed. In Belgium the ban applies when advertising attributes to foodstuffs' prophylactic or medicinal properties which they do not in fact possess. In the United Kingdom reference to such properties in advertising is authorized only if a statement is given of the actual quantities of the ingredients used which do possess such properties. In the Netherlands there is no specific legislation regarding advertising as such, but it is possible to

institute legal proceedings on the basis of the civil code.

The Honourable Member is also referred to the Commission's answer to his Written Question No 423/75 ⁽¹⁾.

2. In view of these differences, the Commission has taken the steps of drawing up measures to protect consumers. Article 2 of its proposal for a Directive relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the ultimate consumer ⁽²⁾ prohibits, in particular, advertising which attributes to any specific foodstuff properties that will prevent or cure diseases to which human beings are subject.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 19, 28. 1. 1976, p. 12.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 91, 22. 4. 1976, p. 3.

Similar measures are provided for in Article 4 of the Council Directive of 20 December 1976 on the approximation of the laws of Member States relating to special foodstuffs, including health foods and similar products ⁽¹⁾. The measures have received the full approval of the European Parliament, as can be

⁽¹⁾ COM(69) 261 fin. 14. 4. 1969.

seen from the resolutions adopted on 10 October 1969 ⁽²⁾ and on 9 July 1976 ⁽³⁾.

The Council is still working on the proposal on labelling.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 139, 28. 10. 1969, p. 39.

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 178, 2. 8. 1976, p. 52.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 681/76

by Mr Cousté

to the Council of the European Communities

(6 December 1976)

Subject: Legislation on the election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage

Could the Council take stock of the legislation in preparation or already enacted by the nine Member States of the Community on the election of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage?

Could it in particular state what policies have been contemplated as regards the voting rights to be enjoyed by citizens of one Member State of the Community living in another Member State? Will they have the right to vote in their country of residence or to vote for candidates of their country of origin?

Answer

(28 April 1977)

Under Article 7 of the Act concerning the election of the members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage, Member States are indeed required to adopt national provisions governing electoral procedures. Drawing up these provisions is a matter for the Member States alone. For that reason the Council informed the President of the European Parliament that it was difficult for it to undertake to supply the European Parliament with information on this subject, but that nonetheless if it did receive such information from a Member State it would not fail to convey it to the European Parliament.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 776/76

by Mr Glinne

to the Commission of the European Communities

(10 January 1977)

Subject: Attitude of the United States Food and Drug Administration to radio-pharmaceutical products and radioimmunological determination kits exported by the Community

The Commission's provisional answer to my Written Question No 797/75 on the above subject was published in *Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 99 of 3 May 1976, page 32.

I should now like to have an updated answer in the light of the information revealed and acquired since that time and of the risks being run by the European research and production programme in this sector.

Answer

(25 April 1977)

With reference to Written Question No 797/75 by the Honourable Member, the Commission is now able to provide the following details:

1 and 3. In cooperation with the Member States concerned, the Commission is pursuing its enquiry into the difficulties confronting Community exports to the United States of radiopharmaceutical products and radioimmunological determination kits. From the information so far obtained, it is not possible to assert that the tests applied by the US Food and Drug Administration are arbitrary or protectionist. Apparently, the same techniques, the same reagents and the same method of recording the results of the tests apply to both American and foreign producers. Furthermore, the Commission would remind the Honourable Member that, after complying with the American regulations, French and Italian exporters have obtained the necessary authorizations for the marketing of their products.

2. The Commission is aware that in the Community the same products of American origin are subject to standards which are much less stringent and rigid.

4. It is now up to the Community and the Member States to decide whether it is advisable to amend the provisions in force with a view to adopting, as a general rule, standards as stringent as those of the Food and Drug Administration. In view of the sluggish growth of the trade in these products, the Commission has not hitherto considered action in this field to be urgent at Community level. The Council Directives on the harmonization of laws relating to pharmaceutical products exclude proprietary medicinal products based on radioactive isotopes because of the special problems which they raise.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 810/76**by Mr Cousté****to the Commission of the European Communities***(20 January 1977)*

Subject: Cultivated mushroom preserves

In its recent answer to Written Question No 504/76 ⁽¹⁾ the Commission stated that the limitations on the production of cultivated mushroom preserves within the Community resulting from agreements within the trade and endorsed by decrees issued on 11 September 1975 and 12 July 1976 by the French Ministry of Agriculture are not incompatible with the provisions of Regulations (EEC) No 1927/75 and (EEC) No 1928/75 ⁽²⁾ concerning the system of trade with third countries.

Will the Commission state whether they are also incompatible with Article 85 (1) (b) and the second subparagraph of Article 86 (b) of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 305, 27. 12. 1976, p. 14.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 198, 29. 7. 1975, pp. 7 and 11.

Answer*(3 May 1977)*

The Commission stated in its answer to the Honourable Member's Written Question No 504/76 that it had asked the French Government for information on the contents of the agreements within the trade endorsed by the French authorities, in order to assess the legal effect of the endorsement and to decide whether these measures were compatible with the EEC Treaty.

So far the Commission has received no answer from the French authorities and is therefore still unable to answer the Honourable Member's question fully.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 900/76**by Mr Fletcher****to the Commission of the European Communities***(11 February 1977)*

Subject: VAT on certain spirits imported into Italy

In its answer to my Written Question No 557/76 ⁽¹⁾ concerning the discriminatory application of VAT on certain spirits imported into Italy, notably Scotch whisky, gin and rum, the Commission stated that the Italian Government had advised the Commission on 29 September 1976 that it would eliminate the infringement.

Since the infringement has still not been eliminated, will the Commission state whether the case has yet been referred to the Court of Justice? If the answer is in the negative, what is the reason for the Commission's delay?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 300, 20. 12. 1976, p. 39.

Answer*(21 April 1977)*

The Italian Government has amended its legislation concerning VAT on spirits by Decree Law No 58 of 4 March 1977.

In order to become fully effective, these provisions require to be given the force of law by the Italian Parliament within two months of their adoption.

The Commission is at present examining the scope of these new provisions.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 914/76**by Mr Cousté****to the Commission of the European Communities***(18 February 1977)*

Subject: Compensatory amounts on wines

To find solutions which are coming more and more to resemble the squaring of the circle, the Community has shown a great deal of imagination in establishing 'compensatory amounts' to eliminate, at least in part, the differences in actual prices. Everything is worked out by computers, without which European agriculture would grind to a halt.

Thus for wines, receiving agents are supposed to collect a compensatory amount on presentation of the customs documents certifying that the goods have been released on the market.

In so far as this refund does not seem to be paid by the National Inter-Trade Table-Wine Office (l'Office national interprofessionnel des vins de table), what measures does the Commission intend to take to regularize the situation?

Answer*(24 March 1977)*

The Commission has been informed of the delays in the payment of monetary compensatory amounts by the French authorities. At the Council meeting of Ministers for Agriculture on 14 and 15 February 1977, the French Minister for Agriculture promised to ensure that these payments were brought up to date as soon as possible. According to the information at its disposal, the Commission can assure the Honourable Member that the payments announced by the French Minister for Agriculture are at present being made.

However, if it should prove that not all the payments are made in the near future, the Commission would not hesitate to resort to the procedures provided for under the EEC Treaty to guarantee that Member States comply with Community law.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 923/76

by Mr Dondelinger

to the Commission of the European Communities

(21 February 1977)

Subject: The European civil service and its retirement scheme

The European civil service has at least one paradoxical feature. Even though this civil service was set up only recently, it has provided for its employees a retirement scheme worthy of a country with 1 000 years of history behind it. On the one hand an employee must have completed a total of 37 years of service to qualify for a full retirement pension, and on the other this full retirement pension may not exceed 70 % of the last salary earned.

1. Is the Commission aware of this paradox and of the impossible situations to which it gives rise?
2. If so, what measures does it propose taking in the near future to provide the European civil service with a retirement pension scheme that will allow for the fact that the Community was established only recently?
3. If the aim of European social policy is a levelling up of standards, as the Commission is so fond of repeating, why does it not provide the European civil service with the Community's most advanced retirement scheme, namely, that of the Italian civil service?

Answer

(25 April 1977)

The Commission would draw the Honourable Member's attention to the need to assess the pension scheme for officials of the European Communities in its entirety; the scheme does not look so unfavourable in this light.

The Commission keeps a close watch on developments in the pension schemes of the Member States and will adjust the Community scheme in line with any improvements made in them.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 940/76

by Horst Seefeld

to the Commission of the European Communities

(28 February 1977)

Subject: Reduction of travel fares for families of migrant workers

The Court of Justice, in Case 32/75 — Judgment of 30 September 1975 ⁽¹⁾ — ruled that, according to Article 7 (2) of Regulation (EEC) No 1612/68 ⁽²⁾, the

rights to a fares reduction card issued by a national railway authority to large families apply to families of migrant workers.

The three Community countries where such a system exists, France, Belgium and Luxembourg, were due to extend their system to cover the families of migrant workers before the end of 1976.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 271, 27. 11. 1975, p. 6.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 257, 19. 10. 1968, p. 2, and OJ No L 295, 7. 12. 1968, p. 12.

1. Have these three countries yet done so?
2. Does the Commission intend to propose that similar schemes for fare reductions be introduced in the other member countries, or, at least, to have the possibility examined?
3. Does the Commission know of any other similar schemes in force in the member countries, which have the effect of easing the financial burden of travel expenses, on those less able to pay, which could be usefully extended?
4. If so, does it intend to make proposals to this effect?

Answer

(26 April 1977)

1. Yes.

2 to 4. Most Member States grant fare reductions on social grounds, these reductions take different forms.

At present the Commission merely ensures observance of the non-discrimination rules without giving special priority in the context of its overall activities to preparing proposals for harmonizing these measures or introducing them in other Member States.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 963/76

by Mr Hougardy

to the Commission of the European Communities

(2 March 1977)

Subject: Commercial relations between the EEC and COMECON

Would the Commission:

1. give details of the development of each Member State's trade with the COMECON countries, and in particular with the USSR, in 1976;
2. show the trade of each Member State in 1976, broken down by product, with each of the COMECON countries;
3. estimate the proportion of exports from Member States to COMECON countries financed by export credits during the past five years;
4. say if it considers that the loans granted to COMECON countries and in particular the USSR, are in proportion to the volume and trends in trade between the EEC and these countries, in comparison with loans granted to the developing countries and the USA for example;
5. inform the European Parliament of the measures it proposes to use to monitor the application by each Member State of the expected Directives on export credits;
6. consider the desirability of establishing a central information system on the composition and development of COMECON's debts;
7. indicate the possible effects of the massive export of capital goods and technology to COMECON on the long-term development of trade between the Community and COMECON;
8. not say it was necessary to define a Community trade policy in respect of the COMECON countries, to take into consideration not only the destination of exports from the Community to these countries, but also the possible repercussions of competition from COMECON on employment within the Community?

Answer

(26 April 1977)

1. The Honourable Member will find in the table, in the Annex, the figures for trade between the Community and the Eastern European countries in the first 10 months of 1976, broken down by Member State. The figures for the first 10 months of 1975 are given by way of comparison. The figures for the last two months of 1976 are not yet available.

2. The product breakdown for the whole of 1976 is not yet available. For 1975 an analysis by commodity group was published in the supplement to issue No 5 (1976) of the Monthly External Trade

Bulletin of the Statistical Office of the European Communities. The analysis for the first half of 1976 is given in the supplement to issue No 10 (1976) of that bulletin.

3. As regards export credits, the statistical data relate to officially-supported export credit transactions exceeding five years; for reasons of coherence, the corresponding figures for the years prior to 1973 cannot be included and the figures for 1976 are not yet available.

	1973	1974	1975
Exports from the Community to the Eastern European countries (1.2 million US dollars) ⁽¹⁾ ⁽²⁾	8 036	11 726	14 519
Export credit transactions in respect of exports from the Community to the Eastern European countries (three million US dollars) ⁽³⁾	1 059	1 976	2 378
Export credit transactions as a percentage of total exports from the Community to the Eastern European countries	13.2	16.8	16.4

⁽¹⁾ Source: OECD — Statistics of Foreign Trade, Series A.

⁽²⁾ The Eastern European countries concerned are: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the USSR.

⁽³⁾ Source: OECD — Trade Committee, November 1976.

4. The Honourable Member will find in the tables below ⁽¹⁾:

- (a) the volume of trade between the Eastern European countries ⁽²⁾ and the EEC countries (in million US dollars);
- (b) a breakdown by destination of officially-supported Community export credit transactions exceeding five years ⁽³⁾.

(a) Volume of trade

	1973	1974	1975
Community exports to the Eastern European countries	8 036	11 726	14 519
— of which, to the USSR	2 676	3 994	6 106
Community imports from the Eastern European countries	7 249	9 539	10 358
— of which, from the USSR	2 785	4 209	4 641

⁽¹⁾ Source: OECD — Statistics of Foreign Trade, Series A.

⁽²⁾ The Eastern European countries concerned are: Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the USSR.

⁽³⁾ Source: OECD — Trade Committee, November 1976.

(b) Community export credit transactions

	1973	1974	1975
Community export credit transactions (in million US dollars) in respect of:			
— all destinations	3 144	5 888	9 000
— developed countries	189	332	1 157
— developing countries	1 895	3 580	5 465
— Eastern European countries	1 059	1 976	2 378
— of which, the USSR	852	1 169	1 382
Percentage breakdown of Community export credit transactions (in %):			
— <i>developed countries</i> all destinations	6.0	5.6	12.9
— <i>developing countries</i> all destinations	60.3	60.8	60.7
— <i>Eastern European countries</i> all destinations	33.7	33.6	26.4
— <i>USSR</i> all destinations	27.1	19.8	15.4
— <i>USSR</i> Eastern European countries	80.4	59.2	58.1

5. The Council Decision of 14 March 1977 on the application by the Member States of certain guidelines in the field of export credits stipulates that where a Member State of the Community or other credit-supplying country observing similar guidelines intends to derogate from the guidelines, the Commission must be notified. This notification system will mean that the compliance of Member States and non-member countries with the guidelines can be monitored continuously within a Community framework.

6. The Commission is prepared to examine the desirability and feasibility of establishing such a central information system.

7. It should be pointed out first of all that exports of capital goods and technology cannot, strictly

speaking be considered 'massive'. Such exports can help to intensify trade relations between the Community and the State-trading countries, for experience shows that trade between countries with highly-developed economies can flourish particularly well. This is of course limited by the difference between the economic and social systems. However, such exports — like all exports of producer goods — can have their disadvantages, and in the case in point these are likely to be particularly real. Parliament debated the problems that could arise in this connection on 8 April 1976.

8. The Commission shares the view expressed by the Honourable Member that the Community's trade policy towards the COMECON countries must continually be adapted to actual requirements.

ANNEX

EXPORTS FROM THE COMMUNITY OF NINE TO THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES
 Period from January to October 1975 and 1976 (in million EUR) with indices (1975 = 100)

		Community (EUR-9)	Germany (FR)	France	Italy	Netherlands	Belgium/ Luxembourg	United Kingdom	Ireland	Denmark
USSR	1975	3 795	1 724	708	660	133	227	287	16	39
	1976	3 743	1 719	737	634	113	195	296	2	47
	Index	99	100	104	96	85	87	103	12	120
German Democratic Republic	1975	328	—	89	54	76	47	46	0.4	16
	1976	403	—	141	53	83	49	54	0.5	21
	Index	123	—	158	98	109	105	117	140	134
Poland	1975	1 950	752	362	247	111	138	249	4	88
	1976	2 028	804	485	209	99	138	228	7	57
	Index	104	107	134	85	89	100	92	161	65
Czechoslovakia	1975	761	410	98	71	54	41	69	0.9	17
	1976	841	484	101	65	65	36	72	0.4	19
	Index	111	118	103	91	120	88	104	40	109
Hungary	1975	761	372	104	120	55	28	64	0.4	18
	1976	745	386	82	106	62	32	59	0.8	16
	Index	98	104	79	89	113	117	91	195	92
Romania	1975	850	442	130	134	39	39	60	0.1	7
	1976	780	332	165	123	43	52	57	0.0	8
	Index	92	75	127	91	110	131	96	68	123
Bulgaria	1975	484	251	74	76	22	20	35	0.6	6
	1976	415	217	68	62	17	16	27	1	6
	Index	86	87	92	82	76	79	79	228	91
Albania	1975	26	9	3	10	3	0.2	1	—	0.5
	1976	18	4	3	7	3	0.6	0.2	—	0.5
	Index	70	43	97	77	108	280	17	—	102
Eastern Europe	1975	8 956	3 960	1 568	1 371	493	540	811	22	192
	1976	8 974	3 947	1 782	1 259	485	519	794	12	176
	Index	100	100	114	92	98	97	98	54	92

Source: EUROSTAT Nos 1/76 and 1/77 of the Monthly External Trade Bulletin.

IMPORTS INTO THE COMMUNITY OF NINE FROM THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

Period from January to October 1975 and 1976 (in million EUR) with indices (1975 = 100)

		Community (EUR-9)	Germany (FR)	France	Italy	Netherlands	Belgium/ Luxembourg	United Kingdom	Ireland	Denmark
USSR	1975	2 820	791	459	520	176	191	558	26	99
	1976	4 081	1 136	632	948	254	201	837	25	147
	Index	145	144	138	163	144	105	150	98	48
German Democratic Republic	1975	349	—	100	53	48	49	60	3	36
	1976	414	—	123	58	55	63	76	4	35
	Index	118	—	123	109	116	127	125	150	90
Poland	1975	1 210	356	215	185	89	79	156	19	111
	1976	1 400	461	277	217	83	48	181	18	115
	Index	116	129	129	117	93	60	116	97	103
Czechoslovakia	1975	633	293	65	75	54	31	84	7	24
	1976	708	322	70	95	62	33	87	8	31
	Index	112	110	108	126	116	107	104	105	126
Hungary	1975	509	221	58	119	42	17	37	1	15
	1976	594	280	61	134	43	14	37	1	25
	Index	117	127	105	112	101	85	100	96	68
Romania	1975	684	255	113	151	72	18	51	2	22
	1976	802	308	143	156	100	21	64	2	8
	Index	117	121	126	103	139	119	124	129	37
Bulgaria	1975	145	61	20	39	4	7	10	0.2	4
	1976	184	73	32	46	5	9	13	0.4	5.9
	Index	127	120	158	119	125	131	127	217	164
Albania	1975	16	2	2	9	3	0.2	0.0	—	0.0
	1976	16	3	1	8	4	0.1	0.0	—	0.0
	Index	101	159	80	80	150	79	218	—	31
Eastern Europe	1975	6 368	1 979	1 031	1 152	488	312	957	58	311
	1976	8 200	2 583	1 338	1 562	607	390	1 294	59	367
	Index	129	131	130	136	124	99	135	102	117

Source: EUROSTAT Nos 1/76 and 1/77 of the Monthly External Trade Bulletin.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 978/76

by Mr Pisoni

to the Commission of the European Communities

(7 March 1977)

Subject: New measures in France against imports of Italian wine

What steps has the Commission taken, or does it intend to take, to persuade the French Government to abolish forthwith the measures it has taken or is tolerating to restrict imports of Italian wine, for example delaying or even suspending payment of compensatory amounts at the frontier and the drawing up of interprofessional agreements between producers and merchants?

Answer*(4 April 1977)*

The Commission is at present studying the interprofessional agreement referred to in the Honourable Member's question, in order to determine the French Government's responsibilities in the matter.

As regards the monetary compensatory amounts, the Commission would refer the Honourable Member to the answer given to Written Question No 914/76 ⁽¹⁾ by Mr Cousté.

⁽¹⁾ See page 8 of this Official Journal.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 986/76**by Mr Laban****to the Commission of the European Communities***(7 March 1977)*

Subject: Apple production

1. Can the Commission indicate the quantity of apples grown in the Community in 1966/77, giving the figures for each Member State, the volume of stocks held by the Community as at 1 January 1977 and the quantity of apples put into intervention in each of the Member States?

2. How many tonnes of apples were imported into the Community from Australia, Argentina, New Zealand, South Africa and Chile in the period 1975/76?

3. Is this quantity in line with the agreements between the European Communities and the above countries on voluntary restrictions and, if not, which countries have failed, for one reason or another, to comply with the agreed restrictions? Does the Commission regard the system of control on the basis of agreements as adequate?

4. Can the Commission state what was the average price of apples in the Member States and what effect this has had on profitability?

5. Can the Commission confirm that in countries such as the Federal Republic of Germany, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, which have ports with good unloading and storage facilities, a substantial proportion of the imports are from countries in the southern hemisphere and also that

an increasingly large proportion of these imports are sold on the domestic market in those countries?

If so, can the Commission state what adverse effects this has had on the production of apples in the countries concerned?

6. Can the Commission say whether it regards as adequate the possibilities open to it for ensuring that the quantities of apples produced in the Member States are kept at a reasonable level, with particular reference to:

(a) the results of the grubbing-up system;

(b) intervention policy;

(c) the reference price system;

(d) protection measures and export refunds?

7. If the policy instruments are inadequate or if they are not, or cannot be, used extensively enough, is the Commission prepared to take the necessary steps to ensure a reasonable income for fruit-growers in the Member States and to eliminate the surplus of apples, which would entail:

(a) restricting production by reinforcing the Regulations on the winding up of undertakings that can no longer be run at a profit; extending the validity of the grubbing-up Regulations;

- (b) fixing intervention prices at a level appreciably lower than the cost price, so that production for intervention, as is possible in Italy, is excluded;
- (c) gearing import policy more closely to apple production in the Community; introducing — for as long as it is required — an effective import restriction policy, i.e. a policy based on Community production and the stocks of apples

held at the beginning of this year, using import licences if necessary?

8. If it is true that South Africa and Chile in particular have failed to observe the voluntary restrictions on the export of apples to the European Community, is the Commission prepared if necessary to tighten up its import policy, particularly in the case of these two countries?

Answer

(18 April 1977)

1. The figures requested by the Honourable Member are given in tonnes in the table below:

	Production (1976/77)	Stocks at 1 January 1977	Withdrawals (1976/77) (1)
Belgium	219 800	120 000	1 900
Denmark	75 600	25 000	—
Federal Republic of Germany	1 486 900	101 400	100
France	1 670 000	504 000	—
Ireland	13 500	5 000	—
Italy	2 048 500	980 000	106 000
Luxembourg	7 000	—	—
Netherlands	385 000	186 000	6 900
United Kingdom	363 000	106 000	49
Total, EEC	6 269 300	2 027 400	114 949

(1) On the basis of the data available at 8 March 1977.

2. Imports from the southern hemisphere amounted in 1975/76 to 344 002 tonnes, breaking down (in tonnes) as follows:

Argentina: 47 338, Australia: 36 425, Chile: 48 415, New Zealand: 53 876, South Africa: 157 948.

3. As the Commission pointed out to the Honourable Member in its answer to his Written Question No 262/76 (1), it had managed to persuade the principal suppliers in the southern hemisphere to stagger their shipments to the Community in such a way as to limit the quantities from April to June, but not to reduce their overall export programme. The nature of the undertakings given by the countries in question is such that the Commission is unable to

check whether they are observed except retrospectively. With the exception of Chile, in respect of which the safeguard clause was applied, all the southern hemisphere countries observed the undertakings given by them.

4. The entry prices of the products imported from the southern hemisphere countries, calculated in the manner stipulated in Regulation (EEC) No 1035/72 (2), were substantially above the level of the reference price.

5. The Commission does not consider that the port facilities that exist in certain countries such as the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands lead to the abnormal development of sales of apples originating in the southern hemisphere on the German or Dutch markets.

(1) OJ No C 244, 18. 10. 1976, p. 18.

(2) OJ No L 118, 20. 5. 1972, p. 1.

The trend of the prices of Community products on those markets is, moreover, fairly similar to the trend on the other markets in the Community.

6 and 7 (a) and (b). The Commission considers that the various measures at its disposal are such as to meet the objectives of the Treaty, but it is not neglecting to monitor the trend of the situation in order to make any necessary adjustments to existing regulations.

However, the Commission considers that it should draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that the effectiveness of certain Community measures depends on the use made of them by the trade interests concerned. Export refunds and the

'grubbing-up' operation are two cases in point. Another is the strict application of standardization, which the Commission considers would be likely to reduce surpluses and which the Member States are responsible for supervising.

7 (c) and 8. The Honourable Member will not be unaware that last year the Commission adopted safeguard measures suspending the free circulation in the Community of all Chilean apples, other than those used for making cider, from 9 to 30 June 1976.

The Commission will continue, as it has done in the past, to take the measures required by the situation in conformity with the Community's international commitments.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 987/76

by Mr Leonardi

to the Commission of the European Communities

(7 March 1977)

Subject: Intra-Community trade

What have been the trends in intra-Community trade in the past four years, for each Member State, with particular reference to the following sectors:

- finished industrial products — consumer goods,
- finished industrial products — capital goods,
- agricultural products,
- semi-finished industrial products?

What has been the trend in the trade balance as a whole and for each of the major sectors mentioned above?

What was the situation — in the same four-year-period — as regards intra-Community terms of trade and what effect has this had on the trade balances of the countries concerned?

Answer

(21 April 1977)

The Commission does not have statistics enabling it to provide the product breakdown of intra-Community trade requested by the Honourable Member.

However, some of the relevant information can be deduced from the following tables which give the figures for intra-Community trade for the years 1972 to 1975. Products are classified according to the Statistical and Tariff Classification for International Trade (CST) and are grouped under three main headings and a number of subheadings as shown below:

- food, beverages and tobacco,
- raw materials and fuel products:
 - of which: fuel products,
- other industrial products:
 - of which: chemicals (primarily semi-finished products), machinery and transport equipment (primarily capital goods).

The tables show exports, imports and trade balances for each Member State and for the Community as a whole (EUR-9).

1972: Intra-Community trade (imports in millions EUR)

CST	Country								
	EUR-9	Germany (FR)	France	Italy	Netherlands	Belgium/Luxembourg	United Kingdom	Ireland	Denmark
0+1: Food, beverages and tobacco	10 718	3 447	1 217	1 813	978	1 191	1 834	124	114
2+3+4: Raw materials of which	7 056	1 979	1 020	909	611	1 272	888	119	258
3: Fuel products	3 297	970	525	120	211	646	538	79	207
5+6+7+8+9: Industrial products of which	55 678	14 317	11 354	6 056	8 258	7 505	5 337	1 093	1 758
5: Chemicals	7 049	1 532	1 449	1 091	918	897	716	180	266
7: Machinery and transport	22 403	4 658	4 616	2 747	3 000	3 353	2 805	424	800
Total CST (0 to 9)	73 452	19 743	13 591	8 778	9 847	9 968	8 059	1 336	2 130

1973: Intra-Community trade (imports in millions EUR)

CST	Country								
	EUR-9	Germany (FR)	France	Italy	Netherlands	Belgium/Luxembourg	United Kingdom	Ireland	Denmark
0+1: Food, beverages and tobacco	12 779	3 841	1 458	2 162	1 265	1 506	2 221	152	175
2+3+4: Raw materials of which	9 056	2 956	1 221	1 170	772	1 407	1 020	145	363
3: Fuel products	4 173	1 674	564	121	267	608	559	88	293
5+6+7+8+9: Industrial products of which	67 070	15 878	13 717	754	9 886	522	6 923	98	2 300
5: Chemicals	8 870	1 973	1 794	1 373	1 203	1 116	888	204	319
7: Machinery and transport	25 965	4 903	5 411	3 286	3 476	4 034	3 350	486	1 020
Total CST (0 to 9)	88 905	22 675	16 398	10 877	11 923	12 435	10 164	1 595	2 838

1974: Intra-Community trade (imports in millions EUR)

CST	Country								
	EUR-9	Germany (FR)	France	Italy	Netherlands	Belgium/Luxembourg	United Kingdom	Ireland	Denmark
0+1: Food, beverages and tobacco	14 405	4 132	1 532	2 468	1 436	1 656	2 757	218	208
2+3+4: Raw materials of which	13 862	4 296	1 856	1 823	1 225	2 240	1 409	296	717
3: Fuel products	7 242	2 590	943	236	530	1 153	945	219	626
5+6+7+8+9: Industrial products of which	82 251	18 298	16 745	9 651	12 594	11 868	8 822	1 568	2 704
5: Chemicals	13 735	2 995	2 711	1 990	1 863	1 826	1 570	300	479
7: Machinery and transport	28 313	5 057	5 911	3 721	4 203	4 370	3 504	506	1 039
Total CST (0 to 9)	110 518	26 726	20 133	13 942	15 255	15 764	12 988	2 082	3 629

1975: Intra-Community trade (imports in millions EUR)

CST	Country								
	EUR-9	Germany (FR)	France	Italy	Netherlands	Belgium/Luxembourg	United Kingdom	Ireland	Denmark
0+1: Food, beverages and tobacco	16 214	4 478	2 114	2 794	1 517	1 803	3 084	205	219
2+3+4: Raw materials of which	13 043	4 284	1 868	1 597	1 110	2 042	1 285	259	598
3: Fuel products	7 676	2 859	1 072	451	503	1 178	892	203	518
5+6+7+8+9: Industrial products of which	80 848	19 607	16 000	8 098	12 460	11 710	8 682	1 507	2 784
5: Chemicals	11 713	2 820	2 340	1 546	1 550	1 572	1 159	280	448
7: Machinery and transport	31 056	6 220	6 128	3 782	4 567	4 841	3 731	525	1 263
Total CST (0 to 9)	110 105	28 369	19 982	12 489	15 087	15 555	13 051	1 971	3 601

1972: Intra-Community trade (exports in millions EUR)

CST	Country								
	EUR-9	Germany (FR)	France	Italy	Netherlands	Belgium/Luxembourg	United Kingdom	Ireland	Denmark
0+1: Food, beverages and tobacco	10 582	986	2 910	977	2 675	1 123	513	600	796
2+3+4: Raw materials of which	7 192	1 464	1 261	479	2 365	674	682	82	186
3: Fuel products	3 476	793	302	288	1 535	227	297	12	23
5+6+7+8+9: Industrial products of which	55 830	17 526	9 052	7 181	6 351	8 991	5 526	471	733
5: Chemicals	6 836	2 178	986	458	1 396	1 013	682	51	72
7: Machinery and transport	22 467	8 483	3 907	2 633	1 883	2 461	2 629	85	386
Total CST (0 to 9)	73 604	19 976	13 223	8 637	11 391	10 788	6 721	1 153	1 715

1973: Intra-Community trade (exports in millions EUR)

CST	Country								
	EUR-9	Germany (FR)	France	Italy	Netherlands	Belgium/Luxembourg	United Kingdom	Ireland	Denmark
0+1: Food, beverages and tobacco	12 781	1 354	3 465	928	3 345	1 369	635	603	1 081
2+3+4: Raw materials of which	8 962	1 834	1 576	615	2 909	882	819	100	226
3: Fuel products	4 197	883	351	397	1 860	295	380	11	19
5+6+7+8+9: Industrial products of which	66 853	22 047	10 923	7 315	7 714	10 824	6 430	588	954
5: Chemicals	8 685	2 783	1 270	526	1 800	1 323	822	71	90
7: Machinery and transport	26 066	10 452	4 615	2 762	2 156	2 756	2 721	115	490
Total CST (0 to 9)	88 596	25 235	15 964	8 918	13 968	13 075	7 884	1 291	2 261

1974: Intra-Community trade (exports in millions EUR)

CST	Country								
	EUR-9	Germany (FR)	France	Italy	Netherlands	Belgium/Luxembourg	United Kingdom	Ireland	Denmark
0+1: Food, beverages and tobacco	14 615	1 802	3 882	1 129	3 751	1 525	653	667	1 207
2+3+4: Raw materials of which	13 827	2 952	2 163	1 081	4 627	1 148	1 405	136	315
3: Fuel products	7 264	1 537	516	790	3 120	407	838	26	30
5+6+7+8+9: Industrial products of which	83 387	27 392	13 469	8 856	10 374	13 128	8 250	772	1 145
5: Chemicals	13 716	4 210	1 972	875	2 910	2 018	1 497	104	129
7: Machinery and transport	29 080	11 628	4 979	3 016	2 578	2 912	3 268	147	552
Total CST (0 to 9)	111 829	32 146	19 514	11 066	18 752	15 801	10 308	1 575	2 667

1975: Intra-Community trade (exports in millions EUR)

CST	Country								
	EUR-9	Germany (FR)	France	Italy	Netherlands	Belgium/Luxembourg	United Kingdom	Ireland	Denmark
0+1: Food, beverages and tobacco	16 770	2 052	3 676	1 387	4 520	1 737	949	990	1 458
2+3+4: Raw materials of which	12 845	2 528	1 878	761	4 747	1 245	1 287	128	268
3: Fuel products	7 468	1 377	611	495	3 508	639	769	29	39
5+6+7+8+9: Industrial products of which	81 417	25 408	13 776	9 733	9 660	12 340	8 457	800	1 247
5: Chemicals	11 640	3 384	1 755	737	2 442	1 830	1 261	107	125
7: Machinery and transport	31 433	11 448	5 833	3 424	2 713	3 413	3 746	188	667
Total CST (0 to 9)	111 032	29 988	19 330	11 881	18 927	15 322	10 693	1 918	2 973

1972: Intra-Community trade (balances in millions EUR)

CST	Country								
	EUR-9	Germany (FR)	France	Italy	Netherlands	Belgium/Luxembourg	United Kingdom	Ireland	Denmark
0+1: Food, beverages and tobacco	136	-2 461	1 693	-836	1 697	-68	-1 321	476	682
2+3+4: Raw materials of which	136	-515	241	-430	1 754	-598	-206	-37	72
3: Fuel products	179	-177	-223	168	1 324	-419	-241	-67	184
5+6+7+8+9: Industrial products of which	152	3 209	-2 302	1 125	-1 907	1 486	189	-622	-1 025
5: Chemicals	-213	646	-463	-633	478	116	-34	-129	194
7: Machinery and transport	64	9 825	-709	-114	-1 117	-892	-176	-339	414
Total CST (0 to 9)	152	233	-368	-141	1 544	820	-1 338	-183	415

1973: Intra-Community trade (balances in millions EUR)

CST	Country								
	EUR-9	Germany (FR)	France	Italy	Netherlands	Belgium/Luxembourg	United Kingdom	Ireland	Denmark
0+1: Food, beverages and tobacco	2	-2 487	2 007	-1 234	2 080	-137	-1 583	451	906
2+3+4: Raw materials of which	-94	-1 122	355	-555	2 137	-525	-201	-45	137
3: Fuel products	24	-791	-213	276	1 593	-313	-179	-77	274
5+6+7+8+9: Industrial products of which	-217	6 169	-2 794	169	-2 172	1 302	-493	-710	-1 346
5: Chemicals	-185	810	-524	-847	597	207	-66	-133	229
7: Machinery and transport	101	5 549	-796	-524	-1 320	-1 278	-629	-371	530
Total CST (0 to 9)	-309	2 560	-434	-1 959	2 045	640	-2 280	-304	577

1974: Intra-Community trade (balances in millions EUR)

CST	Country								
	EUR-9	Germany (FR)	France	Italy	Netherlands	Belgium/Luxembourg	United Kingdom	Ireland	Denmark
0+1: Food, beverages and tobacco	210	2 330	2 350	-1 339	2 315	-131	-2 104	449	999
2+3+4: Raw materials of which	-35	-1 344	307	-742	3 405	-1 092	-4	-160	402
3: Fuel products	22	-1 053	-427	554	2 590	-746	-107	-193	596
5+6+7+8+9: Industrial products of which	1 136	9 094	-3 276	-795	-2 220	1 260	-572	-796	-1 559
5: Chemicals	-19	1 215	-739	-1 115	1 047	192	-73	-196	350
7: Machinery and transport	767	6 571	-932	-705	-1 625	-1 458	-236	-359	487
Total CST (0 to 9)	1 311	5 420	-619	-2 876	3 497	37	-2 680	-507	962

1975: Intra-Community trade (balances in millions EUR)

CST	Country								
	EUR-9	Germany (FR)	France	Italy	Netherlands	Belgium/Luxembourg	United Kingdom	Ireland	Denmark
0+1: Food, beverages and tobacco	556	- 2 426	1 562	- 1 407	3 003	- 66	- 2 135	785	1 239
2+3+4: Raw materials of which	- 198	- 1 756	10	- 836	3 637	- 797	2	- 131	- 330
3: Fuel products	- 208	- 1 482	- 461	44	3 005	- 539	- 123	- 174	- 479
5+6+7+8+9: Industrial products of which	569	5 801	- 2 224	1 635	- 2 800	630	- 225	- 707	- 1 537
5: Chemicals	- 73	564	- 585	- 809	892	258	102	- 173	- 323
7: Machinery and transport	377	5 228	- 295	- 358	- 1 854	- 1 428	15	- 337	- 596
Total CST (0 to 9)	927	1 619	- 652	- 608	3 840	- 233	- 2 358	- 53	- 628

WRITTEN QUESTION No 994/76

by Mr Martens

to the Commission of the European Communities

(7 March 1977)

Subject: Dairy produce stocks as at 10 February 1977

Milk powder

If my information is correct, milk powder stocks as at 10 February 1977 totalled 997 613 tonnes, compared with 1 147 915 tonnes on 12 February 1976.

It is worthy of note that during this period stocks in the Federal Republic of Germany rose from 367 886 tonnes to 580 453 tonnes, while in the other Member States stocks fell considerably; in the

Netherlands, for example, by 111 000 tonnes and in France by 150 000 tonnes.

Butter

During the same period, butter stocks in the Nine rose from 137 164 tonnes to 234 390 tonnes. Again it is worth noting that, of this total increase of 97 000 tonnes, the Federal Republic of Germany alone accounted for a good 77 000 tonnes.

How does the Commission explain these extremely disparate and disturbing developments?

Answer

(21 April 1977)

The information available to the Commission is based on the statistics for 1976 and reflects developments between 1 January and 31 December 1976. This development shows the same trend as that revealed by the Honourable Member's comparison of stocks at 10 February 1977 with those held at 12 February 1976.

The increase in stocks of skimmed-milk powder is not due to increased production in the Federal

Republic of Germany, where production in 1976 was only 16 000 tonnes more than in 1975. However, two factors were responsible for the movement of large quantities of skimmed-milk powder to the Federal Republic:

— until 15 September 1976, the intervention price of skimmed-milk powder in Germany was DM 3.60 per 100 kilograms higher than the Community price,

— the strong position of the DM on the currency market encouraged holders of skimmed-milk powder in the EEC to offer their supplies to the German intervention agency if the cost of transport was lower than the gain in monetary terms.

The increase in stocks of butter is due to trends in production and reduced consumption in the Federal Republic of Germany. Appreciation of the DM reduced the cost of oilcake for dairy cows and also reduced the cost of imported oils and fats, with a resultant unfavourable effect on butter consumption. This fell by 23 000 tonnes in 1976 by comparison with 1975, although production rose by 25 000 tonnes. It should also be noted that sales of German butter to the United Kingdom dropped by 16 000 tonnes in 1976.

To these three factors, which account for 64 000 tonnes of the butter surplus in the Federal Republic, must be added, as for skimmed-milk powder, the consequences of the favourable position of the DM on the currency market, which facilitated the importation of Dutch and Belgian butter into the Federal Republic.

The disturbing effect on trade caused by the disparate movements of Member States' currencies is a matter of concern to the Commission. With a view to reducing that effect the Commission has made proposals to the Council concerning the fixing of the representative exchange rates employed in the agricultural sector.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 18/77

by Mr Cousté

to the Commission of the European Communities

(16 March 1977)

Subject: European statute for victims of road accidents

In Europe of the Nine, which aspires to integration, it is unfortunately the case that victims of road accidents are also the victims of arrangements between insurance companies and of divergencies as between national legislations.

This being so, does the Commission intend to comply with the legitimate demands of road accident victims by endeavouring to have their legal position improved?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 19/77

by Mr Cousté

to the Commission of the European Communities

(16 March 1977)

Subject: European charter for victims of road accidents

Would it be possible for the Commission to promote the establishment of a European charter setting forth the rights of victims of road accidents?

Such a charter might include the following items:

- medical examinations to be independent of insurance companies,
- communication to the victims of medical reports relating to their cases,

- rapid settlement of claims for damages,
- abolition of the reversal of the burden of proof currently required,
- setting up of an autonomous European body to ensure the protection of victims, which might also serve as a Community office for the collection of civil liability insurance premiums and as a payments office.

Answer to Written Questions Nos 18/77 and 19/77

(28 April 1977)

As the Commission stated in its answers to Written Question No 184/76 by Mr Jahn ⁽¹⁾ and Oral Question 047/76 by Mr Schwörer ⁽²⁾, it feels that in order to improve the position of victims of road accidents the laws of the Member States on civil liability in respect of motor vehicles must be harmonized.

A working party made up of government experts has been set up by the Commission and is now considering how such harmonization could be realized.

The Commission will inform this working party of the Honourable Member's suggestion that support be given for the establishment of a European charter for victims of road accidents. It will also pass on the details concerning items which might be included in such a charter.

It will draw its conclusions from the information provided by the experts and other interested parties.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 184, 9. 8. 1976, p. 23.

⁽²⁾ Debates of the European Parliament, No 207 (October 1976), p. 225.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 22/77

by Mr Lagorce

to the Commission of the European Communities

(16 March 1977)

Subject: Inadequacy of replies to written questions

In Written Question No 739/76 ⁽¹⁾ the Commission was asked about the reasons which sometimes prevented it from giving sufficiently clear and precise answers to the written questions put to it by members of the European Parliament.

The far too limited and inadequate answer to Written Question No 576/76 ⁽²⁾ is an excellent case in point. The Commission is therefore asked in this supplementary question whether it would not be possible to provide a more complete and satisfactory answer to Written Question No 576/76 on the problem of fraud in the wine trade.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 50, 28. 2. 1977, p. 39.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 305, 27. 12. 1976, p. 27.

Answer*(3 May 1977)*

Written Question No 576/76, to which the Honourable Member would like a fuller answer, concerns an alleged wine fraud at Cologne. The Commission's investigation has, however, shown that no such fraud has been detected there and it is therefore unable to supplement its answer on the subject.

The Commission would moreover stress that direct checking of compliance with Community provisions in the wine sector, especially those concerning viticulture, oenological practices and marketing, is the duty of the Member States. The Commission naturally carries out a certain check by 'ensuring that the provisions of the Treaty and the measures taken by the institutions pursuant thereto are applied' (Article 155 of the EEC Treaty).

The only direct check carried out by the Commission is its verification of the expenditure of Member States financed by the EAGGF pursuant to

Regulations (EEC) No 729/70 ⁽¹⁾ and (EEC) No 283/72 ⁽²⁾.

The Commission is aware of the need for special efforts to prevent fraud in the wine sector. It has therefore presented to the Council a proposal for a Regulation on direct cooperation between the bodies designated by the Member States to verify compliance with Community provisions in the wine sector ⁽³⁾. The Council may be expected to examine this proposal in the very near future.

The Special Committee of Inquiry, created by the Commission Decision of 3 October 1973, which has analyzed several reports of known fraudulent practices in the agricultural sector (milk products, olive oil, oil seeds, beef sector) started fresh investigations in the wine sector in July 1976. A final report is expected to be produced before the end of 1977.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 94, 28. 4. 1970, p. 13.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 36, 10. 2. 1972, p. 1.

⁽³⁾ Doc. COM(77) 66.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 25/77

by Mrs Walz

to the Commission of the European Communities

(16 March 1977)

Subject: Study undertaken by the French Petroleum Institute

What research, economic and financial conclusions does the Commission draw from the French Petroleum Institute's two-volume study 'the World Market for Offshore Mobile Drilling Rigs — the present position and prospects, 1978 to 1985', which analyzes the short and long term needs for various types of offshore drilling rigs in various geographical locations?

Answer*(26 April 1977)*

The outcome of the survey of the French Petroleum Institute, mentioned by the Honourable Member, will be of definite value in the field of energy policy, particularly in regard to the selection and assessment of 'Community projects' in application of Council Regulation (EEC) 3056/73 ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 312, 13. 11. 1973, p. 1.

This Regulation enables the Community to give financial support, under the Community projects scheme, to technological developments which are expected to contribute towards an improved supply of hydrocarbons. Three important projects concerning offshore drilling techniques have already been funded by applying this Regulation.

Details of these projects can be found in the Commission's report to the Council and Parliament on the application of Regulation (EEC) No 3056/73 ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ COM(76) 709, 23. 12. 1976.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 26/77

by Mr De Clercq

to the Commission of the European Communities

(16 March 1977)

Subject: Soaring coffee prices

The prices of coffee has been rising continually for some months: whereas in 1975 the price per tonne was less than £500, it recently reached £4 000 on the London market. As the current retail price corresponds to about £2 000 a tonne further increases are inevitable.

At a time when efforts are being made to develop a consumer protection policy, to protect in particular consumers' economic interests, does not the

Commission consider it necessary to initiate large-scale action at Community level, for instance a 'coffee boycott', to put the kind of pressure on coffee producers which proved so successful in the USA?

Could this task not be entrusted to the Consumers' Consultative Committee?

Are the evident shortcomings in this area not directly attributable to the small number of staff employed by this committee? Does the Commission intend to make substantial increases in the number of staff in the near future?

Answer

(26 April 1977)

The Commission does not consider a 'coffee boycott' to be the best means of solving the problem of the rising price of coffee.

The Consumer's Consultative Committee has no mandate to organize such a boycott.

As the Honourable Member is aware, the CCC consists of 25 members; its task is to represent the consumers' interests in contacts with the Commission, and to give opinions on the policies and actions aimed at protecting and informing consumers.

The Commission does not intend altering the composition of the Committee.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 32/77

by Mr Vandewiele

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 March 1977)

Subject: Staff Regulations of officials of the European Communities (recruitment)

On the matter of recruitment, the Staff Regulations of officials of the European Communities provide for:

- (a) the procurement of the services of officials of the highest standard of ability;
- (b) an objective selection without reference to race, creed or sex.

On the basis of what criteria is this aim pursued?

Can the variable factors taken into consideration be checked objectively by experts?

Have such checks on objectivity already been carried out?

On the basis of what criteria are the members of selection boards appointed?

How can someone taking part in a competition who feels himself to have been unfairly assessed have a check carried out into the objectivity of the competition?

Answer

(25 April 1977)

1. The provisions of the Staff Regulations of officials of the European Communities relating to recruitment are to be found mainly:

— in Title III, Chapter 1,

— in Annex III.

2. For the members which it has to appoint to a selection board, the appointing authority takes into consideration the nature of the competition and the levels concerned (posts to be filled).

A selection board may appoint examiners, but will retain full responsibility itself.

3. The proceedings of selection boards are secret and no checks can therefore be carried out.

4. If necessary, where some doubt exists, a candidate may ask to see the original or a copy of a written test which has given rise to a disputed mark to check that it is in fact his.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 33/77

by Mr Vandewiele

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 March 1977)

Subject: Recruitment by the Commission of the European Communities of a head of division in grade A 3 for the Administration and Personnel Division at the Ispra Centre

In the published notices it is not stated whether a competition or an examination is to be held.

According to what criteria have the members of the selection board been appointed?

What safeguards have been instituted to ensure that it will be possible for competence as regards 'practical and theoretical knowledge of personnel management' to be expertly assessed?

Answer

(25 April 1977)

1. The recent publication of a vacancy notice in respect of the post of Head of the Administration and Personnel Division at Ispra was the first stage in the procedure laid down in Article 29 (1) of the Staff Regulations, which is intended to give the appointing authority the opportunity to consider whether a post can be filled by promotion or transfer within the institution.

Not until this stage has been completed does the appointing authority consider whether a competition should be held.

2. It follows that no selection board has yet been appointed at all, since the appointment of a selection board within the meaning of Annex III to the Staff Regulations is part of the competition procedure.

3. The Honourable Member is referred to the Commission's answer to his Written Question No 32/77 ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ See page 27 of this Official Journal.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 35/77

by Mr Waltmans

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 March 1977)

Subject: The weedkiller 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid

1. Has large-scale use been made in recent years of the weedkiller 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid to control the American bird cherry (*Prunus serotina*) in woodland areas and will it be so used again this year?

2. Is it true that this weedkiller contains traces of dioxin, a substance to which the Seveso catastrophe has lent notoriety? Can the Commission state what measures are employed to ensure that the dioxin content does not exceed 0.1 ppm, since the requisite tests involve the use of pure dioxin, which in view of the poisonous nature of this substance are not without risk?

3. Is the Commission aware that there are serious objections to the use of this weedkiller, particularly on account of pollution by dioxin, because of the

harmful effect on the higher mammals (including man) and creatures living in the soil?

4. Is it true that for this reason use of this weedkiller in woodland areas in Sweden has been banned and is strictly limited in Switzerland and that as long ago as 1974 German and Austrian biologists were urging that it should no longer be used anywhere in Central Europe?

5. In view of the harmful effects mentioned above and the fact that even under the present rules for use, which have recently been tightened up, it is very difficult to prevent the very persistent dioxin from entering the environment and also contaminating those spraying it, would it not be highly desirable to put an end to its use?

6. Is the Commission prepared to submit suitable proposals to the Council of Ministers?

Answer

(3 May 1977)

1. 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2,4,5-T) has been used on a limited scale in certain Member States for the specific control of *Prunus serotina*. The latter does not naturally occur widely in Europe and the Commission does not know if 2,4,5-T will be so used again this year.

2. 2,4,5-T may contain traces of dioxin, the maximum permitted level of which (0.1 ppm) is normally officially controlled by combined gas chromatography — mass spectrometry. This analytical technique involves the use of very small quantities of pure dioxins as reference standards and special laboratory safety precautions are routinely taken to safeguard the analysts who are, of course, fully aware of the dangers of incorrectly handling dioxins.

3 and 5. The authorized uses of 2,4,5-T have recently been thoroughly reviewed by most Member States, notably by the Federal Republic of Germany, France and the United Kingdom. It appears of these reviews, that it may be admitted that, when properly applied for the purpose intended, herbicides containing 2,4,5-T complying with the above specification can be used without risk to human or animal health and with minimal risk to the environment.

4. According to the information available to the Commission, 2,4,5-T is not banned in woodland areas in Sweden. Its use there is, however, strictly limited as it is in Switzerland and also in the Member States of the Community.

The Commission does not know to which group of biologists the Honourable Member refers.

6. The Commission would point out that it has already submitted to the Council a number of proposals to regulate the marketing and use, and labelling to indicate risks of pesticides at Community level. Details of these proposals were given in its answer to Written Question No 572/76 by Mr Pisoni (1). When adopted, they will *inter alia* provide the Community generally with the means to prohibit, if necessary, the marketing and use of hazardous or environmentally harmful plant protection products.

The Commission will continue to keep the use of 2,4,5-T under review in the light of any new information which comes to light.

(1) OJ No C 23, 31. 1. 1977, p. 19.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 38/77

by Mr Lemoine

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 March 1977)

Subject: Export of dairy produce stocks

The Community has a large butter surplus which is rapidly increasing and expensive to store. At the same time it imports — duty free — 1 600 000 tonnes of American vegetable fats which compete directly with butter and which constitute a serious currency drain. Apart from the East European countries there is virtually no opening on the world market for disposing of these stocks.

1. Under these circumstances, why is the Commission refusing to grant the usual export subsidies in the case of the butter deal concluded with the USSR?
2. Does it not feel that this attitude, which to all appearances is based on political discrimination, will affect trade relations with third countries, which henceforth will be subject to different arrangements according to their political regimes?
3. How can the Commission propose a co-responsibility levy on milk producers when it is vetoing exports that would make it easier to dispose of the butter stocks?

Answer*(29 April 1977)*

The question of Community butter exports was discussed at length in Parliament at the sittings on 9, 10 ⁽¹⁾ and 23 ⁽²⁾ March 1977. The Commission has nothing further to add to the statements which it made at those meetings.

⁽¹⁾ Debates of the European Parliament, No 214 (March 1977), p. 72.

⁽²⁾ Debates of the European Parliament, No 215 (March 1977), p. 66.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 41/77**by Mr Cousté****to the Commission of the European Communities***(18 March 1977)*

Subject: European Investment Bank loans to small and medium-sized undertakings

According to the most recent EIB report for 1975, only four loans, totalling 10.2 million units of account, were granted to intermediary institutions to finance the activities of small and medium-sized enterprises.

How does the Commission explain the smallness of the sums involved when it is recognized that this form of financing is particularly effective for European regional development?

Answer*(26 April 1977)*

With regard to the global loans granted by the European Investment Bank in 1975, the Honourable Member's attention is directed to the Commission's answer to Written Question No 185/76 by Mr Durieux ⁽¹⁾.

In 1976, seven global loans totalling 61.2 million units of account, a significant increase over 1975, were granted by the EIB to intermediary financial institutions.

In all, 86 loan allocations were decided in 1976, totalling 47.5 million units of account. The table below updates to 1976 the table given in the answer to Mr Durieux's question:

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 244, 18. 10. 1976, p. 5.

EIB lending in the Community in million units of account	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
A. Total	338.5	469.0	505.9	696.8	849.7	917.5	1 086.0
B. Industrial and services sectors	161.2	249.9	150.4	192.7	247.0	191.0	284.1
C. Global loan allocations for small and medium-scale ventures	6.9	16.6	21.3	24.5	76.0	63.1	47.5
(global loans granted to intermediary institutions)	(21.3)	(22.0)	(33.2)	(109.6)	(132.9)	(10.2)	(61.2)
Number of operations under B	47	72	50	59	208	150	120
Number of operations under C	14	44	36	39	186	129	86
C as a % of B	4.3	6.6	14.2	12.7	30.8	33.0	16.7

WRITTEN QUESTION No 50/77

by Mrs Dunwoody

to the Commission of the European Communities

(22 March 1977)

Subject: The Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation

The Parliamentary Association for Euro-Arab Cooperation has, on 15 January 1977, sent a letter to President Carter asking the United States of America to exercise pressure on Israel in order to recognize the rights of the Palestinian people to a homeland and which equally contains certain elements pertaining to the territories which would constitute their homeland on Israeli soil. This appeal to the President of the United States is in total opposition with the European Council of Ministers November 1973 declaration. Without wishing to enter into polemics about this *démarche* to the President of the United States, can the Commission reply to the following:

1. Is the Commission aware that the President of this Association is none other than Mr Offroy, who has in many articles published in 'Le Monde' challenged Israel's rights to existence?

2. Did the abovementioned Parliamentary Association receive in 1975 a financial aid amounting to FF 22 222 (or Bfrs 200 000) ⁽¹⁾?

3. Is the Commission ready to communicate to Parliament a detailed list of the institutions and associations having received subsidies in 1976 and about to receive in 1977?

4. If not, is the Commission ready to explain its refusal?

5. Is this subsidy compatible with the Commission's policy towards the Mediterranean area?

6. Does not this policy run counter to the Commission's objectivity in the matter?

⁽¹⁾ Chapter 41 of the 1975 budget 'the granting of subsidies', Article 412.

Answer

(21 April 1977)

1. The President of the Association in question is Mr Offroy.

2. Yes.

3 and 4. As is its custom each year, the Commission has sent the European Parliament's Committee on Budgets a list of associations which it subsidized in 1976. The Commission has not yet granted any subsidies for 1977.

5 and 6. The Commission has always been in favour of encouraging and supporting initiatives to foster cooperation between Europe and non-member countries, in this case the Arab world.

It considers that meetings between parliamentarians from Europe and the Mediterranean area can make a positive contribution in this context.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 52/77

by Miss Flesch

to the Commission of the European Communities

(22 March 1977)

Subject: Changes in customs tariffs applied by ACP countries to imports from the Community

1. What changes have the ACP countries made to customs tariffs applied to imports from the Community since the Lomé Convention came into effect?
2. Does no ACP country grant the Community more favourable treatment than that of 'most-favoured-nation'?

Answer

(28 April 1977)

1. The Honourable Member will find in the table below a summary of the measures taken by the ACP States pursuant to Article 7 of the Lomé Convention and the treatment at present applied to products originating in the Community.

It should be pointed out here that the tariff treatment accorded by the ACP States to the Community was not uniform when the Lomé Convention was signed on 28 February 1975. The States which had signed the Yaoundé Convention (with two exceptions) and the Arusha Agreement signatories granted preferential treatment to the Community of Six, and many Commonwealth States granted like treatment to the United Kingdom. The trade provisions of the Lomé Convention came into effect on 1 July 1975, and from that date the ACP States started taking the measures provided for in Article 7 of the Convention,

namely non-discrimination between Member States and the granting to the Community of treatment no less favourable than most-favoured-nation treatment. Most of the ACP States which had granted the Community preferential tariff treatment stopped doing so in the following months.

Since some States have not yet made their position known officially, the Commission has endeavoured to obtain the relevant information by other means wherever possible.

2. As a result of the measures taken by the ACP States, Community exports at present receive treatment more favourable than most-favoured-nation treatment in the following ACP States: Bénin, Mauritania, Mauritius, Niger, Senegal, Tonga and Upper Volta.

ANNEX

ACP States ⁽¹⁾	Action taken on tariffs	Treatment
Bénin	Yaoundé preferential treatment extended to new Member States	Pref
Botswana	Abolition of Commonwealth treatment	MFN
Burundi	Abolition of Yaoundé preferential treatment	MFN
Chad	Abolition of Yaoundé preferential treatment	MFN
Equatorial Guinea	No information has been received from this state	MFN
Ethiopia	Continuation of previous non-preferential tariff	MFN
Fiji	Abolition of preferential treatment	MFN
Gambia	Abolition of preferential treatment	MFN
Ghana	Continuation of previous non-preferential treatment	MFN
Guinea	No information has been received from these States	
Guinea-Bissau		
Ivory Coast	Abolition of Yaoundé preferential treatment	MFN
Lesotho	Abolition of Commonwealth preferential treatment	MFN
Liberia	Continuation of previous non-preferential treatment	MFN
Madagascar	Abolition of Yaoundé preferential treatment	MFN
Malawi	Abolition of Commonwealth preferential treatment	MFN
Mali	No information has been received from this State	
Mauritania	Preferential treatment confined to a list of essential products accorded to the enlarged Community	Pref
Mauritius	Yaoundé and Commonwealth preferential treatment extended to Denmark and Ireland	Pref
Niger	Yaoundé preferential treatment extended to new Member States	Pref
Nigeria	Continuation of previous non-preferential treatment	MFN
Rwanda	Abolition of Yaoundé preferential treatment	MFN
Samoa	Abolition of Commonwealth preferential treatment	MFN
Senegal	Yaoundé treatment extended to new Member States	Pref
Sierra Leone	Abolition of Yaoundé preferential treatment	
Somalia		
Sudan	Continuation of previous non-preferential treatment	MFN
Swaziland	Abolition of Commonwealth preferential treatment	MFN
Togo	Continuation of previous non-preferential treatment	MFN
Tonga	Commonwealth treatment extended to original Member States	Pref
Upper Volta	Yaoundé preferential treatment extended to new Member States	Pref
Zaire	Continuation of previous non-preferential treatment	MFN
Zambia	Abolition of Commonwealth preferential treatment	MFN
<i>Customs unions</i>		
CARICOM	Abolition of Commonwealth preferential treatment	Pref
Bahamas		
Barbados		
Grenada		
Guyana		
Jamaica		
Trinidad and Tobago		
<i>East Africa</i>		
Kenya	Abolition of Arusha preferential treatment	MFN
Tanzania		
Uganda		
<i>Central African Customs and Economic Union (UDEAC)</i>		
Cameroon	Abolition of Yaoundé preferential treatment	MFN
Central African Empire		
Congo		
Gabon		

⁽¹⁾ The Commission does not yet have any information on tariffs for the States which recently signed the Lomé Convention (Surinam, the Comoros and the Seychelles).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 53/77
by Mrs Cassanmagnago Cerretti
to the Commission of the European Communities
(25 March 1977)

Subject: Advisory Veterinary Committee

A list of members of the Advisory Veterinary Committee set up in the EEC Commission has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* ⁽¹⁾.

This list does not include members of Italian nationality: what is the reason for this omission?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 41, 18. 2. 1977, p. 31.

Answer

(6 May 1977)

The Commission has had to adopt for advisory committees concerned with harmonization of legislation, such as the Veterinary Committee, a structure which is different from that of agricultural committees each of which is concerned with one particular product.

Because of the extremely wide range of subjects dealt with, the members of these advisory committees do not sit as individuals but as sectoral representatives.

Accordingly the Commission Decision of 15 June 1976 setting up an Advisory Veterinary Committee ⁽¹⁾ lays down that the Committee is to consist of representatives from trade and consumer organizations constituted at Community level.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 171, 30. 6. 1976, p. 37.

The Committee is composed of two categories of members:

- 14 permanent members, and
- a maximum of 24 non-permanent members.

The permanent members are responsible for ensuring that work is coordinated. They are appointed by the Commission on a proposal from the bodies listed in Article 4 of the Decision, and the fact that no permanent member of Italian nationality was appointed results from those proposals.

As for the non-permanent members, they are delegated by the bodies listed in Article 4 of the Decision to attend the meetings in accordance with the subjects dealt with and their qualifications. Although there is no nationality criterion in the selection of members, every nationality was in fact represented at the first meeting of the Committee held on 3 March 1977.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 63/77
by Mr Price
to the Commission of the European Communities
(25 March 1977)

Subject: Information procedures

Does the fact that the President has now assumed responsibility for all information procedures mean that he has assumed responsibility for all information to Parliament?

Answer

(26 April 1977)

No. The Spokesman's Group and the Directorate-General for Information, for which the President has responsibility, deal with information to the public.

The arrangements concerning information to Parliament are still the same as under the previous Commission.

The member of the Commission with special responsibility for relations with Parliament is Mr Burke.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 64/77

by Mr Osborn

to the Commission of the European Communities

(25 March 1977)

Subject: Lomé Convention delegates

Article 31 of Protocol 2 of the Lomé Convention provides for the representation of the Commission, in each ACP state which so requests, by a delegate.

Will the Commission publish in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*, or elsewhere, a list of the names and addresses of each of these delegates?

Will the Commission also undertake to publish regularly any changes to this list?

Answer

(6 May 1977)

The Commission does not intend to publish a list of its delegates to the ACP States in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*. Such a list will soon be appearing at regular intervals in an annex to the 'Directory of the Commission' giving up-to-date information on all the Commission's external offices.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 73/77

by Mr Klinker

to the Commission of the European Communities

(28 March 1977)

Subject: Effect of energy prices on competitiveness of under-glass horticulture in the Community

In the 1976 report on the situation of the agricultural markets (COM(77) 50) submitted by the Commission on 11 February 1977, the effect of increased energy

costs on the under-glass plant growing industry is mentioned only incidentally in Part I, Section A, 11a, with no evaluation of its impact. Yet the present position with regard to energy prices is no more favourable than it was on average in 1974. Glass-grown produce has failed to command higher market prices to offset rising energy costs. Moreover, in the absence of a joint Community energy policy, differences in energy costs persist as between certain Member States, affecting the competitiveness of the under-glass horticultural undertakings through variations in heating costs. Despite this, the Commission has not extended beyond 30 June 1976 the subsidies granted to Member States for energy costs in this sector.

1. What differences does the Commission calculate for the under-glass horticultural industries of the Member States in the costs of the same quantity of heat (in kcal) from different energy sources, particularly in view of the fact that natural gas is the principal source of energy for heating purposes in horticulture in the Netherlands?
2. What are the levels of, and differences in, consumer taxes (e.g. the fuel-oil tax) payable in the Member States on energy used by under-glass horticultural undertakings?
3. What domestic measures, and in which countries, are known to the Commission, aimed specifically at the under-glass cultivation industry to alleviate the rising energy costs borne by undertakings in this sector (e.g. reimbursement of fuel-oil tax, non-repayable grants for conversion to alternative energy sources, investment subsidies for energy-saving measures, etc.)?
4. What measures does the Commission have in mind to place competition on a more normal footing if the answers to the three foregoing questions should indicate the existence of considerable differences in competitiveness?

Answer

(29 April 1977)

The Commission is looking into the problem raised by the Honourable Member and will inform him of its findings in due course.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 76/77

by Mr Cousté

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 April 1977)

Subject: Appropriations for translation and interpretation

Can the Commission state under which chapter of the budget appropriations for translation and interpretation into the Community's various official languages are entered?

Can it state, in the first place for the European Parliamentary Assembly, the total expenditure in 1976 and the estimates for 1977 for translation and

interpretation and what percentage of the overall budget of this Institution these figures represent?

Can it also supply the same information for each Community institution: Council, Commission and Court of Justice, namely:

1. in which chapters appropriations for translation and interpretation are entered;
2. the expenditure in 1976 and the estimates for 1977 and what percentage of the total budget these figures represent?

Answer*(26 April 1977)*

There is no specific item in the budget to cover translation and interpreting costs, which are spread over several items such as staff, equipment, buildings and current administrative expenditure. Only the appropriations for certain outside work and services are referred to expressly: auxiliary interpreters (Chapter XI, Item 1111), freelance interpreters and conference technicians (Chapter XII, Item 1170), freelance proof-readers (Chapter XII, Item 1171) and other services and work sent out for translation and typing (Chapter XII, Item 1172). However, it must be remembered that expenditure under these items covers only a small part of the Commission's translation and interpreting work.

The Commission would remind the Honourable Member that it is not in the habit of answering questions concerning the administrative arrangements of other Community institutions.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 81/77**by Mr Lezzi****to the Commission of the European Communities***(1 April 1977)*

Subject: Accession of Angola and Mozambique to the Lomé Convention

Have Angola and Mozambique expressed the desire to sign the Lomé Convention?

If they have not yet done so, is the Commission prepared in principle to give favourable consideration to any such request by these countries?

Answer*(26 April 1977)*

Angola and Mozambique have so far expressed no desire to accede to the Lomé Convention.

Furthermore the Commission would remind the Honourable Member that Article 90 of the Lomé Convention lays down that any request for accession to that Convention submitted by a State whose economic structure and production are comparable with those of the ACP States requires approval by the ACP-EEC Council of Ministers. Article 73 stipulates that 'the Council of Ministers shall act by mutual agreement between the Community on the one hand and the ACP States on the other'.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 83/77
by Mr Howell
to the Commission of the European Communities
(1 April 1977)

Subject: Tripartite Conference

Will the Commission list, by Member States, the organizations of workers and employers which are represented on the 'steering group' of the Tripartite Conference?

Answer
(6 May 1977)

The steering group of the Tripartite Conference is very small, being composed for the social partners of representatives of both sides of industry organized at European level. These are the liaison Committee of Employers and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 90/77
by Mr Liogier
to the Commission of the European Communities
(4 April 1977)

Subject: Price of cheese

Is the Commission contemplating an amendment of the Regulations in order to guarantee prices for cheese producers applicable throughout the Community, as is apparently not the case at present?

Answer
(25 April 1977)

The Commission does not at present intend to propose amendments which would result in an extension of the guarantee to the dairy market, of which the market in cheese is a part.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 97/77
by Mr Schwörer
to the Commission of the European Communities
(4 April 1977)

Subject: Directive on export credits

The Council adopted the Directive on export credits on 14 March 1977.

Is the Commission prepared to take the necessary steps if it is found that these rules are not being observed? Will expert staff be made available for this and can the undertakings concerned expect any transgressions to be prosecuted without delay and by means of direct contact with the Governments of the Member States?

Answer*(28 April 1977)*

In addition to the Community consultation procedure ⁽¹⁾ for individual cases, which in any event is still applicable, the guidelines laid down by the Council Decision of 14 March 1977 notably with regard to the duration of and interest chargeable on credit represent substantial progress towards the development of a Community policy on export credits.

Among other things, the Decision requires Member States to give advance notice before deviating from the guidelines. This will enable the Commission to take appropriate action in good time.

⁽¹⁾ Decision 73/391/EEC (OJ No L 346, 17. 12. 1973, p. 1).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 118/77**by Mr Waltmans and Mr Albers****to the Commission of the European Communities***(15 April 1977)**Subject:* Education allowances

1. Is it true that the Community budget provides for a maximum monthly education allowance of Bfrs 2 900 for each dependent child of a European official?

2. Is it true that this allowance covers:

- (a) school and examination fees (this does not apply in the case of children of European officials who are educated free of charge at the European school);
- (b) transport costs;
- (c) obligatory payments actually incurred (books, school equipment etc.);

(d) costs arising from attendance at school courses in the mountains, by the sea, etc. outside the school holiday period?

3. Does this not indicate that the cost of 'winter sports classes' is borne by the Community in the case of children of Community officials, as laid down in the Regulations concerning education allowances, whereas parents who are not employed by the Community but whose children attend the European school have to bear the cost themselves?

4. Does the Commission not think that, if these 'winter sports classes' are part of the curriculum of the European school, all parents should pay the same fees?

Answer*(3 May 1977)*

1. The sum of Bfrs 2 900 per month referred to by the Honourable Members represents the maximum education allowance and not the actual payments made to officials, which are calculated on the basis of the costs incurred.

2. It is true that the education allowance covers the different items listed by the Honourable Member; with reference in particular to the costs arising from the child's attendance at winter sports classes, courses by the sea, and so on, these are covered on the terms set out in the relevant implementing provisions.

3 and 4. As stated above, it is the Regulations defining the rights of Community officials which provide that the costs arising from attendance at classes of this type are eligible for the purposes of the education allowance. It is not possible to extend these provisions to other persons who may in fact, in some cases, be entitled to similar allowances under their conditions of employment.