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### Contents

### I *Information*

#### European Parliament

##### Written questions:

- No 37/77 by Mr Jahn to the Commission  
Subject: State of implementation of the Social Action Programme of the European Communities ..... 1
- No 46/77 by Mr Jahn to the Commission  
Subject: Harmonization of legislation on foodstuffs in the Community ..... 5
- No 61/77 by Mr Lemoine to the Commission  
Subject: Imports of dairy products ..... 5
- No 95/77 by Mr Guerlin to the Commission  
Subject: Aerosols ..... 8
- No 100/77 by Mr Müller-Hermann to the Commission  
Subject: Nuclear power stations and energy policy ..... 8
- No 101/77 by Mr Normanton to the Commission  
Subject: Pipelines ..... 10
- No 112/77 by Mr Waltmans to the Commission  
Subject: Judgment of the Freiburg court on the planned construction of a nuclear power station in Wyhl ..... 11
- No 135/77 by Mr Cousté to the Commission  
Subject: Consumer information ..... 12
- No 136/77 by Mr Cousté to the Commission  
Subject: Status of commercial agents ..... 13
- No 137/77 by Mr Hougardy to the Council  
Subject: Direct elections in the United Kingdom ..... 14
- No 138/77 by Mr Jahn to the Commission  
Subject: Infringement of Community law by the German Football Association (DFB) 14
- No 139/77 by Mr Lenihan to the Commission  
Subject: Recruitment of senior Irish officials ..... 15

Contents (continued)

No 140/77 by Mr Lenihan to the Commission Subject: Recruitment of Director-General of Irish nationality .....	16
No 141/77 by Mr Dondelinger to the Commission Subject: Anti-nuclear protests .....	17
No 142/77 by Mr Dondelinger to the Council Subject: European elections and the right to vote .....	17
No 143/77 by Mr Dondelinger to the Commission Subject: EIB financing of a hotel in Abidjan .....	18
No 144/77 by Mr Dondelinger to the Commission Subject: Protection of baby seals .....	18
No 145/77 by Mrs Kruchow to the Commission Subject: Hunting shot .....	19
No 146/77 by Mrs Kruchow to the Commission Subject: Atmospheric pollution .....	19
No 147/77 by Mr Creed to the Commission Subject: Imports of live sheep .....	20
No 148/77 by Mr McDonald to the Commission Subject: Advertising of alcoholic beverages .....	21
No 152/77 by Mr Hougardy to the Commission Subject: European Foundation .....	21
No 153/77 by Mr Waltmans to the Commission Subject: Storage for nuclear waste .....	22
No 158/77 from Mr Ellis to the Commission Subject: List of nuclear power stations in the Community .....	23
No 163/77 by Mr Martens to the Commission Subject: Supplies of wheat for food aid .....	24
No 164/77 by Mr Martens to the Commission Subject: Sugar from the ACP countries .....	25
No 166/77 by Mr Maigaard to the Council Subject: Modifications to the Treaty .....	26
No 171/77 by Mr Maigaard to the Council Subject: Scope of Article 235 of the EEC Treaty .....	26
No 175/77 by Mr Maigaard to the Commission Subject: The Community's powers in the environment sector .....	27
No 177/77 by Mr Kofoed to the Commission Subject: Beef market .....	28
No 178/77 by Mr Hougardy to the Commission Subject: Reduction of domestic energy consumption .....	29
No 181/77 by Mr Durieux to the Council Subject: Rights of the citizens of the Community .....	29

(Continued on inside back cover)

Contents (continued)

No 186/77 by Mr Evans to the Commission Subject: Regional development programme .....	30
No 189/77 by Mr Hoffmann to the Commission Subject: Future relations between the Commission and local and regional Institutions	31
No 195/77 by Mr Martens to the Commission Subject: Intervention for bread and fodder grains (1973 and 1976) .....	32
No 196/77 by Mr Martens to the Commission Subject: Intervention for pigmeat (1974 and 1976) .....	32
No 197/77 by Mr Martens to the Commission Subject: Intervention for beef and veal (1974 and 1976) .....	33
No 198/77 by Mr Martens to the Commission Subject: Intervention for milk products (1973 and 1976) .....	34
No 201/77 by Mr Howell to the Commission Subject: Butter production .....	35
No 207/77 by Mr Seefeld to the Commission Subject: Reflecting number plates for motor vehicles .....	35
No 208/77 by Mrs Ewing to the Commission Subject: Report on Regional Cultures .....	36
No 210/77 by Mr Cousté to the Commission Subject: Taxation on beer and wine in the European Communities .....	36
No 216/77 by Mr Dondelinger to the Commission Subject: Human rights .....	37
No 224/77 by Mr Willi Müller and Mr Spillecke to the Commission Subject: Saccharine .....	37
No 225/77 by Mr Evans to the Commission Subject: Environmental protection .....	38
No 226/77 by Mr Evans to the Commission Subject: Publication of an annual report .....	39
No 228/77 by Mr Seefeld to the Commission Subject: Relations between the EEC and Sweden .....	39
No 229/77 by Mr Howell to the Commission Subject: Written questions .....	40
No 238/77 by Mr Dondelinger to the Commission Subject: Insulting remarks made about members of the Commission of the European Communities .....	40
No 266/77 by Mr Nyborg to the Commission Subject: Appointment of Danish interpreters in Community institutions .....	41
No 293/77 by Mr Osborn to the Commission Subject: Energy conservation incentive schemes .....	41

## I

*(Information)*

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

## WRITTEN QUESTION No 37/77

by Mr Jahn

to the Commission of the European Communities

*(17 March 1977)*

*Subject:* State of implementation of the Social Action Programme of the European Communities

The Social Action Programme adopted by the Council on 21 January 1974<sup>(1)</sup> promised the adoption, during a first stage covering the period from 1974 to 1976, of those measures necessary to achieve the following objectives:

- attainment of full and better employment in the Community,
- improvement of living and working conditions so as to make possible their harmonization while the improvement is being maintained,
- increased involvement of management and labour in the economic and social decisions of the Community, and of workers in the life of undertakings.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 13, 12. 2. 1974, p. 1.

The Commission is asked to answer the following questions on this subject:

1. Now that the period laid down for the first stage of the programme has expired, can the Commission give a brief survey of the state of its implementation, explaining why certain actions have not yet been carried out and indicating when they will be?
2. Why has priority action No 6 'The establishment of an initial action programme, relating in particular to health and safety at work, the health of workers and improved organization of tasks, beginning in those economic sectors where working conditions appear to be the most difficult' still not been implemented?
3. Why has the Commission not complied with the undertaking laid down in the programme to submit to the Council 'before 31 December 1976 a series of measures to be taken during a further phase' and when will it make good this omission?

**Answer***(8 June 1977)*

1. The state of implementation of the Social Action Programme is shown in the list below.

It can be seen from this list that the Council adopted the 10 actions submitted to it by the Commission before 1 April 1974 under the Social Action Programme, and that the Commission has put forward proposals or taken concrete measures

concerning almost all the actions to which the Council gave priority in its resolution of 21 January 1974.

Most of the other actions provided for in the Social Action Programme but not given priority have similarly been the subject of proposals or measures by the Commission.

2. Following discussion by the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work, at the end of December 1976 the Commission approved the outlines of an action programme which will be developed in greater detail.

3. At the Council's 424th Meeting on 9 December 1976, the Commission presented a whole series of measures in progress, constituting a further phase of

the operations undertaken to date under the Social Action Programme.

The Commission also proposes to add other initiatives to these measures. For instance, it is currently considering how operations in the social field can be incorporated into the work of the fourth medium-term economic policy programme.

### State of implementation of the Social Action Programme

#### Situation at the end of March 1977

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|--|--|
| <p>I. <i>Proposals submitted to the Council before 21 January 1974:</i></p> <p>I.1. Assistance from the ESF for:<br/>— migrant workers,<br/>— handicapped persons:<br/>adopted by the Council on 10 June 1974 (Decisions 74/327/EEC and 74/328/EEC of 27 June 1974).</p> <p>I.2. First Community action programme for the vocational rehabilitation of the handicapped:<br/>adopted on 10 June 1974 (resolution of 27 June 1974).</p> <p>I.3. The setting up of a European general safety committee (Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work) and extension of the competence of the Mines Safety and Health Commission:<br/>adopted on 10 June 1974 (Decisions 74/325/EEC and 74/326/EEC of 27 June 1974).</p> <p>I.4. Directive on equal pay for men and women:<br/>adopted on 17 December 1974 (Directive 75/117/EEC of 10 February 1975).</p> <p>I.5. Overall application of the principle of the forty-hour week and four weeks' annual paid holiday:<br/>adopted on 17 June 1975 (recommendation of 22 July 1975).</p> <p>I.6. Creation of a European Foundation for the improvement of the environment and living and working conditions:<br/>adopted on 17 December 1974 (Regulation (EEC) No 1365/75 of 26 May 1975).</p> | <p>I.7. Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to collective redundancies:<br/>adopted on 17 December 1974 (Directive 75/129/EEC of 17 February 1975).</p> <p>II. <i>Proposals to be submitted to the Council before 1 April 1974:</i></p> <p>II.5. First action programme for migrant workers:<br/>replaced by the programme indicated below.</p> <p>II.2. Establishment of a European Centre for the development of vocational training:<br/>adopted on 17 December 1974 (Regulation (EEC) No 337/75 of 10 February 1975),</p> <p>§ 12. Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the safeguarding of employees' rights in the event of transfers of undertakings, businesses or parts of businesses:<br/>proposal for a Directive of 29 May 1974, adopted on 9 December 1976 (Directive 77/187/EEC of 14 February 1977).</p> <p>II. <i>Actions to which the Council gave priority in its resolution of 21 January 1974:</i></p> <p>II.1. Cooperation between national employment services:<br/>— setting up of an <i>ad hoc</i> group of senior employment officials,<br/>— establishment of a group of highly qualified independent experts.</p> |
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- II.5. Action programme for migrant workers:  
adopted on 18 December 1975 (resolution of 9 February 1976).
- II.2. Implementation of a common policy on vocational training:  
— a draft recommendation on preliminary training for unemployed young persons or those threatened with unemployment of 9 August 1976,  
— a draft recommendation on vocational training of women is being prepared.
- II.4. Promotion of equality of treatment for men and women as regards access to employment and working conditions:  
— adopted on 18 December 1975 (Directive 76/207/EEC of 9 February 1976),  
— proposal for a Directive on social security of 3 January 1977 (COM(76) 650 final).
- II.9 and 10. Coordination of policies on social protection:  
— setting up of an *ad hoc* group of senior social security officials,  
— creation of a group of highly qualified independent experts.  
— Extension of social protection:  
draft Commission recommendation of 16 June 1976 (COM(76) 295 final).  
— Dynamization of social security benefits:  
Commission communication to the Council of 11 January 1977 (COM(76) 719 final).
- II.8. Action programme on industrial safety:  
— guidelines for a Community programme of 8 April 1975,  
— draft action programme being prepared.
- III.10. Job enrichment:  
Commission communication to the Council of 3 June 1976 (COM(76) 253 final), of which the Council took note on 9 December 1976.
- II.11. Action against poverty:  
— adopted on 17 June 1975 (Decision 75/458/EEC of 22 July 1975);  
— progress report by the Commission to the Council of 13 January 1977 (COM(76) 718 final).
- III.15. To promote increased participation by workers in industry:  
in November 1975, the Commission published a Green Paper on worker participation which lays down certain guidelines for discussion of coordination of national laws in this field.  
The amended proposal for a European company stated certain detailed provisions concerning worker participation in the European company (presented to the Council on 13 May 1975).
- § 12. To develop the participation of both sides of industry in Community decision:  
— revival of the Standing Committee on Employment;  
— organization of the Tripartite Conference on future European social policy of 16 December 1974;  
— organization of two Tripartite Conferences bringing together Ministers for Economic and Financial Affairs and Employment, the Commission, and the two sides of industry, held on 18 November 1975 and 24 June 1976.
- III. Other supporting actions:
- II.3. Income maintenance for workers during periods of retraining and job search:  
action not adopted on account of the difficulties encountered.
- II.5. Action programme for migrant workers:  
Specific measures:  
— proposal for a Directive on the education of migrant workers' children of 28 July 1976,  
— Regulation on the extension of migrant workers' trade union rights of 18 November 1975,  
— draft Directive on the harmonization of laws in the Member States to combat illegal migration and illegal employment of 3 November 1976 (COM(76) 331 final),  
— progressive coordination of immigration policies: the Advisory Committee on Free Movement of Workers delivered its opinion on 14 December 1976. A communication on the matter is being prepared.
- II.6. Long-term programme for the social reintegration of handicapped people:  
the Commission's report to the Council on the implementation and results of the first programme contained a chapter on the subsequent stages of the programme.
- II.7. Supervision of contract labour hiring:  
action not adopted at this stage.

- II.12. European Trade Union Institute:  
on 20 December 1976 the Council allocated 30 000 u.a. as launching aid to this Institute.
- III.1. Extension of exchanges of young workers:  
first experimental programme under the new scheme in progress. A second programme is being prepared.
- III.2. Unemployed school leavers, elderly workers and women re-entering employment:  
— Council Decision on ESF assistance (Art. 4) for operations to promote the employment and mobility of young people approved on 17 June 1975,  
— see also actions II.2 and II.4.
- III.3. Analyses, forecasts and research on the labour market:  
— on 17 June 1975 the Council gave the go-ahead to the Commission's work programme on employment, which covers  
— the coordination of employment policies,  
— a communication on employment forecasts,  
— a research programme on labour markets;  
— setting up of a working group on employment forecasts which, in July 1976, produced a report on employment prospects in the Community up to 1980.
- III.5. European Social Budget:  
on 4 December 1974 the Commission submitted the first European Social Budget:  
— in March 1976 it forwarded the first revised Social Budget to the Council,  
— on 30 April 1976 the Council approved the objectives of a Social Budget and the guidelines to be laid down for the second European Social Budget,  
— the second European Social Budget is currently being prepared.
- III.6. Extension of social indicators:  
— the system of 'objective indicators' in the 1972 Social Report was extended in the Social Reports for the years 1973 to 1976,  
— a multi-purpose sample survey whose results will enable 'qualitative indicators' to be established for the fields of 'health' and 'housing' will be undertaken by the SOEC in 1977.
- III.7. Minimum wages:  
a draft report on the lowest wages will shortly be completed.
- III.8. Statistics on income and assets:  
studies are currently being carried out on the level and structure of non-wage primary incomes and assets in the individual Member States.
- III.9. Asset formation:  
the descriptive report on the systems in force in the Member States has been completed and the Commission intends to submit it to the Council shortly, together with its conclusions.
- III.11. Statistical surveys on industrial accidents and safety:  
this measure comes under the action programme on 'industrial safety' (II.8).
- III.12. Health protection against pollution and environmental hazards:  
various draft Directives were submitted to the Council in 1975 and 1976. In addition, a revised list of pollutants referred to in the Action Programme on the Environment has been approved by the Council.
- III.13. Extension of the programme for radiation protection:  
— the general revision of the Community radiation protection standards was completed in 1976,  
— 1974: preparation of draft recommendations on the protection of persons exposed to dangers of laser and micro-wave radiation,  
— 1975: preparation of a recommendation to limit exposure of patients to radiation for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes,  
— 10 October 1975: proposal for a multiannual research programme (1976—80) for biologics and health protection.
- III.14. Social housing:  
— pilot schemes for the integration of migrant workers are in progress;  
— in 1976 four pilot schemes and five pilot studies were carried out on the elimination of constructional drawbacks in housing for the handicapped.
- III.16. Extension of joint committees:  
there have been meetings and contacts with a view to expanding the possibilities of Community discussions in the building and metal industries, some food industries and the footwear industry.

## WRITTEN QUESTION No 46/77

by Mr Jahn

to the Commission of the European Communities

(21 March 1977)

*Subject:* Harmonization of legislation on foodstuffs in the Community

In my Written Question No 544/76 <sup>(1)</sup>, I asked the Commission what it intended doing to ensure that the Member States met their obligations to incorporate Community measures into national law without delay.

In its answer of 11 January 1977, the Commission stated that it regularly reminded Member States of their obligations to incorporate Directives into national law and to inform the Commission of the implementing provisions enacted to this end.

Is the Commission in a position to indicate the reasons why it has not yet instituted action for infringement of the Treaty against the Member States specified in the last paragraph of its answer, despite the fact that the Directives, whose incorporation into national law is still awaited, date from as long ago as 1973 and 1974?

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 35, 11. 2. 1977, p. 4.

## Answer

(14 June 1977)

The Commission has in the past been called upon on a number of occasions to define its position on the implementation of Community Directives, for example, in its answers to Written Questions Nos 80/75 <sup>(1)</sup> by Mr Cousté, 519/75 <sup>(2)</sup> by Mr Laban and 856/75 <sup>(3)</sup> and 480/76 <sup>(4)</sup> by the Honourable Member.

It has emphasized on those occasions that the failure by Member States to implement Directives on the dates fixed for their implementation seems to be attributable mainly to a lack of vigilance and the complexity of national legislative procedures rather than to a marked unwillingness to give effect to the Directives.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 192, 22. 8. 1975, p. 4.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No C 49, 3. 3. 1976, p. 9.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ No C 158, 12. 7. 1976, p. 17.

<sup>(4)</sup> OJ No C 294, 13. 12. 1976, p. 39.

As far as the Directives referred to in its answer to Written Question No 544/76 by the Honourable Member are concerned, the Commission is monitoring the process of incorporation of them into national law, as it does in similar cases, and is endeavouring to ensure that the present situation is rectified as soon as possible. It will not hesitate to initiate, where necessary, the procedures provided for in the EEC Treaty.

It would inform the Honourable Member that Denmark has recently brought its law into line with Directives 73/241/EEC (on cocoa and chocolate products intended for human consumption) <sup>(5)</sup> and 73/437/EEC (concerning certain sugars intended for human consumption) <sup>(6)</sup>.

<sup>(5)</sup> OJ No L 228, 16. 8. 1973, p. 23.

<sup>(6)</sup> OJ No L 356, 27. 12. 1973, p. 71.

## WRITTEN QUESTION No 61/77

by Mr Lemoine

to the Commission of the European Communities

(23 March 1977)

*Subject:* Imports of dairy products

Could the Commission indicate what quantities of dairy products have been imported by the Community from third countries in the last four years? Could it indicate their origin?



Could it express in figures the impact that these imports from outside the Community have had on the situation of Community milk producers and stocks of dairy produce?

**Answer**

(14 June 1977)

In the appended tables the Honourable Member will find the trade statistics requested; they show the major imports into the nine Member States for the period 1972 to 1975.

The Community, although a major milk producer, does import specialist products, and in particular cheeses. The most important items are Emmental from Finland, Switzerland and Austria (under a minimum price — special levy — arrangement consolidated in GATT); Tilsit and Butterkäse from Austria; sheep's cheeses from Bulgaria and Cheddar from Canada.

In the case of New Zealand the major part of the butter and Cheddar cheese imported into the Community in the period 1973 to 1975 was effected under Protocol 18 of the Act of Accession. The quantities in 1976 were 121 947 tonnes of butter and 30 452 tonnes of cheese. These imports were designed

to make allowance for traditional exports to the British market, but they have accentuated the imbalance on the dairy market.

In the period under review Community manufacturers were able to import cheap butter for processing into butteroil and subsequently re-export, all of which was effected under customs control (inward processing arrangements).

The quantities imported do not have a direct effect on Community milk producers but of course do influence the stock position.

In 1976 total butter imports amounted to 124 919 tonnes or 7 % of Community production. They amounted to 49 % of butter held in public and private-aided storage on 31 December 1976. Total cheese imports amounted to 101 856 tonnes, or 3.6 % of Community production in 1976.

Community imports of milk products from third countries, in 1 000 kg

CST (SITC) Code	Year			
	1972 <sup>(1)</sup>	1973	1974	1975
022: Milk and cream total	23 811	13 784	5 599	14 480
Principal countries of origin <sup>(2)</sup> :				
— Sweden	—	3 668	—	—
— Finland	1 372	—	—	—
— Austria	7 698	2 290	1 921	3 740
— Spain	—	943	580	—
— Yugoslavia	1 736	—	—	—
— USSR	—	1 002	532	—
— Czechoslovakia	910	—	—	—
— Kenya	—	—	—	—
— USA	—	—	—	6 519
— Canada	—	526	—	—
— Argentina	983	—	—	—
— New Zealand	6 524	1 161	—	572
Other countries	4 588	4 194	2 566	3 649

<sup>(1)</sup> Excluding Ireland.

<sup>(2)</sup> More than 500 tonnes per country per year.

Source: Eurostat

## Community imports of milk products from third countries, in 1 000 kg

CST (SITC) Code	Year			
	1972 <sup>(1)</sup>	1973	1974	1975
023: Butter, total	224 965	157 053	156 507	159 324
Principal countries of origin <sup>(2)</sup> :				
— Finland	19 621	—	—	—
— Turkey	—	—	5 568	—
— German Dem. Rep.	—	—	5 207	10 343
— Poland	6 756	—	5 315	—
— Czechoslovakia	—	—	5 675	—
— Romania	7 924	—	—	—
— Rep. of South Africa	8 136	—	—	—
— USA	20 028	—	—	—
— Argentina	10 843	—	—	—
— Australia	28 566	13 206	—	13 579
— New Zealand	118 013	131 956	131 805	123 460
Other countries	5 078	11 891	2 937	11 942

<sup>(1)</sup> Excluding Ireland.<sup>(2)</sup> More than 5 000 tonnes per country per year.

Source: Eurostat.

## Community imports of milk products from third countries, in 1 000 kg

CST (SITC) Code	Year			
	1972 <sup>(1)</sup>	1973	1974	1975
024: Cheese and curd, total	142 874	114 653	83 235	95 844
Principal countries of origin <sup>(2)</sup> :				
— Norway	—	3 564	—	—
— Finland	4 599	3 210	4 196	4 262
— Switzerland	35 543	40 579	39 716	43 063
— Austria	10 419	10 874	11 353	10 828
— Bulgaria	3 322	3 654	2 179	2 638
— Canada	7 748	—	—	—
— Australia	3 012	—	—	—
— New Zealand	64 598	47 345	19 175	30 281
Other countries	13 633	5 427	6 616	4 772

<sup>(1)</sup> Excluding Ireland.<sup>(2)</sup> More than 2 000 tonnes per country per year.

Source: Eurostat

## WRITTEN QUESTION No 95/77

by Mr Guerlin

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 April 1977)

*Subject: Aerosols*

Chemists continue to warn of the dangers inherent in the use of certain gases, such as freon, as the propellant in aerosols. The gases released rise up through the atmosphere and reach the ozone layer, which filters the sun's rays.

1. Is the Commission in possession of a full list of the various gases used in aerosols?
2. Does the Commission intend to draw up a general Directive, instead of banning individual gases as and when they are shown to be dangerous?
3. Is the Commission aware of the results of research in the various Member States on propellant gases for aerosols?
4. In view of the cost of this type of packaging, which is borne by the consumer, and of the toxicity and danger of aerosols, would the Commission agree that aerosols should be used only where there is no substitute?

To what extent does the Commission participate in this research?

## Answer

(10 June 1977)

1. The Commission is in possession of certain information on the propellant gases used in aerosol dispensers. The gases in question are fluorocarbons, hydrocarbons (propane, butane), certain liquefied gases (dimethyl ether) and certain compressed gases in solution (e.g. carbon dioxide and nitrogen oxide).

2. For several months the Commission has been working on the problem of the use of fluorocarbons in aerosol dispensers. Several meetings have been held with the national experts. These discussions seem to show that there is uncertainty from the scientific point of view regarding the real effects of these products on the environment and that further research is needed before any Directive can be drafted.

3. The Commission is aware of the research undertaken in various Member States in this field.

One of the projects in the multiannual research programme of the JRC for 1977 to 1980 is devoted to

the breaking down of the ozone depletion by halocarbons and other substances.

The Member States are also favourably disposed towards research coordinated at Community level and conducted by national laboratories.

4. The Commission has already stated in its answer to Written Question No 855/75 by Mr Jahn <sup>(1)</sup> that it shared the author's opinion that, in the interests of better protection for the environment, the use of aerosols should be gradually limited to products which cannot be used efficiently in any other form, whilst at the same time care should be taken that any gases used as substitutes for the present gases do not give rise to other unacceptable risks. The Commission moreover intends to undertake a study of this subject in the near future.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 128, 10. 6. 1976, p. 22.

## WRITTEN QUESTION No 100/77

by Mr Müller-Hermann

to the Commission of the European Communities

(12 April 1977)

*Subject: Nuclear power stations and energy policy*

A final ruling by the administrative court in Freiburg (Breisgau) has halted the construction of a nuclear

power station in Wyhl (Upper Rhine) on the grounds that the proposed plant is not adequately protected against an explosion of the pressure vessel and that if the containment vessel were destroyed a disaster

might therefore occur, although the plant meets existing safety regulations. Given the site of the power station, this meant in effect that there could be an international disaster. In its decision the court obviously recognizes dangers, which have hitherto been assessed differently by the legislators and government of the Federal Republic of Germany and by the European institutions in their energy policy plans.

In view of the fundamental importance of the above ruling for energy policy as a whole, and the fact that it could only be reversed by an appeal procedure lasting for several years, can the Commission answer the following questions:

How does it view the court's ruling and its consequences for the common energy policy?

How do the Commission's experts assess the risks indicated by the Court?

What conclusions does the Commission intend to draw from the court's ruling?

In a comparison between the light water reactor, the high temperature reactor and the fast breeder, how does the Commission view the questions of reactor safety and protection against radiation (both in normal operation and in the event of a disaster), plant efficiency, fuel economy, the expansion of primary energy sources, the mode of operation of these reactors, the problem of cooling, siting requirements, construction and operating costs?

Does the Commission agree that for physical reasons the problems of safety and waste disposal immediately appear in a different light in the case of the high temperature reactor; that only with the high temperature reactor can other forms of secondary energy as well as electricity be produced and uranium requirements be considerably reduced; that combined processes using high temperature reactors, e.g. nuclear energy/processing of coal, represent the appropriate energy policy option for the countries of western Europe and that supreme efforts, similar to those now being made in Japan (on the HTR) should begin immediately to implement this option? Is the Commission prepared to call a special conference on this matter in the very near future?

#### Answer

(22 June 1977)

The answer to the Honourable Member's question (particularly as regards the comparison, mainly from the safety standpoint, of the various types of reactor) lies in Commissioner Brunner's statement to the European Parliament on 19 April 1977 in reply to Oral Question 0-7/77 <sup>(1)</sup>.

In the particular case of the Wyhl power station, the Commission wishes to point out that responsibility for siting, construction and operating licences rests with the West German authorities pursuant to the relevant legislation (Atomgesetz). Consequently, it is the West German authorities and the associated safety and inspection bodies who have access to the technical details of the Wyhl power station and who, with full knowledge of the facts, are in a position to express an opinion.

The Commission considers the design and inspection of the Wyhl power station to be such that any hazard arising from the accident conditions referred to by the court in support of its ruling would be sufficiently slight to be considered acceptable, particularly in relation to other risks currently

accepted by society. According to a recent study <sup>(2)</sup> the likelihood of such an occurrence, which would have serious environmental repercussions, is between 10 000 and 100 000 times more remote than that of similar occurrences resulting from potentially dangerous non-nuclear activities.

Moreover, as Mr Flämig pointed out when he submitted Oral Question 0-7/77 to Parliament, another West German court (in Würzburg, Bavaria), likewise acting in the light of expert opinions, ruled that the Grafenrheinfeld power station (which is of the same type as the Wyhl power station) did not present unacceptable risks.

As far as protection against radiation is concerned, the Honourable Member is referred to the statement by the Vice-President of the Commission, Mr Natali, to Parliament on 19 April 1977.

As regards the siting of power stations, the Commission has put forward proposals which are currently being examined by the various Community bodies.

<sup>(1)</sup> Debates of the European Parliament, No 216 (April 1977), p. 66, and Debates of the European Parliament, No 217 (May 1977), p. 76.

<sup>(2)</sup> 'An Assessment of the Integrity of PWR Pressure Vessels' (Marshall Study Group, UKAEA).

The high-temperature reactor in particular, by virtue of its greater thermodynamic efficiency, generates about 20 % less fission products and afterheat per kWh produced than the water reactor. While this is doubtless a useful feature, it does not constitute a decisive advantage. The choice of the thorium cycle for high-temperature reactors would have the additional advantage of considerably reducing the quantity of transuranic elements (including plutonium) present in the irradiated fuel elements and hence in the waste, with consequent facilitation (though not elimination) of problems associated with the presence of these elements. It must be pointed out, however, that this is a feature of the thorium cycle and not of the reactor as such. In addition, exploitation of the thorium cycle is dependent on the setting up of technological facilities for reprocessing uranium/thorium fuels.

The high-temperature reactor operating on the thorium cycle offers a uranium utilization potential significantly higher than that of water reactors fuelled

with slightly enriched uranium, but significantly lower than that of fast breeder reactors.

Owing to the elevated temperature potentially available at the reactor coolant outlet (up to about 1 000 °C), the high-temperature reactor offers greater possibilities for the use of the heat produced than any other type of reactor. Thus — quite apart from electricity generation — coal conversion and the production of hydrogen and of synthetic fuels in general could become real possibilities.

The Commission believes that a precondition for the exploitation of the vast potential of these reactors is the creation of a secure industrial base for their construction and for the fuel cycle. Accordingly, the Commission is keeping in close touch with potentially interested manufacturers and electricity producers and is studying with them measures that could facilitate the marketing of this reactor system, e.g. a demonstration programme which would include the fuel cycle.

#### WRITTEN QUESTION No 101/77

by Mr Normanton

to the Commission of the European Communities

(12 April 1977)

*Subject: Pipelines*

How many pipelines are in operation or in the course of construction which bring gas or oil into each Member State of the EEC from or through the territory of the USSR or her satellites? What is their capacity and what proportion of the energy needs of each Member State do these supplies represent?

#### Answer

(10 June 1977)

1. There are no crude oil or oil product pipelines in existence or under construction, either

— from the USSR via Eastern Bloc countries into EEC Member States

— from other COMECON states into the Community.

2. For the supply of Western Europe with Soviet natural gas, one large diameter trunk line is in operation, which starts from the USSR and ends in Bratislava in Czechoslovakia. This pipeline has a present capacity of about  $18 \times 10^9$  m<sup>3</sup> per year; final capacity will be about  $37 \times 10^9$  m<sup>3</sup> per year.

3. From the Bratislava terminal, two distribution lines are directed to the west and to the south by

means of which the Federal Republic of Germany and Italy are supplied, as well as certain Eastern European countries.

(a) The westbound line from Bratislava across Czechoslovakia has an annual throughput capacity of about  $15 \times 10^9$  m<sup>3</sup> per year and supplies Russian gas to Czechoslovakia and the GDR. A branch line from this line goes to Waidhaus on the frontier between Czechoslovakia and the Federal Republic of Germany, and from there the gas is fed into the existing gas distribution system of the Federal Republic. A second branch line, also crossing the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany, is planned from the same terminal at Waidhaus towards the German-French frontier.

Further details of these two lines are:

- the branch line within the Federal Republic and stretching from Waidhaus to Gernsheim on the Rhine has a capacity of  $7.4 \times 10^9$  m<sup>3</sup> per year.
  - the second branch line, not yet completed, will start from Waidhaus, and will be routed south of the existing line via Rothenstadt (near Nürnberg) to Medelsheim on the German-French frontier near Saarbrücken. This line is already under construction. It will have an annual capacity of about  $16.5 \times 10^9$  m<sup>3</sup> per year. After completion it is destined to carry natural gas, whether from the USSR or from Iran (via the USSR), to the Federal Republic of Germany and to France.
- (b) The southbound line from Bratislava reaches the Austrian frontier at Baumgarten, crosses Austrian territory and goes to Italy. The initial capacity of this line — by which Austria and Italy are supplied with gas under agreements with the USSR — is about  $10.5 \times 10^9$  m<sup>3</sup> per year;

The quantities to be transported by this pipe to Italy in 1977 are estimated to be 7 to  $8 \times 10^9$  m<sup>3</sup>. But it should be noted that  $1.8 \times 10^9$  m<sup>3</sup> of this volume are in fact supplied under a contract between the USSR and France. This gas is exchanged for the same quantity of Dutch natural gas contracted for sale to Italy which goes instead to France.

4. Soviet gas destined for France will by 1979/80 also be transported by an additional Austrian gas line to be constructed from Baumgarten to Oberkappel (German-Austrian frontier near Passau) and from Oberkappel by a new German line up to Rothenstadt (capacity  $6.5 \times 10^9$  m<sup>3</sup> per year) linking there into the abovementioned Waidhaus-Rothenstadt-Medelsheim line.

5. The estimated development of quantities of natural gas entering from Russia, via the COMECON area, into the territory of the EEC Member States is tabled below. In the same table are given the respective shares which these quantities represent in the estimated total national requirements of primary energy for the years 1977 and 1985.

Natural Gas = Importations from the USSR and Iran (forecasts)

(in million toe)

	1977			1985		
	Import.	GCE <sup>(1)</sup>	%	Import.	GCE <sup>(1)</sup>	%
France	1.5	176.2	1	6.4	254	2.5
Federal Republic of Germany	4.2—5.1	268.3	1.6—1.9	13.65	354	3.9
Italy	5.9—6.7	136.7	4.3—4.9	5.9	211.5	2.8

<sup>(1)</sup> Gross consumption of primary energy.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 112/77

by Mr Waltmans

to the Commission of the European Communities

(12 April 1977)

*Subject:* Judgment of the Freiburg court on the planned construction of a nuclear power station in Wyhl

1. Will the Commission inform the European Parliament as soon as possible of its assessment of the facts and considerations which prompted the

Freiburg court <sup>(1)</sup> to ban the planned construction of a nuclear power station in Wyhl?

2. Are the nuclear power stations in operation in the European Community equipped with sufficiently strong reactor containment vessels to prevent the leakage of radioactive material in the event of the reactor vessel bursting?

<sup>(1)</sup> Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung of 15 March 1977.

3. Does the information which has recently come to light prompt the Commission to provide more detailed information in connection with energy supply policy plans and/or to review the criteria for the location of nuclear power stations?
4. Are current location criteria based on the eventuality of a reactor vessel bursting as was presumed by the Freiburg court?
5. What are the implications of the judgment of the Freiburg court for the Commission's appraisal of nuclear power stations in operation in frontier zones within the European Community?
6. Will the Commission make sure that this judgment of the Freiburg court is taken into account in the Commission's policy on establishing nuclear power stations?

**Answer**

(22 June 1977)

The Honourable Member is referred to Commissioner Brunner's statement to Parliament on 19 April 1977 <sup>(1)</sup> and also to the answer to Written Question No 100/77 <sup>(2)</sup> from Mr Müller-Hermann.

<sup>(1)</sup> Debates of the European Parliament, No 216 (April 1977), p. 74.

<sup>(2)</sup> See page 8 of this Official Journal.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 135/77**

by Mr Cousté

to the Commission of the European Communities

(19 April 1977)

*Subject:* Consumer information

Would the Commission state, for each of the Member States, whether consumer information programmes are broadcast on radio and television?

Could it in particular specify the scale of these broadcasts (their length and frequency) and their subject matter (product quality and prices)?

What is the Commission's assessment of these broadcasts? Does it contemplate any coordination between the programmes' producers in the various Member States, particularly on consumer information programmes with a view to initiatives being taken and Directives issued at Community level?

**Answer**

(10 June 1977)

1. The very meaning of a consumer information programme on radio or television varies from one country, from one channel and often from one producer to another. If we adopt a broad interpretation of the term, we can say that almost all radio and television stations in the Community broadcast consumer information programmes. Details of these programmes are published at intervals in Euroforum, the weekly information bulletin put out by the Commission's information departments. The Commission is sending the Honourable Member

a list of the consumer information programmes broadcast on radio and television within the Community.

2. For the moment the Commission does not contemplate any coordination between Member States on the specific question of consumer information programmes. Because of the varying legal status of radio and television networks *vis-à-vis* the state and the varying degree of

representation of consumer organizations between countries, there is no justification for a Community Directive on this aspect.

The Commission has, nevertheless, adopted the task of 'encouraging the production of television and radio programmes and films and the publication of press articles, etc., on consumer topics' called for by the preliminary programme of the European Economic Community for a consumer protection and information policy.

To this end, the Commission's information departments convene regular meetings of producers of consumer information programmes on radio and television in the Member States, writers of special columns on consumer affairs in the press, editors of specialized journals, etc. These multinational working meetings provide a forum for discussion and an opportunity to exchange experiences and compare the various methods used to improve consumer information. They also provide an opportunity to increase information on Community activities to promote consumer interests.

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WRITTEN QUESTION No 136/77

by Mr Cousté

to the Commission of the European Communities

(20 April 1977)

*Subject:* Status of commercial agents

Has the Commission undertaken a study with a view to standardizing what is meant by the term 'commercial agent' in the European Economic Community? Can it state whether commercial agents are considered as salaried staff of undertakings similar to commercial travellers, representatives and agents or as independent middle-men?

Can the Commission specify, on the basis of the criteria it has laid down, the number of commercial agents in each of the Member States and state whether their status — from a fiscal, social and contractual point of view — may be considered similar or even capable of harmonization?

Answer

(13 June 1977)

On 17 December 1976, the Commission presented to the Council a proposal for a Directive to coordinate the laws of the Member States relating to self-employed commercial agents<sup>(1)</sup>; this is still being examined by the European Parliament. The (self-employed) commercial agents to whom the proposal applies are considered not as employees but as independent intermediaries.

The Commission has no precise statistics on commercial agents in each Member State.

They are subject to income tax. The Community is not at present planning the general harmonization of personal income tax.

No particular tax problems have been found to arise with commercial agents. Their social security and contractual position differs greatly from one Member State to another.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Supplement 1/77 — Bull. EC, OJ No C 13, 18. 1. 1977, p. 2.



**WRITTEN QUESTION No 137/77**

by Mr Hougardy

to the Council of the European Communities

(20 April 1977)

*Subject:* Direct elections in the United Kingdom

Can the Council state whether the Government of the United Kingdom is ready to present a bill on direct elections to its Parliament in the near future, it being understood that if such elections cannot be held there in the spring of 1978, there is a risk of the other Member States also dragging their feet over the procedure?

Although each Member State has the right to choose its own electoral system for the first European elections, does the Council not feel that it is in the interests of the Community as a whole that each should ensure proportional representation of the major trends in public opinion? Has it in particular considered the serious distortions which the 'first-past-the-post' system at present in force in the United Kingdom would entail for the European Parliament?

**Answer**

(15 June 1977)

According to the Council's information the Member States are taking all steps necessary to implement the Council Decision of 20 September 1976 <sup>(1)</sup> and to adopt the legislative acts required for the organization of the elections.

The content of that legislation is a matter for the Member States alone.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 278, 8. 10. 1976, p. 5.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 138/77**

by Mr Jahn

to the Commission of the European Communities

(19 April 1977)

*Subject:* Infringement of Community law by the German Football Association (DFB)

Section 22 of the Rules of Play of the German Football Association (DFB) stipulates that only 'two foreign players' may be fielded by any team playing in the First or Second Division.

This rule clearly infringes Articles 7, 48 ff and 59 ff of the EEC Treaty which ensure freedom of movement for workers and freedom to provide services within the Community while prohibiting any discrimination as regards employment between Community citizens on grounds of nationality. The Court of Justice of the

European Communities has twice delivered binding judgments <sup>(1)</sup> confirming that these Community provisions also apply to professional sport and to the statutes of clubs and associations.

The Commission is therefore asked to answer the following questions:

1. Is it aware of the fact that this DFB rule, contrary as it is to Community law, prevents:

<sup>(1)</sup> See Judgment of 12 December 1974 and 14 July 1976 in Cases 36/74 and 13/76 respectively. (OJ No C 75, 5. 4. 1975, p. 1, and OJ No C 234, 6. 10. 1976, p. 2).

- (a) the player's skills rather than his nationality from being the sole deciding factor in whether he obtains a contract of employment with a German club or not;
- (b) German clubs from employing as many players as they wish from the other Member States, although they are sometimes very much needed in the interests of sport?
- (c) footballers' pay from being determined solely on the basis of performance in accordance with the Community principle of 'equal pay for equal work' rather than being influenced by their nationality?
2. Is it prepared to carry out its task as guardian of the Treaties in accordance with Article 155 of the EEC Treaty by urging the DFB to abolish forthwith this rule which is contrary to Community law, particularly since it in any case no longer seems to be taken seriously (e.g. the match between FC Cologne and Eintracht Frankfurt on 29 January 1977 when the manager, Hennes Weisweiler, fielded three players who did not have German nationality, viz. van Gool, Larsen and Topalovic)?
3. If the answer to question No 2 is in the negative, can it explain the reasons preventing it from putting an end to discrimination between footballers in the Community on the grounds of nationality?

### Answer

(22 June 1977)

1. The Commission would inform the Honourable Member that under Article 48 of the EEC Treaty, which has been implemented by *inter alia*, Article 7(4) of Regulation (EEC) 1612/68<sup>(1)</sup> on freedom of movement for workers within the Community, the restriction in Section 22 of the Rules of the DFB cannot be invoked against professional players who are nationals of other Member States. This rule can likewise not be invoked against professional players who render their services as self-employed persons, by reason of Article 59 of the EEC Treaty.

However, a rule of this nature could be invoked, exceptionally, where, as the Court of Justice stated

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 257, 19. 10. 1968, p. 2.

in Judgment 13/76<sup>(2)</sup>, foreign players are excluded for reasons which are not of an economic nature, which relate to the particular nature and context of certain matches; this may be so in the case of international championships in which the teams wear the colours of a particular country.

2. and 3. Since the Community provisions referred to above are directly applicable in the national legal systems of the Member States, they confer on individuals rights which national courts must protect.

At the same time, the Commission is endeavouring to secure the abolition by sports federations concerned of those of their rules that appear to be incompatible with Community law.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No C 234, 6. 10. 1976, p. 2.

### WRITTEN QUESTION No 139/77

by Mr Lenihan

to the Commission of the European Communities

(20 April 1977)

*Subject:* Recruitment of senior Irish officials

Could the Commission state how many A1, A2 and A3 officials of Irish nationality were employed in the European Commission in 1973?

Could the Commission state how many A1, A2 and A3 officials of Irish nationality are in the service of the European Commission at present?

**Answer***(18 May 1977)*

The Honourable Member will find below the numbers of grade A1, A2 and A3 officials of Irish nationality employed by the Commission on 31 December 1973 and on 30 April 1977:

	31 December 1973	30 April 1977
A1	1	2
A2	5	3
A3	10	13

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 140/77****by Mr Lenihan****to the Commission of the European Communities***(20 April 1977)*

*Subject:* Recruitment of Director-General of Irish nationality

What are the conditions of appointment of a Director-General in the European Commission?

When does the Commission intend to appoint a Director-General of Irish nationality?

Can it state what area of responsibility he will have?

**Answer***(3 June 1977)*

1. All appointments in the Commission are subject to the general rules in the Staff Regulations which provide, *inter alia*, that its staff 'shall be ... recruited on the broadest possible geographical basis from among nationals of Member States' and that 'no posts shall be reserved for nationals of any specific Member State'. The Commission seeks to apply these rules by considering all candidates, no matter what their nationality, when filling each vacancy in such a way as to maintain an overall geographical balance compatible with the qualifications of the individual candidate.

2 and 3. A Director-General of Irish nationality has very recently been appointed to take charge of the Directorate-General for Fisheries.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 141/77****by Mr Dondelinger****to the Commission of the European Communities***(20 April 1977)**Subject: Anti-nuclear protests*

How far is the Commission prepared to allow violence to escalate before organizing a serious and wide-ranging debate on the question of nuclear power stations by virtue of the powers explicitly conferred on it by the Euratom Treaty?

**Answer***(26 May 1977)*

As already stated in its answer to Written Question No 677/76 by Mr Waltmans <sup>(1)</sup>, the Commission intends to continue providing the public with general information on energy supplies and requirements, particularly in the field of energy from nuclear sources, and on associated questions of health, safety and protection of the environment.

The Commission is currently examining ways and means of offering the citizens of the Community a better idea of the contradictory feelings and interests which fan the flames of the nuclear controversy and of presenting in a clear and objective manner the options as regards energy which can determine the future of the Community.

The Commission also stresses the important role which devolves on the national, regional and local authorities to inform the general public on the various aspects of the development of nuclear energy.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 50, 28. 2. 1977, p. 17.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 142/77****by Mr Dondelinger****to the Council of the European Communities***(20 April 1977)**Subject: European elections and the right to vote*

What harmonization measures does the Council intend taking with regard to the Member States to make it possible for nationals of one Member State to vote in another Member State where they are resident, while reducing to a minimum the possibility of such persons voting twice?

**Answer***(15 June 1977)*

The decision as to who may vote in the election of Members of the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage comes under the electoral procedure which, by virtue of Article 7 of the Act annexed to the Decision of 20 September 1976 <sup>(1)</sup>, is governed by national provisions until such time as a uniform electoral procedure enters into force. It will be for the Member States to take the necessary measures to prevent persons from voting twice in accordance with Article 8 of the aforementioned Act.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 278, 8. 10. 1976, p. 5.

## WRITTEN QUESTION No 143/77

by Mr Dondelinger

to the Commission of the European Communities

(20 April 1977)

*Subject:* EIB financing of a hotel in Abidjan

Does the Commission not feel that the European Investment Bank should have better things to do than the financing of luxury hotels in developing countries? Does it believe that such investments in the tourism sector really help the economic development of the recipient country? Are there no other investment projects which would generate more job opportunities? Finally, and perhaps principally, are not such investments in the hotel industry in developing countries likely to leave us open to the criticism of neo-colonialism — one that is indeed occasionally made in African quarters in respect of Community operations?

## Answer

(8 June 1977)

The Commission is required, under the terms of the EIB's statute, to give an opinion on all loan demands which are submitted to the Bank. In the case of projects in the ACP States, it pays regard to the provisions of the Lomé Convention and the views expressed by the government of the country in which the project is located.

The Lomé Convention assigns to the EIB specific responsibility for investment financing in the sectors of industry, tourism and mining. The EIB financing of the project in question has been undertaken at the request of the Government of the Ivory Coast, which has specifically placed the tourism sector and the hotel project among the priorities in the indicative programme proposed by the Government of the Ivory Coast and agreed upon by the Community. The EIB has examined the project following its usual criteria which place particular emphasis on the economic interests for the country concerned. The Commission has given a favourable opinion on this project.

## WRITTEN QUESTION No 144/77

by Mr Dondelinger

to the Commission of the European Communities

(20 April 1977)

*Subject:* Protection of baby seals

In answer to my Written Question No 129/76 <sup>(1)</sup>, the Commission stated that it would draw the attention of the Canadian Government to the slaughter of baby seals. This slaughter has been repeated this year, giving rise to more and more protests. The United States House of Representatives has recently adopted a resolution calling on President Carter to protest to the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr Trudeau, about this slaughter.

1. Has the Commission in fact approached the Canadian Government, and, if so, what approach has been made?
2. Would it possibly consider itself justified in submitting to the Council a proposal aimed at prohibiting the use of skins from baby seals in the manufacture of furs and 'après ski' boots in the European Community?
3. Does it not think that it should, on behalf of the Community, propose within the appropriate international bodies an amendment to the Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora so that baby seals are also covered by it?

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 167, 21. 7. 1976, p. 16.

**Answer***(6 June 1977)*

1. No.
2. No. Since the seals are not classified as an endangered animal species, the Commission has no intention for the time being of proposing that the use of baby seal skins be prohibited within the Community.
3. For the reasons given above, the species in question is not protected by the Washington Convention.

Moreover, the Commission would remind the Honourable Member that it has been authorized by the Council to enter into negotiations for the Community's accession to this Convention.

The Commission accordingly does not consider it appropriate at the present time to propose an amendment to a Convention to which the Community as such is not yet a party.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 145/77****by Mrs Kruchow****to the Commission of the European Communities***(20 April 1977)*

*Subject:* Hunting shot

Will the Commission state whether it is prepared to introduce a ban on the use of lead shot for hunting or, alternatively, whether it is prepared to take other measures to prevent damage to the environment resulting from the use of such shot?

**Answer***(25 May 1977)*

The proposal for a Directive on bird conservation<sup>(1)</sup>, which the Commission laid before the Council on 20 December 1976, makes no provision for banning the use of lead shot for hunting.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 24, 1. 2. 1977, p. 3.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 146/77****by Mrs Kruchow****to the Commission of the European Communities***(20 April 1977)*

*Subject:* Atmospheric pollution

What progress has been made in charting the long-distance movement in the atmosphere of suspended particulate matter and other pollutants?

**Answer***(3 June 1977)*

The Commission is not engaged in charting the long-distance movement in the atmosphere of suspended particulate matter and other pollutants.

It is ensuring that Council Decision 75/441/EEC of 24 June 1975, establishing a common procedure for the exchange of information between the surveillance and monitoring networks based on data relating to atmospheric pollution caused by certain sulphur compounds and suspended particles, is applied.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 194, 25. 7. 1975, p. 32.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 147/77****by Mr Creed****to the Commission of the European Communities***(22 April 1977)*

*Subject:* Imports of live sheep

Having regard to its Decision of 10 March 1977 <sup>(1)</sup> authorizing the French Republic to apply protective measures to imports of live sheep, mutton and lamb originating in third countries and in free circulation in the Member States, will the Commission state:

1. Whether it has requested the French Government to ensure that the rules of origin applied within the Community are respected with regard to live sheep, mutton and lamb originating in Member States?
2. Whether it is satisfied that the French Government has at all times in the past respected the rules of origin for these commodities, particularly with regard to imports into France of mutton and lamb originating in Ireland?

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 74, 22. 3. 1977, p. 21.

**Answer***(10 May 1977)*

1. In its notification to France of the Decision of 10 March 1977 referred to by the Honourable Member, the Commission urged that in applying this Decision the French authorities respect the rules concerning determinations of origin as laid down in Commission Regulation (EEC) No 964/71 of 10 May 1971 <sup>(1)</sup>.

2. Under current national provisions, France considers as originating in a Member State only sheep born, raised and slaughtered in the territory of that Member State.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 104, 11. 5. 1971, p. 12.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 148/77****by Mr McDonald****to the Commission of the European Communities***(22 April 1977)**Subject:* Advertising of alcoholic beverages

Is the Commission aware:

1. that as from 1 January 1977 the advertising of alcoholic beverages in Group 5 of the French Advertising Code is no longer permitted on French-language radio stations, i.e. Radio-Télé-Luxembourg, Europe No 1, Sud Radio, Radio Monte-Carlo and Radio Andorre;
2. that no ban is applied to alcoholic beverages included in Groups 1, 2 and 4, whereas special regulations apply to alcoholic beverages included in Group 3;
3. that this ban is the result of an 'agreement' between the stations concerned and the French Government.

In view of the aforementioned facts, will the Commission state what action it proposes to take to remove the discriminatory aspect of the ban?

**Answer***(3 June 1977)*

The Commission is acquainted with the facts related by the Honourable Member and is aware of the discrimination resulting from the agreement between certain French-language radio stations and the French Government.

The aim of the agreement is to extend the application of the regulations on the advertising of alcoholic beverages to the stations concerned. As stated in its answers to Written Questions Nos 123/76 and 860/76 <sup>(1)</sup> by Mr Cousté, the Commission feels that these regulations are incompatible with Article 30 of the Treaty and has therefore initiated infringement proceedings in an attempt to prevail upon the French authorities to amend them. Such a move would necessarily involve amending the agreement referred to by the Honourable Member.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 203, 30. 8. 1976, p. 2, and OJ No C 84, 4. 4. 1977, p. 25.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 152/77****by Mr Hougardy****to the Commission of the European Communities***(22 April 1977)**Subject:* European Foundation

At its recent meeting in Rome the European Council instructed the Commission to study the possibility of setting up a European Foundation.

Given the importance of this Foundation as a means of promoting, as Mr Tindemans emphasized in his report on European Union, 'anything which could help towards



greater understanding among our peoples' and of making 'more clearly apparent that that the creation of the Union can and must be a matter for us all', can the Commission indicate now how it envisages carrying out this initiative?

What methods of financing will be used?

How soon will it be in a position to present the findings of its study?

**Answer**

(6 May 1977)

The Commission has already taken steps to begin a study on the nature and scope of the activities of a foundation of this kind, and on its organization and financing, as instructed by the European Council at its meeting on 25 and 26 March. Outside experts will help with the study. Once it has received the results, the Commission intends to present a proposal to the Council; this should be before the end of the year.

The method of financing such a foundation will be one of the subjects of the study the Commission is to undertake. The bulk of the funds could be provided from private sources, with an appropriate Community contribution.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 153/77**

**by Mr Waltmans**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(21 April 1977)

*Subject:* Storage for nuclear waste

1. Is it true that the Dutch Government has applied to the Commission for aid to carry out research in support of an underground storage programme for nuclear waste and, if so, will the Commission make public the application and the accompanying report?
2. Was consideration given to organizing this research programme as a Community venture and was this one of the reasons for submitting an application for aid to the Commission?
3. Can it be concluded from the fact that consideration is being given to the Dutch Government's request, that doubts still exist as to the feasibility of storing nuclear waste in salt domes?
4. If the answer to Question No 3 is in the negative, is it to be feared that national governments wishing to transfer research in this area to the Community are doing so under the illusion that such storage will by this means become acceptable to the administration and the general public?

**Answer**

(23 June 1977)

1. The Commission's five-year programme of indirect action concerning radioactive waste management and storage, which was approved by the Council on 26 June 1975 <sup>(1)</sup>, after Parliament

had delivered a favourable opinion on 9 April 1975 <sup>(2)</sup>, is mainly concerned with studies and research on the possibilities of radioactive waste disposal in geological formations.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 178, 9. 7. 1975, p. 28.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No C 95, 28. 4. 1975, p. 30.

In December 1975 the Stichting Energieonderzoek Centrum Nederland (ECN) approached the Commission with a view to discussing the possible participation in the Community programme. Contract negotiations between the Commission and the ECN are currently under way to set up arrangements for that cooperation. Any results obtained through such research will be subject to the rules set out in Chapter II of the Euratom Treaty on the dissemination of information.

2. By its nature, *in situ* work on waste disposal in geological formations can only be carried out in the Member States under their own responsibility. The Netherlands research programme includes a study of the possibilities of radioactive waste storage in salt domes and is complementary to similar programmes under way in other member countries. Its inclusion in the Community programme should stimulate exchanges of knowledge and help to avoid duplication of effort in the various countries; the Commission's financial contribution to this programme is intended to speed and support the work.

3. The disposal of high-activity nuclear waste and alpha waste in suitable geological formations is unanimously regarded by the experts as the most promising solution to date for the long-term isolation of such waste. Certain types of geological structure are likely to meet the necessary requirements for such storage sites; they include salt formations, argillaceous formations and crystalline rocks. However, at the present stage it is impossible to specify which type of formation would be best suited to the disposal of such waste. One of the objects of the Community programme is to study storage conditions in a number of real situations. In the experimental phase, before any final disposal decision is taken, the waste will remain recoverable.

4. The Commission feels that participation in the Community programme does not imply any abandonment of responsibilities by national governments. It involves a pooling of knowledge and effort which cannot fail to contribute effectively towards the permanent solution of the radioactive waste problem with which Europe is faced.

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WRITTEN QUESTION No 158/77

from Mr Ellis

to the Commission of the European Communities

(22 April 1977)

*Subject:* List of nuclear power stations in the Community

Will the Commission publish a list of all the nuclear power stations in operation, under construction and planned in the different Member States of the Community according to type (light-water reactor, high-temperature reactor, etc.) and generating capacity?

Answer

(13 June 1977)

Within the limitations laid down in Article 44 of the Euratom Treaty, the Commission is prepared to publish a list containing the information referred to by the Honourable Member as soon as it has been able to check all the available data on this subject.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 163/77**  
**by Mr Martens**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
*(27 April 1977)*

*Subject:* Supplies of wheat for food aid

Could the Commission answer the following questions:

1. What proportion of wheat and wheat-flour supplies were contributed by the Community in 1976?
2. From which countries did these supplies originate and what quantity was supplied by each country?
3. In what circumstances can flour or meal be supplied instead of wheat?

**Answer**  
*(22 June 1977)*

1 and 2. In 1976 the supplies of EEC food aid in the form of wheat were as follows:

Programme	Recipient country or body	Quantity of wheat (tonnes)	Member State in which invitation to tender was issued	Origin of wheat
1973/1974	ICRC	1 400	Belgium	Belgium
<b>Total 1973/1974</b>		<b>1 400</b>		
1974/1975	Afghanistan	2 500	France	France
1974/1975	Benin	2 500	Belgium	Belgium
1974/1975	Malta	2 000	Belgium	Belgium
1974/1975	Honduras	3 500	Germany	Germany
1974/1975	Peru	7 500	Belgium	Belgium
1974/1975	Cape Verde	1 000	France	France
1974/1975	Mauritania	7 500	France	France
1974/1975	Lebanon	2 589	Belgium	Belgium
1974/1975	Somalia	2 000	Italy	Italy
1974/1975	Rwanda	2 500	Belgium	Belgium
1974/1975	WFP	6 265	Belgium	Belgium
<b>Total 1974/1975</b>		<b>39 854</b>		
1975/1976	Egypt	24 000	Germany	Germany
1975/1976	Benin	1 000	Belgium	Belgium
1975/1976	Sudan	7 000	Germany	Germany
1975/1976	Peru	2 500	Belgium	Belgium
1975/1976	Somalia	15 000	Italy	Italy
1975/1976	Yemen (AR)	6 000	Germany	Germany
1975/1976	Zambia	1 500	Belgium	Belgium
1975/1976	UNHCR (Cyprus)	4 411	Belgium	Belgium
<b>Total 1975/1976</b>		<b>61 411</b>		

3. Under the Food Aid Convention, 1971, and its rules of procedure, grain supplied as food aid may take the form of derived products. Where the contribution is made in this form it is set off against the tonnage which each party to the Convention is obliged to supply on the basis of the conversion rate used in the transaction. For wheat flour the Community usually uses the conversion rate of 100 units by weight of wheat flour for 151 units by weight of common wheat, in accordance with Regulation No 162/67/EEC of 23 June 1967 <sup>(1)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No 128, 27. 6. 1967, p. 2574.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 164/77

by Mr Martens

to the Commission of the European Communities

(28 April 1977)

*Subject:* Sugar from the ACP countries

Could the Commission answer the following questions:

1. What quantities of sugar were imported under the Convention of Lomé in the period 1 August 1975 to 31 July 1976?
2. What proportion of these quantities was accounted for by each of the Member States?
3. What was the average fob price at the port of import?
4. What were the refining costs per ton?
5. How much would it cost to export to third countries a quantity corresponding to that imported, on the basis of the current export refunds?

Answer

(20 June 1977)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 1 250 602 tonnes expressed in white sugar value.</li> <li>2. France 2 043 tonnes<br/>Federal Republic of Germany 198 tonnes<br/>Ireland 47 477 tonnes<br/>Netherlands 200 tonnes<br/>United Kingdom 1 200 684 tonnes</li> <li>3. As all ACP sugar is imported under private commercial arrangements the Commission is not in possession of the information necessary to calculate the average price paid for this sugar.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Refining costs differ significantly according to the type of enterprise involved and it is not possible to establish a representative cost.<br/><br/>The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its reply to Written Question No 228/76 by Mr Schuijt <sup>(1)</sup>.</li> <li>5. About 210 million units of account at present levels of export restitution.</li> </ol> |
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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 244, 18. 10. 1976, p. 13.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 166/77****by Mr Maigaard****to the Council of the European Communities***(28 April 1977)**Subject:* Modifications to the Treaty

Why, when amending the Treaty, has the Council on several occasions departed from the normal procedure stipulated in Article 236 of the EEC Treaty (cf. for instance application of Article 235 for the adoption of Regulation (EEC) No 1172/76 of 17 May 1976 on the amended system for calculating Member States' contributions to the Community budget)?

**Answer***(15 June 1977)*

When amending the Treaties, the Council has always followed the procedures laid down therein.

In the case of Regulation (EEC) No 1172/76 to which the Honourable Member referred, the purpose was not to amend the system of calculating the Member States' contributions to the budget but to set up, in the context of the implementation of the Treaties, a financial mechanism 'consisting of payments from the budget of the Communities to Member States in a special economic situation whose economies bear a disproportionate burden in the financing of that budget' <sup>(1)</sup>. As the Treaty provides no specific powers to set up such machinery, it was agreed to use Article 235 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community for that purpose.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 131, 30. 5. 1976, p. 7.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 171/77****by Mr Maigaard****to the Council of the European Communities***(28 April 1977)**Subject:* Scope of Article 235 of the EEC Treaty

Does the Council think that Article 235 of the EEC Treaty will help to bring about economic and monetary union or the European Union?

**Answer***(15 June 1977)*

1. Article 235 of the Treaty establishing the EEC has served as the basis for major achievements such as the setting up of FECOM and the machinery for issuing Community loans, and could serve as the basis for further progress towards economic and monetary union if the conditions set out in the Article for its use are fulfilled. This

would not prevent the Council from considering it necessary on a particular occasion to resort either to other provisions of the Treaty or to Article 236.

2. The Council has not had to rule on the possible use of Article 235 of the Treaty establishing the EEC as a basis for the attainment of European Union.

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WRITTEN QUESTION No 175/77

by Mr Maigaard

to the Commission of the European Communities

(28 April 1977)

*Subject:* The Community's powers in the environment sector

1. To what extent have the Community's — as distinct from the individual Member State's — powers in the environment sector been extended since 1 January 1973?
2. What type of legal acts have been used?
3. What has been the legal authority in each case?

Answer

(13 June 1977)

1. This Commission pointed out in its answer to Written Question No 60/73 by Mr Jahn <sup>(1)</sup>, that the signatories of the EEC Treaty took as their objective, among others set out in the preamble, 'the constant improvement of the living and working conditions of their peoples' and 'the harmonious development of their economies'. The Commission also recalled that, at their meeting in Paris on 19 and 20 October 1972, the Heads of State or of Government particularly stressed the need for the Commission to direct its activities towards bringing about an improvement of the quality of life, and underlined the importance of a Community environmental protection policy. In point 8 of the final communiqué of that Conference, they therefore requested the Institutions of the Community to draw up, by 31 July 1973, an action programme accompanied by a precise timetable.

A programme of action of the European Communities on the environment was approved by the Declaration of the Council and the Representatives of the

Governments of the Member States meeting in the Council of 22 November 1973.

On 17 May 1977 the Council and the Representatives of the Member States meeting in the Council also adopted the resolution on the continuation and implementation of a European Community policy and action programme on the environment.

Pursuant to this action programme, the Council has adopted a number of measures dealing, *inter alia*, with water quality, waste disposal and the prevention of air pollution and nuisances.

2. So far, in the environment sector, the Council has adopted binding legal acts in the form of Regulations, Directives and Decisions.

3. The legal basis for the various acts adopted by the Council are Articles 100 and/or 235 of the EEC Treaty. However, the Council could conceivably adopt environmental measures on the basis of other provisions of the Treaty; for example, the Directive on mountain and hill farming is based on Article 43 of the EEC Treaty.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 89, 25. 10. 1973, p. 5.

## WRITTEN QUESTION No 177/77

by Mr Kofoed

to the Commission of the European Communities

(28 April 1977)

*Subject:* Beef market

In 1976, the Council of the European Communities decided (see Regulations (EEC) No 2453/76<sup>(1)</sup> and (EEC) No 2697/76<sup>(2)</sup>) to transfer 40 000 tonnes of frozen beef from the Community's intervention stocks to Italy. The meat was supplied at intervention prices for the dual purpose, it would seem, of strengthening Italy's balance of payments and disposing of some of the large surpluses of beef in stock. In these circumstances,

1. Does the Commission not think that such sales are harmful to beef producers in Italy and the other Member States of the EEC, who are subject to excessive competition?
2. Does the Commission not think that the introduction of frozen beef on the Italian market

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 279, 9. 10. 1976, p. 3.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No L 304, 6. 11. 1976, p. 19, and OJ No L 318, 18. 11. 1976, p. 20.

endangers the prospect of outlets for beef on the Italian market in the long term?

3. How does the Commission intend to assess the effect on imports of frozen beef from third countries?
4. Does the Commission think that such measures can help to restore equilibrium in the Community's beef market in the longer term?
5. Does the Commission agree that it would be less of a burden on the EAGGF, and more appropriate, to introduce a quota system under which Italy would be authorized to import a certain quantity of fresh beef at intervention prices, the EAGGF would pay the difference in price to the exporting countries and a countervailing charge would be levied on imports into Italy — in order to protect Italian producers and ensure that the proceeds of the tax go to Italian farmers, who are in a difficult situation, and thereby aid national production?

## Answer

(6 June 1977)

1, 2 and 4. The sale of beef resulting from the transfer from other Member States to Italy will not have a harmful effect on the producers either in the short or long term.

The prices for the sale of this frozen beef from the intervention agency to the butchers' trade was fixed at the same level as that ruling for normal sales of frozen intervention beef.

As this beef will be sold direct through retail outlets with a controlled maximum sales price this may bring about an overall increase in consumption of all beef, which could continue after the end of the special sales of frozen beef giving long term benefits to the producers.

3. It is too early to attempt any assessment of the imports of frozen beef from third countries. This matter will be kept under review by the Commission.

One can however assume that part of this frozen beef sold will take the place of butchers' frozen beef cuts which are imported under normal conditions and give a substantial overall benefit to the Italian balance of payments.

Historically a large percentage of the imports of frozen beef into Italy from third countries has been for the sole use of the manufacturing industry. This special sale of frozen beef is of butchers' quality beef which is not of the type and quality traditionally required by manufacturers.

5. The Commission cannot agree with the Honourable Member. On the contrary each importation of beef coming from a third country in the present market situation risks increasing the quantity held in public intervention stores and so aggravates the situation in the Community.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 178/77**

by Mr Hougardy

to the Commission of the European Communities

(28 April 1977)

*Subject:* Reduction of domestic energy consumption

The Commission is undoubtedly aware that during the last five months consumption of the different sources of domestic energy in Italy fell by 11 %, from 21 300 000 tonnes to less than 20 million tonnes.

Does the Commission think that the climate, price increases or the campaign to reduce consumption was the cause of the reduction?

What has been the rate of reduction in other countries?

How do these rates compare with the targets proposed for this purpose in the 1976 to 1985 plan to limit energy dependence?

Does the Commission think that, with the necessary adjustments, this plan is still valid?

If so, how does it propose to confront the Council with its responsibilities?

**Answer**

(15 June 1977)

The information which the Commission has on the drop in energy consumed by households in recent months tallies with the figures quoted by the Honourable Member. The Commission is of the opinion that the nationwide campaign to save energy in the home mounted recently by the Italian authorities was the chief factor in this.

It is not possible to provide comparable data on this sector in the other Community countries during the same period.

It would be premature to say how much progress may be made towards the 1985 objective for reduced energy consumption. The Commission has pointed out several times since the Council set that objective

in 1975 the importance which it places on the need to make the Community less dependent on imported energy.

To this end, the Commission recently submitted to the Council a second set of recommendations for practical action as part of the Community programme for the rational use of energy.

In addition, on 23 March, the Council accepted the proposal from the Commission for the Member States' senior officials responsible for energy saving to meet periodically to review the situation and give fresh impetus to schemes for saving energy. The first of these meetings will be held on 4 July.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 181/77 <sup>(1)</sup>**

by Mr Durieux

to the Council of the European Communities

(28 April 1977)

*Subject:* Rights of the citizens of the Community

Does the Council not feel that the consideration now being given to the problem of granting special rights to the citizens of the Community is only a half-measure since,

<sup>(1)</sup> The Foreign Ministers of the nine Member States meeting in political cooperation will not be replying to the identical question (No 180/77) as it considers that the Council alone is competent to deal with it.



under the terms of the recent joint declaration by the three institutions, genuine European fundamental rights should be recognized and guaranteed?

**Answer**

(27 June 1977)

The question of fundamental rights is distinct from that of special rights.

The joint declaration on fundamental rights by the three institutions testifies to the importance which the institutions attach to the guaranteeing of such rights in the execution of their own powers.

The possible granting of special rights to nationals of Member States of the Community should be seen from a different angle. The particular aim of such an operation is to integrate such nationals more successfully into their host environment and to enhance their status as compared with third country nationals.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 186/77**

**by Mr Evans**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(3 May 1977)

*Subject:* Regional development programme

The Annex to the Outline for Regional Development Programmes<sup>(1)</sup> contained a timetable and time-scales of RDP's.

Does this still represent the up-to-date situation?

Does the Commission still expect to have received all RDP's by the end of 1977 as required by Article 6 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 724/75<sup>(2)</sup>?

Do all the programmes received so far follow the specifications established in the Council Decision published in OJ No C 69 of 24 March 1976?

What action does the Commission propose to take in any case where the programme does not meet the specifications?

Which Governments have published details of the programme they have submitted to the Commission?

Does the Commission intend to publish all programmes in the Official Journal?

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 69, 24. 3. 1976, p. 2.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No L 73, 21. 3. 1975, p. 1, and OJ No L 110, 30. 4. 1975, p. 44.

**Answer**

(10 June 1977)

Pursuant to Article 6 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 724/75 of 18 March 1975 establishing a European Regional Development Fund, the Commission has been notified of the regional development programmes for the United Kingdom (8 February

1977) and for Greenland (16 February 1977), of 19 of the 22 programmes for the Federal Republic of Germany (8 November 1976 and 21 April 1977) and of the development programmes for France (17 May 1977).

The Commission expects to have received by the end of 1977 all the development programmes for the regions which are referred to in Article 3 of the above Regulation as being eligible for assistance from the Fund.

The programmes received largely satisfy the specifications laid down in the Outline for Regional Development Programmes, adopted by the Regional Policy Committee at its meeting of 6 and 7 October 1975.

The Commission has notified the Member States concerned of those parts of the programmes which it feels should be supplemented or amplified if it is to

be in a position to decide on the schemes qualifying for priority assistance from Community financial instruments. It must, however, be emphasized that, being a new facility, the procedure for the programmes will gradually have to be improved over time.

The United Kingdom and Danish Governments have both published the programmes they submitted to the Commission, the former in an abridged version.

The Commission also intends to publish these programmes, possibly in summary form, but not necessarily in the Official Journal.

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WRITTEN QUESTION No 189/77

by Mr Hoffmann

to the Commission of the European Communities

(3 May 1977)

*Subject:* Future relations between the Commission and local and regional institutions

1. Does the Commission take the view that a genuine Community regional policy can be worked out only on the basis of relations between the Member States and the Commission?
2. Does it feel that it would be advisable in the future to extend and intensify its direct relations with local and regional authorities in the context of the Community's regional policy?
3. If so, what practical steps does it intend to take to extend and intensify these relations?

**Answer**

(17 June 1977)

1. The Commission shares the view, frequently expressed by Parliament and again quite recently in its resolution of 21 April 1977 on aspects of the Community's regional policy to be developed in the future, that the regions concerned and their representatives should be involved in framing the Community's regional policy, in the implementation of which they already take part for the actual execution of investment projects. The Honourable Member will, however, understand that, under the Treaties, the Commission deals with the Member States at central government level.

2 and 3. None the less, as the Commission has already stated in its answer to Question No 665/76 <sup>(1)</sup>,

put by the Honourable Member, the Commissioner responsible for regional policy, the Director-General for Regional Policy and members of his staff have held numerous meetings with representatives of the European regional and local authority organizations and have also met informally a large number of individual local and regional authorities. The Commissioner responsible for regional policy, who has met the heads of the above organizations on two occasions so far this year, has informed them of his intention to step up these informal contacts with them. In addition, Article 5 of the Council Decision of 18 March 1975 setting up a Regional Policy Committee <sup>(2)</sup> provides explicitly that interested parties from the regions may be involved in the preparation of the Community's regional policy.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 27, 3. 2. 1977, p. 29.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No L 73, 21. 3. 1975, p. 48.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 195/77****by Mr Martens****to the Commission of the European Communities***(9 May 1977)*

*Subject:* Intervention for bread and fodder grains (1973 and 1976)

Could the Commission answer the following questions:

1. What quantities of bread and fodder grains were delivered to the various intervention agencies in the Member States in 1973 and 1976?
2. What prices were paid for these quantities?
3. What amounts did storage costs represent?
4. What were the original stocks as at 1 January 1973 and 1 January 1976 and the final stocks as at 31 December 1973 and 31 December 1976?
5. What quantities were sold
  - (a) within the Community at cost price or at a reduced price;
  - (b) outside the Community at cost price or at a reduced price?
6. What was the difference between the purchase price and storage costs on the one hand and the revenue from sales, taking into account the original and final stocks, on the other hand?

**Answer***(13 June 1977)*

The Commission is collecting the information needed to reply to the Honourable Member's questions.

The Commission will notify him of the results of its research as soon as possible.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 196/77****by Mr Martens****to the Commission of the European Communities***(9 May 1977)*

*Subject:* Intervention for pigmeat (1974 and 1976)

Could the Commission answer the following questions:

1. What quantities of pigmeat were delivered to the various intervention agencies in the Member States in 1974 and 1976?

What proportion of the above did the private storage programmes represent?

2. What prices were paid for these quantities?
3. What amounts did storage costs, and possibly the cost of preservative processing, represent?
4. What were the initial stocks as at 1 January 1974 and 1 January 1976 and the final stocks as at 31 December 1974 and 31 December 1976?
5. What quantities were sold
  - (a) within the Community at the purchase price or at a reduced price;
  - (b) outside the Community at the purchase price or at a reduced price?
6. What was the difference between the purchase price, storage and processing costs on the one hand and the revenue from sales, taking into account the initial and final stocks, on the other hand?
7. What body is responsible for the management of the stocks and what do its responsibilities involve?

**Answer**

(20 June 1977)

1. The intervention period for pigmeat extended from 10 July 1974 to 14 June 1975 (49 weeks). Intervention consisted only of private storage aid and involved 115 000 tonnes, about 0.7 % of the gross pigmeat production for 1974 and 1975.
3. 20.9 million agricultural u.a. (provisional figure) were spent on private storage aid.
- 2, 4, 5 and 6. Since no public purchase was made, the answers to these questions are in the negative.
7. The management and supervision of any type of intervention is generally entrusted to the intervention agencies of each Member State.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 197/77**

by Mr Martens

to the Commission of the European Communities

(9 May 1977)

*Subject:* Intervention for beef and veal (1974 and 1976)

Could the Commission answer the following questions:

1. What quantities of beef and veal (carcasses and boned meat) were delivered to the intervention agencies by the various Member States in 1974 and 1976?

What proportion of the above did the private storage programmes represent?

2. What prices were paid for these quantities?
3. What amounts did storage costs, and possibly the cost of preservative processing, represent?
4. What were the initial stocks as at 1 January 1974 and 1 January 1976 and the final stocks as at 31 December 1974 and 31 December 1976?

5. What quantities were sold  
 (a) within the Community at approximately the purchase price or at a reduced price;  
 (b) outside the Community at the purchase price or at a reduced price?
6. What was the difference between the purchase price and storage costs on the one hand and the revenue from sales, taking into account the initial and final stocks, on the other hand?
7. What body is responsible for the management of the stocks, what do its responsibilities involve, how many persons does it have on its staff and what are their qualifications?
- Is it true that management activity is geared more to safeguarding stocks than to controlling the costs of the intervention policy?

**Answer***(13 June 1977)*

The Commission is collecting the information needed to reply to the Honourable Member's questions.

The Commission will notify him of the results of its research as soon as possible.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 198/77****by Mr Martens****to the Commission of the European Communities***(9 May 1977)*

*Subject:* Intervention for milk products (1973 and 1976)

Could the Commission answer the following questions:

1. What quantities of butter, skimmed-milk powder and long-keeping cheese were delivered to the intervention agencies of the various Member States in 1973 and 1976?
2. What prices were paid for these quantities, including any transport costs?
3. What amounts were paid out for storage?
4. What were the initial stocks as at 1 January 1973 and 1 January 1976 and the final stocks as at 31 December 1973 and 31 December 1976?

5. What quantities were sold  
 (a) within the Community at approximately the purchase price or at a reduced price;  
 (b) outside the Community for the purchase price or at a reduced price?
  6. What was the difference between the purchase price, transport and storage costs on the one hand and the revenue from sales, taking into account the initial and final stocks, on the other hand?
  7. What body is responsible for the management of the stocks, what do its responsibilities involve, how many persons does it have on its staff and what are their qualifications?
- Is it true that management activity is geared more to safeguarding stocks than to controlling the costs of the intervention policy?

**Answer***(7 June 1977)*

The Commission is collecting the information needed to reply to the Honourable Member's questions.

The Commission will notify him of the results of its research as soon as possible.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 201/77****by Mr Howell****to the Commission of the European Communities***(6 May 1977)**Subject:* Butter production

Will the Commission state what proportion of the EEC Gross National Product is represented by butter production?

**Answer***(22 June 1977)*

In 1975 the EEC Gross National Product at current market prices and rates of exchange totalled 1 017 700 million EUR.

In the same period butter production, on the basis of the common prices, had a value of some 3 400 million EUR, or 0.3 % of the Gross National Product.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 207/77****by Mr Seefeld****to the Commission of the European Communities***(6 May 1977)**Subject:* Reflecting number plates for motor vehicles

In its answer to Written Question No 132/75 <sup>(1)</sup>, the Commission indicated that it did not intend to propose the use of reflectorized number plates throughout the Community. It stated: 'In the meantime the Commission carefully follows the work done in this field'.

About two years having now elapsed, the Commission is asked to state what conclusions it has meanwhile drawn from its observations in this matter.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 192, 22. 8. 1975, p. 19.

**Answer***(10 June 1977)*

The Commission is obliged to concentrate its action in transport upon a limited number of priority tasks, given resources available and other demands for work. It is not proposed to take an initiative on reflectorized number plates for the time being.

## WRITTEN QUESTION No 208/77

by Mrs Ewing

to the Commission of the European Communities

(6 May 1977)

*Subject:* Report on Regional Cultures

What action has the Commission taken on the report undertaken for the Commission and submitted to it in September 1976 on regional cultures within the Community?

## Answer

(27 June 1977)

The report, which the Commission requested as part of its information programme, was presented to the Commission in November 1976 in the provisional form of a typewritten document with a considerable number of annexes.

For strictly financial reasons the Commission decided not to go to the expense of publishing the report. It has given the author permission to have his report published by any publisher he chooses.

The Commission will send a copy of the report, which the Honourable Member has already seen, to those Members of Parliament who request it.

## WRITTEN QUESTION No 210/77

by Mr Cousté

to the Commission of the European Communities

(10 May 1977)

*Subject:* Taxation on beer and wine in the European Communities

Beer and wine are the two alcoholic beverages obtained by fermentation most widely consumed and most readily interchangeable in the European Communities.

In fact, therefore, these two beverages are in direct competition with one another.

In certain Member States, tax distortions completely undermine any competition between these beverages

and in particular hinder the access of wine to the market, to the detriment of a great many consumers.

The most striking case in point is the United Kingdom, where the tax is totally disproportionate and on 1 April 1977 the Belgian Government raised the rate of VAT applicable to wine from 14 % to 25 % while retaining the 14 % rate for beer.

What action has the Commission taken, or does it intend taking — and when — with a view to ending this discrimination which is quite contrary to the second paragraph of Article 95 of the Treaty?

## Answer

(23 June 1977)

The Commission is aware of the cases mentioned by the Honourable Member.

It has initiated a procedure, now well advanced, against the United Kingdom concerning the taxation of wine as compared with beer, and it is also examining carefully the recent measures adopted by Belgium.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 216/77****by Mr Dondelinger****to the Commission of the European Communities***(26 May 1977)**Subject: Human rights*

1. In view of the 'prime importance' which the European Institutions attach in their joint declaration of 5 April 1977 to the principles contained in the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, does not the Commission consider that the ratification of all the Articles of the Convention assumes special significance and that it should therefore press France to ratify Article 25 which confers the right of individual petition to the European Court of Human Rights?
2. Does it not feel that such ratification would not only eliminate discrimination between the citizens of Europe but would also avoid disputes as to the jurisdiction of the Courts in Luxembourg and Strasbourg? This would mean that in matters concerning violations of human rights in the strict sense of the term, the Court of Justice of the European Communities would not be called upon to deliver a preliminary ruling as it was in the Rutili case <sup>(1)</sup>, where the latter could have taken his case directly to the European Court of Human Rights.

<sup>(1)</sup> Case 36/75, OJ No C 9, 14. 1. 1976, p. 2.

**Answer***(17 June 1977)*

While acknowledging the disadvantages that can arise as a result of the fact that a Member State has not ratified Article 25 of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the Commission considers that it is not its duty to press a Member State to ratify international instruments which have no direct connection with the European Communities.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 224/77****by Mr Willi Müller and Mr Spillecke****to the Commission of the European Communities***(26 May 1977)**Subject: Saccharine*

The Commission is no doubt aware of the most recent studies on saccharine published in the USA.

In view of the divergence between the legislations of the Member States — and taking as its starting point technical barriers to trade — it is the Commission's task to draw up proposals for harmonization in this field, as it has already done for other additives.



1. Does the Commission feel that the studies published recently are sufficiently alarming for it to give some priority to this question?
2. Is it prepared to ask the Scientific Committee for Foodstuffs at an early date to undertake an assessment of this additive?
3. If not, how does the Commission intend obtaining the information it needs to carry out its task?

**Answer**

*(8 June 1977)*

The Commission would refer the Honourable Members to its answers to Written Questions No 62/77 <sup>(1)</sup> by Mr Martens and No 70/77 <sup>(2)</sup> by Mr Seefeld.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 191, 10. 8. 1977, p. 31.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No C 191, 10. 8. 1977, p. 33.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 225/77**

**by Mr Evans**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(25 May 1977)*

*Subject:* Environmental protection

To what extent is the Commission applying the 'polluter pays' principle as it implements its action programme on the environment <sup>(1)</sup>?

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 281, 27. 11. 1976, p. 20.

**Answer**

*(23 June 1977)*

The 'polluter pays' principle was accepted by the Community when it adopted the first programme of action of the European Communities on the environment <sup>(1)</sup>.

The detailed rules for its application are laid down in the Council recommendation of 3 March 1975 regarding cost allocation and action by public authorities on environmental matters <sup>(2)</sup>.

This principle is borne in mind by the Commission when it prepares its proposals to the Council on environmental matters, and in its policy on aid in environmental matters.

The European Communities' action programme on the environment (1977 to 1981), adopted by the Council on 17 May 1977, states that certain aspects of the 'polluter pays' principle require further thought and study. These aspects include the harmonization of instruments for the operation of systems of charges. As a result the Commission is currently looking into the question of whether or not to present proposals to the Council on a system of charges for water pollution.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 112, 20. 12. 1973, p. 1.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No L 194, 25. 7. 1975, p. 1.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 226/77****by Mr Evans****to the Commission of the European Communities***(25 May 1977)**Subject:* Publication of an annual report

Does the Commission intend to publish at an early date the annual report on consumer policy provided for in its action programme on consumer protection?

If not, can it give the reasons for the delay?

**Answer***(22 June 1977)*

In its answer to Written Question No 783/76 by Mr W. Müller <sup>(1)</sup>, the Commission stated that the first annual report on consumer protection and information policy would be published during the first half of this year. The final text has been approved, but some material difficulties have arisen, notably with regard to translation and reproduction. The Commission is therefore planning to publish the report immediately after the summer break.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 70, 21. 3. 1977, p. 17.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 228/77****by Mr Seefeld****to the Commission of the European Communities***(25 May 1977)**Subject:* Relations between the EEC and Sweden

What has been the effect of the European Community's readiness — proclaimed by the Foreign Minister of the German Federal Republic — to cooperate with the other European states with market economies on relations between the EEC and Sweden?

What plans are being formulated for the future?

**Answer***(27 June 1977)*

1. In 1973 the Community concluded a free trade agreement with Sweden as well as with the other EFTA States, and as from 1 July this year the remaining customs barriers will be removed for most industrial products involved in trade with Sweden. As a result Western Europe will for practical purposes have an internal market of over 300 million people. No more need be said to stress the

Community's readiness to work together with Sweden and the other EFTA States. Furthermore the Community is prepared to give very serious consideration to the call for improved and more extensive relations made at the most recent EFTA summit, held in Vienna on 13 May, in which Sweden took part.

2. As far as the future of Community-Sweden relations is concerned, Mr Genscher himself recalled that a stable and economically strong Community is a prerequisite for favourable economic development throughout Europe, and is thus in Sweden's interest.

There has also been cooperation between the Community and Sweden in the forms of exchanges

of information on environmental protection and in the context of COST and Euratom research into thermonuclear fusion.

The most recent EFTA summit, held in Vienna on 13 May, provides further grounds for continuing and extending Community-Sweden relations.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 229/77**

**by Mr Howell**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(25 May 1977)*

*Subject:* Written questions

What is the average length of time taken by the Commission to reply to written questions?

**Answer**

*(10 June 1977)*

The Commission took an average of 43 full days to answer the questions received during the first three months of 1977.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 238/77**

**by Mr Dondelinger**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(2 June 1977)*

*Subject:* Insulting remarks made about members of the Commission of the European Communities

Continuing his campaign against the European Institutions and their members, Mr Michel Debré, at the public sitting of the French National Assembly of 6 April 1977 and in the presence of the Prime Minister, Mr Raymond Barre, described members of the Commission of the European Communities as 'idle' and 'indifferent'.

Whilst we should not attach too much importance to such remarks, does the Commission intend making a formal protest to the President of the French National Assembly?

**Answer**

*(15 June 1977)*

The Commission reminds the Honourable Member that it is not its custom to pronounce upon declarations made in public by the politicians of the Member States.

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## WRITTEN QUESTION No 266/77

by Mr Nyborg

to the Commission of the European Communities

(9 June 1977)

*Subject:* Appointment of Danish interpreters in Community institutions

What does the Commission intend to do in order to remedy the unfortunate situation which has arisen regarding Danish interpreters in Community institutions, where insistence on futile formalities is preventing the reappointment of competent Danish interpreters at a time when there is a grave shortage of them — witness the fact that the Commission has contemplated holding crash courses for Danish interpreters in Denmark?

## Answer

(23 June 1977)

In order to maintain the quality of interpretation, the Commission applies the same administrative rules and Staff Regulations to Danish interpreters as to all conference interpreters.

However, the Commission is aware that as Danish was not used as a conference language until 1973, there is a very serious shortage of qualified interpreters with a knowledge of the language. It has made a special effort to remedy the situation.

(1) It has trained thirteen young Danish graduates for the profession of conference interpreter; the training takes the form of paid in-service training periods.

(2) It has given 12 of its own established interpreters the opportunity of learning Danish for the purposes of their work, notably by means of a study period in Denmark paid for by the Commission.

(3) It has devoted Bfrs 13 million to financing the teaching of Danish in five university interpreting departments.

(4) It has subsidized a crash course for Danish-speaking interpreters. Fourteen applicants have been accepted for this course. At the request of the Danish Government, the training will take place at the Copenhagen Graduate School of Economics and Business Administration.

## WRITTEN QUESTION No 293/77

by Mr Osborn

to the Commission of the European Communities

(15 June 1977)

*Subject:* Energy conservation incentive schemes

Will the Commission list the positive energy conservation incentive schemes, including tax incentive schemes similar to those being introduced by President Carter in the USA, now introduced by each Member State of the Community, and those of the Commission of the European Communities, indicating expenditure under each category of incentive respectively and in total to date this year, last year and the relevant years prior to this, and budgeted expenditure in the years to come.

**Answer**

*(22 June 1977)*

The Commission is collecting the information needed to reply to the Honourable Member's questions.

The Commission will notify him of the results of its research as soon as possible.

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