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## Information and Notices

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## I

*(Information)*

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

## WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWER

## 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?

Supplementary answer <sup>(1)</sup>*(5 July 1979)*

Further to its answer of 22 June 1977, the Commission can now inform the Honourable Member of the result of its investigation.

A list of the basic measures for energy saving adopted by Member States is given in Annex 1 to the Third Report on the Community's Programme for Energy Saving.

The Third Report also includes a table comparing the budget allocations for the main categories of incentive schemes for energy conservation in each of the Member States for the year 1978. This is the first year for which such a comparison has been possible.

This report was sent to the European Parliament on 28 June 1979.

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<sup>(1)</sup> A first answer was already given on 22 June 1977 (OJ No C 200, 22. 8. 1977, p. 41).

## WRITTEN QUESTION No 689/77

by Mr Ligios

to the Commission of the European Communities

(19 October 1977)

*Subject:* Effects of the monetary compensatory amounts on German exports of agricultural products to Italy

Could the Commission give details of the trend, since 1969, in German exports to Italy of agricultural products subject to the system of monetary compensatory amounts, especially beef and veal and milk?

Could it also give its views on the effects of the subsidies granted on such exports in the form of a 3 % reduction in VAT and monetary compensatory amounts?

Supplementary answer <sup>(1)</sup>

(5 July 1979)

Further to its answer of 14 December 1977, the Commission is now able to provide the Honourable Member with detailed information on the trend in German exports of agricultural products to Italy.

The Commission's 1978 and 1979 reports <sup>(2)</sup> on 'The economic effects of the agri-monetary system', which have been made available to Parliament, give all the figures for intra-Community trade including the figures requested on German exports of agricultural products to Italy. German exports of milk products and beef and veal to Italy are given in the attached table.

The Commission would ask the Honourable Member to refer to Annex C to the 1978 report <sup>(3)</sup> for an explanation of the trend in exports of milk and fresh cream in particular.

These conclusions show that it is difficult to isolate the effects of monetary compensatory amounts on trade.

The same comment can be made about the beef and veal sector. The degree of self-supply in Italy is fairly low; it dropped from about 65 % in 1969 to 58 % in 1978. However, in 1969 almost three quarters of Italy's import requirements were covered by imports of beef and veal from non-member countries while in 1978 such imports only accounted for 19 %. The Federal Republic of Germany was not the only country which was able to increase its exports of beef and veal to Italy; France, for example, did so on an even larger scale despite its different monetary situation.

As regards the effect of the 3 % VAT reduction introduced in 1969 to compensate German producers following a revaluation of the green rate for the German mark, it should be noted that this measure has no direct influence on trade in agricultural end products since the compensation is provided at production level. Moreover, this aid is degressive and will expire at the end of 1980.

However, in the Federal Republic of Germany and in Italy the price levels resulting from the application of differing green rates, and the VAT reduction in the Federal Republic of Germany which affects producers' income, certainly influence production and consumption in those two countries and therefore indirectly influence trade, which is dependent on supply and demand.

<sup>(1)</sup> A first answer was already given on 14 December 1977 (OJ No C 30, 6. 2. 1978, p. 30).

<sup>(2)</sup> Doc. COM(78) 20 final, 10. 2. 1978, brought up to date by COM(79) 11 final, 14. 3. 1979.

<sup>(3)</sup> Doc. COM(78) 20 final, Annex C: case studies.

## EXPORTS FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY TO ITALY

(tonnes)

Tariff heading	Description	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978
<i>SITC</i>	<i>Milk products</i>										
022.10	Concentrated milk, liquid or semi-solid	209	436	485	543	624	591	620	665	583	663
022.21	Whole milk/cream, solid	1 404	1 512	1 246	1 662	942	1 172	1 805	2 114	2 377	4 524
022.22	Skimmed milk, solid, and whey	36 953	44 714	42 883	78 230	87 764	70 797	85 680	74 091	75 279	143 140
022.30	Milk and milk cream, fresh	6 369	28 026	117 992	217 165	379 348	547 602	540 661	773 135	922 644	998 069
023.20	Butter	7 379	5 711	10 615	4 470	8 322	14 745	28 320	23 023	22 355	18 603
024.00	Cheese and curd	29 821	34 513	39 984	46 695	57 870	69 129	70 730	78 835	89 623	103 604
<i>SITC</i>	<i>Beef and veal</i>										
001.10	Live animals	43 651	64 702	84 676	122 739	108 040	63 797	125 107	82 879	47 015	58 304
011.10	Meat of bovine animals, fresh, chilled or frozen	19 265	22 754	24 466	23 794	43 048	42 577	67 918	53 469	75 178	65 721
<i>NIMEXE</i>											
02.01-73	Livers of bovine animals	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	19	25	255
75	Offals of bovine animals	216	372	364	80	92	252	138	201	282	519
02.06-92	Meat of bovine animals, dried, smoked, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
94		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.02-51	Preparations and preserves containing bovine meat or offal	383	363	561	329	401	925	505	530	428	193

Source: Eurostat — Analytical tables of external trade (CST and NIMEXE).

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 775/78**  
**by Mr Dondelinger**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
(14 November 1978)

*Subject:* Misuse of authority against French nationals resident in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

A number of French nationals working and legally resident in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg have recently been stopped by the French police while driving their cars with Luxembourg registration, as required under Luxembourg law, on French territory. The police have refused to recognize the Luxembourg legal provisions on this subject and have declared these French nationals to be breaching the French customs code (Decree of May 1975). They have consequently confiscated the cars on the grounds of illegal importation.

1. Is the Commission aware of these unjustified interpretations and practices?
2. Does it consider that a Member State may penalize its nationals for complying with the laws and regulations of another Member State in which they are legally resident?
3. What measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure that these persons are no longer treated as common car traffickers?

**Supplementary answer <sup>(1)</sup>**  
(4 July 1979)

Further to its answer of 6 December 1978, the Commission is now able to inform the Honourable Member of the findings of its inquiry.

1. The facts reported by the Honourable Member once again highlight a problem which has attracted the Commission's attention on more than one occasion and the scale of which prompted the Commission in 1975 to present a proposal for a Directive <sup>(2)</sup> which, if adopted, would largely resolve the problem.

As a rule, Member States permit the temporary duty-free importation of vehicles which belong to persons normally resident outside the territory of temporary importation and which are used in that territory for a stay of a certain duration.

This arrangement, which is applied under national law reflecting the international law laid down in the New York Convention of 4 June 1954 on the temporary importation of private road vehicles, works smoothly in the vast majority of cases. It is, however, inadequate in a number of situations, and particularly where two States may each decide, according to the circumstances, to regard one and the same person as being resident on their own territory.

2. As the Commission indicated in its provisional answer <sup>(3)</sup>, the Commission has asked the administration concerned for information on the cases referred to by the Honourable Member, but there has been no reply so far. These cases would seem to involve situations of the kind referred to above, provided it can be proved that the persons in question are resident in France, something which can always be contested. Otherwise, as Community law

<sup>(1)</sup> A first answer was already given on 6 December 1978 (OJ No C 5, 8. 1. 1979, p. 39).

<sup>(2)</sup> Proposal for a Council Directive on tax exemptions for certain means of transport temporarily imported into one Member State from another, OJ No C 267, 21. 11. 1975, p. 8.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ No C 5, 8. 1. 1979.

stands at present, the fact of claiming residence in one Member State cannot be relied upon against the administration of another Member State.

3. Under the proposal for a Directive, private persons are authorized to import temporarily certain means of transport, notably motor vehicles, into a Member

State other than that in which they have their principal residence, it being understood that they can have only one principal residence. The Commission regards it as highly desirable that the Council should adopt the proposal, which was presented to it in October 1975 and which is now being examined by the relevant committees, as soon as possible.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 873/78**

**by Mr Rivierez**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(7 December 1978)*

*Subject:* Programme for the distribution of dairy products in the French overseas departments

Will the Commission take the necessary measures to enable schools in the French overseas departments to benefit from the Community programme for the distribution of dairy products?

**Supplementary answer <sup>(1)</sup>**

*(4 July 1979)*

Further to its answer of 5 January 1979, the Commission is now able to inform the Honourable Member of the results of its inquiries.

1. The Community rules governing milk and milk products, and specifically Article 26 of the basic Regulation for this sector (Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 <sup>(2)</sup>), lay down that the Member States may grant national aid to provide school children with milk and certain milk products. It is thus national aid programmes which are envisaged, with the Community making a financial contribution, as laid down in Regulation (EEC) No 1080/77 <sup>(3)</sup>.

2. For budgetary purposes this Community contribution is considered as intervention expenditure and therefore comes under the Guarantee Section of the EAGGF.

3. As regards the extension of such financing to the French overseas departments, the Commission would request the Honourable Member to refer to the answer by the Council to his Written Question No 875/78 <sup>(4)</sup>. Unless otherwise decided, the Community contribution is perfectly possible for milk and milk products supplied to schools in the French overseas departments under Article 26 of Regulation (EEC) No 804/68 and Regulation (EEC) No 1080/77.

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<sup>(1)</sup> A first answer was already given on 5 January 1979 (OJ No C 32, 5. 2. 1979, p. 14).

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No L 148, 28. 6. 1968, p. 13.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ No L 131, 26. 5. 1977, p. 8.

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<sup>(4)</sup> OJ No C 145, 11. 6. 1979, p. 3.



**WRITTEN QUESTION No 988/78****by Mr Eberhard and Mr Mascagni****to the Foreign Ministers of the nine Member States of the European Community meeting in political cooperation***(17 January 1979)**Subject:* Extradition of the war criminal Klaus Barbie

Do the Foreign Ministers not think that they should consider the problems connected with a possible request to the Bolivian Government for the extradition of the war criminal Klaus Barbie?

**Answer***(10 July 1979)*

The question put by the Honourable Members does not relate to a matter dealt with in the context of political cooperation. The Presidency is therefore unable to give a reply.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 992/78****by Mr Geurtsen****to the Council of the European Communities***(17 January 1979)**Subject:* The fate of Abraham Hochman

1. Is the Council aware that the 38-year-old Argentine lawyer Abraham Hochman, who has frequently defended political prisoners in the past, recently disappeared and that his wife and children have been warned that they would be putting his life at risk if they continued their efforts to trace him?

2. Is it also aware that since the military coup of March 1976 many lawyers have been imprisoned or have disappeared, while others have been obliged in their own interests to abandon their work and leave the country?

3. Is the Council aware of the report of the International Commission of Jurists of February 1978,

which states that, although violence in Argentina is widespread and affects many areas of community life, the position of criminal lawyers and members of the judiciary is extremely precarious?

4. Will it inform the Argentine Government of its extreme concern at the position of, in particular, lawyers who defend political prisoners and judges whose sentences on such prisoners are considered by the regime to be too lenient, emphasizing the fundamental right of all accused persons to be defended by a lawyer and to be tried by the judiciary objectively and impartially?

5. Will it enquire about the fate of Abraham Hochman, press for information about his position and seek guarantees for his physical well-being?

**Answer****given by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the nine Member States of the European Community meeting in political cooperation***(10 July 1979)*

The Nine have always shown their deep concern at the violence which has been developing in Argentina in recent years and have on many occasions protested against the violations of human rights which were a direct consequence of it.

The Nine have generally raised overall problems when making their many and various representations, while the Member States have laid stress on specific cases or on the fate of social and occupational groups such as doctors, lawyers or journalists who have sometimes been subjected to harsher persecution than other groups.

# WRITTEN QUESTION No 1032/78

by Mr Cot

to the Commission of the European Communities

(31 January 1979)

*Subject:* Detention of aliens in France

On 9 December 1978 the French Prime Minister issued a decree (No 78/1154) concerning the application of Article 120 of the French Penal Code to aliens subject to a deportation order <sup>(1)</sup>.

This decree lays down that aliens subject to such an order may be detained on a 'well-founded order' from the Minister of the Interior, during 'the period strictly required for the effective implementation of the deportation order', once it has been established that 'it is impossible to implement immediately the deportation order'.

This decree is applicable to 'all aliens', in other words to nationals of other Member States of the Community.

1. Does the Commission consider this decree compatible with the Council Directive of 25 February 1964 <sup>(2)</sup>, in particular with Articles 7 and 9

<sup>(1)</sup> *Journal Officiel* of the French Republic, 13 December 1978, p. 4142.

<sup>(2)</sup> Directive 64/221/EEC for the coordination of measures applicable to aliens in respect of their movement and residence justified on grounds of public order, public safety or public health, (OJ No 56, 4. 4. 1964, p. 850).

thereof, and with the principles evolved by the Court of Justice in several of its rulings relating to this Directive?

In particular, does the Commission feel that the powers of the French administrative authority to keep a Community citizen in detention for an unlimited period prior to deportation are compatible with the exercise by the person subject to a deportation order of his right to plead his case before the appropriate national authorities?

2. Should the Commission consider this decree incompatible with the aforementioned Directive, what measures would it take *vis-à-vis* the French Government?
3. Is the Commission aware of any similar measures adopted by other Member States of the Community? What measures has it taken *vis-à-vis* those countries?
4. The aforementioned Directive also lays down the obligation on Member States to forward to the Commission 'the text of the essential provisions of national law which they adopt in the sphere subject to this Directive'. Has the French Government complied with this obligation?

## Answer

(4 July 1979)

1 and 2. The Commission considers that, as was stated by the Court of Justice of the European Communities in Case 48/75 – Royer on 8 April 1976 <sup>(1)</sup> Community law precludes a Member State from taking steps involving provisional deprivation of liberty with a view to deportation against an alien, subject to the EEC Treaty, in cases where a decision of deportation would be contrary to the Treaty.

<sup>(1)</sup> [1976] ECR 497.

On the other hand, Community law does not at this stage impose any specific obligations on Member States concerning steps involving provisional deprivation of liberty taken against an alien, subject to the EEC Treaty, who could be deported in the circumstances where this is permitted by Directive 64/221/EEC.

In this case the lawfulness of such steps depends on the provisions of national law and the international commitments assumed by the Member States concerned.

In any case, according to the information contained in the Honourable Member's question, the French decree deals only with cases where immediate expulsion is envisaged. In this connection the Commission would point out that, except in a case of urgency for which adequate reasons are shown, an expulsion decision may not be executed against a person protected by Community law before expiry of the time limits laid down in Article 7 of Directive 64/221/EEC or before the person concerned has been able to exhaust the remedies available to him under Articles 8 and 9 of that Directive.

3. The Commission has no information on this point. It will request the Member States to furnish the required information; should this result in further steps being taken, the Honourable Member will be kept informed.

4. As the Commission has not yet received notification of Decree No 78/1154, it intends to ask the French Government to send it a copy, with a view to examining its conformity with Community law. The Commission will inform the Honourable Member of the results of its inquiries as soon as possible.

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#### WRITTEN QUESTION No 1036/78

by Mr Corrie

to the Commission of the European Communities

(2 February 1979)

*Subject:* EEC price and world price of barley

Presumably the EEC Commission is aware of the enormous gap developing between the EEC price and the world price of barley. However, is the Commission aware that this gap is placing Community-produced cereal-based spirituous beverages at a competitive disadvantage with similar products in world markets? What action does the Commission propose to take to remedy this situation?

#### Answer

(4 July 1979)

The Commission is aware that the large difference which exists between the Community price and the world price for barley places Community spirituous beverages produced from barley at a disadvantage as regards competition with similar products produced in non-member States.

Pursuant to Protocol 19 to the Act of Accession <sup>(1)</sup> the Council, acting in accordance with the procedure laid down in Article 43 (2) of the EEC Treaty, has to adopt the necessary measures to facilitate the use of Community cereals, including barley, in the manufacture of spirituous beverages obtained from cereals, and in particular whisky, exported to non-member States.

In its resolution of 28 December 1972 on the preparation of the common policy on alcohol and the implementation of Protocol 19, the Council agreed to adopt simultaneously the Regulation on the common organization of the market and the measures permitting, in accordance with Protocol 19, the grant of export refunds on spirituous beverages obtained from cereals.

In this connection, on 22 May the Commission forwarded to the Council amendments to its amended proposal for a Council Regulation on the common organization of the market in ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin and laying down additional provisions for certain products containing ethyl alcohol.

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<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 141, 31. 12. 1972, p. 1.

## WRITTEN QUESTION No 1062/78

by Mr Bangemann

to the Commission of the European Communities

(9 February 1979)

*Subject:* Community measures to combat the crisis in the steel industry

In view of the worsening crisis in the steel industry and its disastrous social and economic impact on the regions concerned, an accurate assessment of the effectiveness of the use of Community resources in this sector can only be made if detailed figures are available on the utilization of financial instruments in this crisis area.

Can the Commission provide a table showing the following information:

- (a) the volume of funds, and the procedure for their deployment, allocated in the 1978 financial year from the Regional Fund, the Social Fund, the Commission budget (Title 3, Article 375), the ECSC budget and the European Investment Bank to the steel industry crisis areas concerned;
- (b) a breakdown showing the proportions of these funds received by each specific area?

Supplementary answer <sup>(1)</sup>

(3 July 1979)

Further to the Commission's answer of 19 February 1979, the Honourable Member will find listed below the aids and credits granted in 1978 through the Community's various financial instruments to regions affected by the steel crisis:

1. *European Regional Development Fund*

The Regional Fund granted assistance totalling 185.59 million EUA in respect of 498 investment projects.

The breakdown by region and by investment category is as follows:

*(million EUA)*

Region	Industry	Infrastructures	Mountain and hill farming infrastructures	Total
Nord-Pas-de-Calais	4.87	—	—	4.87
Lorraine	5.03	—	—	5.03
Saarland	2.62	1.62	—	4.24
Scotland	9.64	24.76	3.58	37.33
Wales	10.78	15.31	—	26.09
Northern England	5.06	22.97	—	28.03
Campania	4.43	63.99	0.65	69.07
North Rhine-Westphalia	4.29	0.28	—	4.57
Yorkshire and Humberside	1.15	5.21	—	6.36
Total	47.87	134.14	3.58	185.59

<sup>(1)</sup> A first answer was already given on 19 February 1979 (OJ No C 68, 12. 3. 1979, p. 32).

## 2. ECSC

- (a) In 1978, 56 industrial loans (Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty) totalling 367·496 million EUA were granted in respect of projects in the steel industry in the Community.

The breakdown by region is as follows:

Country and region	Amount	Number of loans
<i>Federal Republic of Germany</i>		
Brunswick	1·195	1
Düsseldorf	31·491	6
Arnsberg	10·165	4
Freiburg	5·979	2
Total	48·830	13
<i>France</i>		
Paris region	0·432	1
Picardy	2·083	1
Nord	2·954	1
Lorraine	53·477	7
Total	58·946	10
<i>Italy</i>		
Piedmont	2·542	1
Liguria	7·625	1
Lombardy	32·606	4
Trentino	1·794	2
Veneto	0·598	2
Tuscany	22·497	2
Umbria	20·335	2
Apulia	9·805	1
Islands	14·526	1
Total	112·328	16
<i>Luxembourg</i>	73·496	11
<i>Netherlands</i>		
North Holland	41·996	1
<i>United Kingdom</i>		
Cleveland	9·915	2
Strathclyde	8·912	1
Total	18·827	3
<i>Denmark</i>		
Frederiksborg	13·073	2
Grand total	367·496	56

- (b) ECSC conversion loans totalling 200·68 million EUA were granted in respect of 12 investment projects; the interest rate subsidies amounted to 18·06 million EUA.

The breakdown by region is as follows:

*(million EUA)*

Region	Loans	Interest rate subsidies
Ruhr	63·70	9·00
Lorraine	9·49	1·43
Wales	125·00	7·26
Luxembourg	2·49	0·37
Total	200·68	18·06

- (c) The breakdown of readaptation aids provided for in Article 56 (2) (b) of the ECSC Treaty and granted in 1978 to steel firms and iron ore mines is as follows:

Country and region	Allocation (in EUA)	Number of workers affected
<i>Germany</i>		
North Rhine-Westphalia	791 000	3 381
<i>Belgium</i>		
Wallonia	1 954 000	1 868
Flanders	479 750	318
	2 433 750	2 186
<i>Denmark</i>	—	—
<i>France</i>		
East	12 413 500	9 349
<i>Ireland</i>	—	—
<i>Italy</i>		
Coastal region	1 197 000	1 462
North	53 000	266
Centre	70 750	800
	1 320 750	2 528
<i>Luxembourg</i>	1 398 000	541
<i>Netherlands</i>	—	—
<i>United Kingdom</i>		
Scotland	1 713 000	2 218
Wales	8 156 500	8 822
Northern England	936 250	1 385
Other regions	572 250	600
	11 378 000	13 025
Total	29 735 000	31 010

### 3. *European Social Fund*

Assistance granted by the European Social Fund in regions hard-hit by the crisis in the steel industry is of an exceptional and indirect nature since these regions normally have recourse to the aids available under Article 56 of the ECSC Treaty.

In France, the Social Fund granted assistance amounting to 1 343 000 EUA in 1978 in respect of job-creating and advanced training schemes at the Houillères de Lorraine. In 1978, the Nord-Pas de Calais region also submitted an application for assistance from the Social Fund totalling some 600 000 EUA in respect of a series of redeployment measures for workers in the coal-mining industry and in the areas of Valenciennes and Boulogne. These measures involve the creation of new jobs in the motor vehicle industry, mechanical engineering, specialized welding

(nuclear technology), and the refrigeration industry; the assistance approved totalled 375 000 EUA.

In Italy, assistance for the IRI has also benefited the steel-producing region of Taranto.

All the Member States have submitted national applications which also include programmes concerned directly or indirectly with steel-producing regions, but the applications are drawn up in such a way that these programmes cannot be separately distinguished.

### 4. *European Investment Bank*

In 1978, the EIB provided the following financing (loans and allocations from global loans) in respect of investment projects in steel-producing regions;

(million u. a.)

Country and region	Modernization of steel firms	Creation of new activities in areas affected by difficulties in the steel industry (2)	Other investments in regions in which steel firms are located (1)		Total
			Industry (2)	Infrastructure	
<i>Federal Republic of Germany</i>					
Saarland		1.4			1.4
<i>Belgium</i>					
Liège		1.1			1.1
<i>France</i>					
Lorraine/Nord (3)	9.5				9.5
Nord				100.0	100.0
Savoie				10.7	10.7
<i>Italy</i>					
Lombardy	18.2		1.9	10.3	30.4
Abruzzi	1.5		10.6	28.6	40.7
Campania			5.3	99.1	104.4
Apulia			10.4	25.4	35.8
Sicily			33.1	115.3	148.4
Apulia/Sicily (3)				35.1	35.1
<i>United Kingdom</i>					
North		4.7		60.5	65.2
North-West		7.5			7.5
North/North-West (3)				44.6	44.6
Yorkshire and Humberside				46.1	46.1
Scotland			8.1	81.0	89.1
Wales		1.7	1.8	49.8	53.3
North/Scotland (3)				55.3	55.3
Total	29.2	16.4	71.2	761.8	878.6

(1) Projects financed for the most part because of their regional importance and not because of any contribution they might make to resolving the problems of the steel industry.

(2) In addition, financing is likely to be granted to steel-producing regions from a mandate and guarantee contract concluded with the United Kingdom (45 million u.a.) and from the non-allocated portions (14.9 million u.a.) of two global loans in Italy.

(3) Projects involving both regions.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1111/78****by Mr Petersen****to the Commission of the European Communities***(2 March 1979)*

*Subject:* Mrs Van Hoof's private language policy

1. Will the Commission dissociate itself once and for all from the proposals for the rationalization and retrenchment of the present linguistic rules, which the head of their interpretation service, Mrs Van Hoof, is constantly advocating <sup>(1)</sup>?
2. Does the Commission not consider it unfortunate that its own chief interpreter should be bringing into question the Treaty's provisions on the equal standing of the minority languages, and their status as working languages in everyday use?

<sup>(1)</sup> Most recently in 'Le Figaro' of 4 February 1979.

**Answer***(9 July 1979)*

The Commission is not bringing into question the language rules laid down by the Treaties. Its policy on this matter was stated in Parliament in 1976 by Mr Borschette, and in 1978 by Mr Jenkins, in reply to oral questions Nos H-230/75 and H-79/78 <sup>(1)</sup> by Lord Reay.

Nevertheless, in view of the number of languages which are in daily use in the Community institutions – and the additional ones which will come with the accession of new Member States – the Commission is for its part seeking a way in which all the languages can be used rationally. Mrs Van Hoof's comments, as reported in the article to which the Honourable Member refers, describe one approach to such a rationalization.

<sup>(1)</sup> See 'Report of Proceedings' of 11 February 1976, pp. 129 and 130 and of 15 June 1978, pp. 262–265.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 20/79****by Mr Dewulf****to the Commission of the European Communities***(23 March 1979)*

*Subject:* EAGGF

What are the detailed figures for the United Kingdom for EAGGF revenue and expenditure?



**Answer**

(4 July 1979)

As regards EAGGF expenditure in the United Kingdom, the Commission publishes figures each year in its annual EAGGF report. The figures published for the last three years are shown below <sup>(1)</sup>. The Commission must emphasize the fact that since the Community constitutes a unified economic area, expenditure recorded in a Member State as EAGGF Guarantee Section expenditure cannot be regarded as expenditure pertaining specifically to that Member State. The monetary compensatory amounts paid by exporting countries on behalf of importing countries, disbursed under Article 3 of Financial Regulation (EEC) No 1172/76 <sup>(2)</sup>, are to be attributed to the importing country.

As regards payments made by the United Kingdom, the EAGGF has no revenue identified as accruing from individual countries; the Community's 'own resources' as a whole cover directly all EEC budget expenditure. It is therefore not possible to isolate United Kingdom payments corresponding to EAGGF expenditure alone.

<sup>(1)</sup> The figures for 1976 and 1977 have been adjusted to take account of the changeover from the u.a. to the EUA.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No L 131, 20. 5. 1976, p. 7.

	(million EUA)		
	1976	1977	1978
<i>EAGGF Guarantee Section</i>			
— agricultural expenditure	150.5	184.9	487.9
— MCA's			
— paid or collected by UK paying agencies	+ 163.3	+ 39.1	- 48.9
— paid by exporting countries' paying agencies	226.4	749.6	714.4
Total MCA's	389.7	788.7	665.5
Total Guarantee Section	540.2	973.6	1 153.4
<i>EAGGF Guidance Section</i>	36.8	44.7	38.8
— EEC			
Total EAGGF expenditure	5 876.6	7 138.5	8 919.2

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 40/79**

by Mr Brégégère

to the Commission of the European Communities

(27 March 1979)

**Subject:** Forms of advertising which encroach on the individual freedom of consumers

Further to paragraph 22 of the Council resolution of 14 April 1975 <sup>(1)</sup> (preliminary programme for a consumer protection and information policy), the Commission submitted to the Council a proposal for a Council Directive on false or misleading advertising. Paragraph 30 of the Council resolution recommends that 'solutions should be sought to certain general problems such as . . . how protection can be provided against forms of advertising which encroach on the individual freedom of consumers'.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 92, 25. 4. 1975, p. 1.

Corrigendum: OJ No C 269, 25. 11. 1975, p. 24.

Certain forms of advertising, though not misleading, are so persuasive that they may well brainwash the consumer.

1. Could the Commission say what it has done to implement paragraph 30 of the Council resolution?
2. How many 'A' officials have been assigned to examine this specific question within the Environment and Consumer Protection Service? Is this enough to ensure that certain work is completed within a reasonable period, considering that paragraph 30 is included under the heading 'Priorities'?

**Answer***(4 July 1979)*

In addition to the preparation of a Directive on misleading and unfair advertising <sup>(1)</sup> under the preliminary programme of the European Economic Community for a consumer information and education policy, the Commission has carried out preparatory work to investigate the effects of advertising upon the incidence of smoking and has launched a study dealing with the effect of advertising on children.

In view of the number of staff it has available, the Commission has been able to assign only one Category A official to spend part of his time on this work.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 70, 21. 3. 1978.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 42/79****by Mr Yeats****to the Commission of the European Communities***(30 March 1979)*

*Subject: Working women*

At present there are more than six million unemployed throughout the EEC. In view of the tendency for unemployment to increase still further in some of the Member States, will the Commission give its views on the effects this is having on the employment of women. In particular, will the Commission state:

1. whether the lack of available jobs is deterring women from entering the labour market, or,
2. whether the effect of large-scale unemployment has been to encourage more women to seek work in order to maintain their family income?

**Answer***(4 July 1979)*

The answer to the Honourable Member's question is complex in that it requires a thorough analysis of sociological behaviour patterns which moreover would have to be assessed in the light of national behavioural characteristics.

It is true that the increase in unemployment deters some women from trying to enter the labour market: the recession and its repercussions on employment mask the number of women who would otherwise be seeking employment. Because of various institutional factors, such as the failure to take account of part-time work or of the conditions governing payment of unemployment benefits, certain categories of women are not included in

unemployment statistics, particularly women who have delayed seeking a first job.

It cannot be stated for certain whether the increasing demand by women for paid employment outside the home, which emerges from the majority of surveys so far carried out, is influenced to any significant extent by the drop in income experienced in many households as a result of unemployment.

It should, however, be stressed that behaviour patterns vary from one Member State to another depending on the employment rate for women, unemployment, relevant legislation and policy regarding the status of women.

The findings of current surveys indicate that the potential demand for jobs by women is a factor which is certainly not motivated solely by the need to supplement the family income.

There is no reason to assume that an improvement in the family's circumstances resulting from the husband's return to work would lead to any reduction in the desire to seek work outside the home felt by many women.

#### WRITTEN QUESTION No 92/79

by Mr Bordu

to the Council of the European Communities

(10 April 1979)

**Subject:** Implementation of the 'European judicial area' project

According to the second report of the Foreign Ministers to the European Council on European Union, 'the Conference of Ministers of Justice (10 October 1978) ... considered proposals aimed at creating a European judicial area'. The report also states that 'the Conference of Ministers of the Interior or those with similar responsibilities (30 November 1978) achieved considerable progress'. On 15 March 1979, the President-in-Office of the Council of Ministers, Mr Jean-François Poncet, reporting on the European Council meeting in Paris, fully endorsed this report and welcomed the positive progress made towards establishing a European judicial area.

1. Does the Council intend to make known from now on the outcome of these meetings and to submit to the European Parliament for discussion matters which directly affect certain individual freedoms, the very substance of democracy?
2. What are the 'proposals' considered by the Ministers of Justice?
3. Who are the people with 'similar responsibilities' to those of the Ministers of the Interior?
4. What is the 'considerable progress' achieved towards coordinating police activities in the Community?

#### Answer

given by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the nine Member States of the European Community meeting in political cooperation

(10 July 1979)

1. It goes without saying that the instruments which will be definitively established by the working party of senior officials of the Nine entrusted with the task of studying the European judicial area will, after being approved by the Ministers, be submitted for inspection and discussion to the national Parliaments in all the Member States where international agreements affecting criminal law and the protection of individual freedoms come within their Parliamentary jurisdiction. On the other hand, it is not proposed to submit these instruments in this particular case to the European Parliament since the matters referred to do not fall within its competence. The President will, however, as in the past, answer questions put to him by the members on the activities of political cooperation, including those concerning the European judicial area.

Furthermore, it should be borne in mind that the current discussions by working parties of experts in the context

of political cooperation 'à Neuf' are taking place within the context of the diplomatic activity of the Member States and are therefore generally regarded as being of a confidential nature.

However, in view of the importance of these discussions on the European judicial area, particularly having regard to the protection of individual freedoms, several documents reporting on these discussions have been made public and are at the Parliament's disposal: press releases and statements on the European Councils of 12 and 13 July 1976, 5 and 6 December 1977 and 7 and 8 April 1978, and the Conference of Ministers of Justice in Luxembourg on 10 October 1978, the second report of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs to the European Council on European Union (November 1977), the statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs on 15 March 1979, and the message to the Council of Europe on 7 May 1979.

2. As has already been pointed out in reply to Written Question No 1082/78<sup>(1)</sup> by Mr J. P. Cot, discussions in the context of political cooperation of the Nine on 'the European judicial area' are being actively pursued by the *ad hoc* working party of senior officials whose brief has been determined successively by the European Councils of 12 and 13 July 1976, 5 and 6 December 1977 and 7 and 8 April 1978.

Up to now, this working party of senior officials, which made a progress report at the last meeting of the Ministers for Justice of the Nine on 23 April 1979, has been dealing with two texts.

Firstly, it has drawn up an agreement between the Member States of the European Communities on the implementation of the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, which is likely to be formally open for signature in the very near future.

Secondly, it is continuing to examine a preliminary draft convention on cooperation on criminal jurisdiction, the scope of which will no longer be restricted to acts of terrorism, but will cover all criminal acts which are so serious as to warrant this.

In accordance with the particulars given in the message from the Ministers of Justice to the Council of Europe, the aim of the first of these agreements, on the application of the European Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism, is to apply the Strasbourg Convention of 27 January 1977 to the Nine and to do so 'in such a way as to render the Convention compatible with the constitutional provisions of certain Member States'.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 154, 20. 6. 1979, p. 2.

The preliminary draft convention on cooperation on criminal jurisdiction 'deals mainly with extradition, aims at establishing simple procedures, and sets out the principle that, under certain circumstances, a refusal to extradite will involve the obligation to refer the matter to the authorities competent to discharge the criminal proceedings and, if necessary, to establish their jurisdiction to this end'.

Furthermore, examination of questions connected with the creation of the 'European judicial area' will not be limited to the work in progress on extradition, but, further to the brief given by the Ministers for Justice in Luxembourg on 10 October 1978, the senior officials have been instructed 'to broach then as a second step the problems concerning mutual assistance in criminal matters, exchanges of prisoners, the transfer of proceedings in criminal matters and the international validity of criminal judgments'.

Finally, setting aside the field of criminal jurisdiction, the question of extending the European judicial area to that of civil law has also been raised but no decision has yet been taken in regard to such cooperation.

3. In certain Member States of the European Communities the police and security authorities are answerable directly to the Ministers of Justice in those countries. It is these Ministers therefore who have similar responsibilities to those of Ministers for the Interior.

4. The progress mentioned refers to the refinement of security measures taken at airports and the border security checks on persons, to the exchange of information on flight security and to the rapid communication of information on terrorism so that the abovementioned measures may be given full effect.

#### WRITTEN QUESTION No 127/79

by Mr Verhaegen

to the Commission of the European Communities

(23 April 1979)

*Subject:* The growing debt burden in agriculture

In Doc. 578/78, *The Agricultural Situation in the Community*, a fair amount of information is provided on the growth of investment, but unfortunately nothing is said about the growing debt burden in agriculture as a result of such investment.

1. Can the Commission indicate for each Member State:

(a) the growth in agricultural capital between 1970 and 1977-78 with separate figures for land, farm-buildings, livestock and equipment, and for operational current-account capital;

(b) the levels of farmers' own capital and borrowings in each case;

2. To what extent can it justifiably be asserted in each Member State:
- (a) that the debt burden has reached such high levels and profitability has been so severely eroded, that credit institutions are considering cutting credit facilities drastically or even suspending them altogether;
  - (b) that the most progressive farms are generally hardest hit by capital charges;
  - (c) that the initial investment young farmers must make per worker, together with that needed to cover the cost of constantly adjusting to the rapid pace of technological innovation, can no longer be redeemed over a thirty-year period;
3. If the Commission is unable to answer the above questions in full, will it not at least agree that it was irresponsible to propose a price-freeze that can only exacerbate the situation? Is not a steep rise in capital charges which deters even credit institutions a poor indication of the credit-worthiness of agriculture?

### Answer

(4 July 1979)

1. (a) and (b) The data from the 5 500 farms monitored constantly from 1973/74 to 1977/78 under the FADN show that farmers' total capital (land and buildings plus equipment, livestock and working capital) increased sharply in nominal terms between 1973 and 1977. The increase, however, varied appreciably from one Member State to another. In the United Kingdom, France and Ireland it was moderate, but vigorous in Belgium, Italy and the Netherlands.

	Indices 1977/78 (1973/74 = 100)					%	
	Number of farms	Land and buildings	Productive assets <sup>(1)</sup>	The farmer's total capital	External capital <sup>(2)</sup>	External capital	
						Total capital 1973/74	1977/78
D	1 217	150	226 <sup>(3)</sup>	171 <sup>(3)</sup>	161	20	19
F	1 634	120	150	135	157	20	24
I	553	249	171	225	88	8	3
B	416	195	192	193	—	—	—
L	41	176	169	172	—	—	—
NL	342	337	190	274	—	—	—
DK	570	222	157	201	187	41	38
IRL	195	149	152	150	403	1	2
UK	642	114	152	125	—	—	—

<sup>(1)</sup> Equipment, livestock, working capital.

<sup>(2)</sup> Loans and debts.

<sup>(3)</sup> This relatively high figure, despite generally lower inflation than in other countries, is a result of a major revaluation for accounting purposes of productive assets. The 1976/77 index figure for the productive assets of farms was only 153.

For those countries for which data are available, it is clear that the relative debt burden varies considerably; it is insignificant (2 % to 3 % of total capital) in the case of Irish and Italian farms, but accounts for 19 %, 24 % and 38 % of total capital for German, French and Danish returning holdings respectively.

In spite of the sharp increase in external capital, the extent to which the farms in question are in debt has not changed substantially.

2. (a) The Commission has no information in support of the view expressed in this question.
- (b) In the normal course of events the level of investment per hectare is greater the more modern the farms become. In such circumstances, it is clear that the greater investment costs are borne by the more modern farms.
- (c) The capacity of the individual new-entrant farmer to amortize the investment needed for farm development over a given period depends on the size of the investment involved in relation to the earning capacity of the farm at the time of installation. Clearly, very large investment needs are symptomatic of a relatively low earning capacity of the farm. In such circumstances, the possibility of amortizing the investment over a given period of time depends very much on the precise nature of the investment. For example, if a relatively large part of the investment concerns productive assets such as livestock, and a relatively small part concerns fixed assets such as land and buildings, then, through a prudent investment policy which establishes proper investment priorities, and good farm management subsequently, the amortization of

the investment in the given time period should not present undue difficulty. If, however, the young new-entrant farmer has to purchase the greater part of his land requirements and subsequently carry out all other investments needed to establish a modern farm, and if, in addition, he has to borrow the greater part of his capital needs, his chances of succeeding are virtually nil given the current price of farmland and the current cost of borrowed capital. It should be emphasized, however, that cases such as the latter are generally the exception rather than the rule since in the majority of Member States the greater number of young people enter farming through direct succession – in which case the capital cost of establishment will more often concern productive rather than fixed assets.

3. Agricultural price policy must take into account other factors besides the debt burden of farmers. The introduction to the Commission's price proposals for 1979/80 <sup>(1)</sup> sets out clearly the reasons for the proposal to maintain present unit of account prices until the start of the 1980/81 marketing year.

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. COM(79) 10, volume I.

#### WRITTEN QUESTION No 150/79

by Mr Dewulf

to the Commission of the European Communities

(8 May 1979)

*Subject:* Tokyo Round

Can the Commission say what concessions have been granted, overall and sector by sector, to the developing countries in the light of the commitments made *inter alia* by the Community at the beginning of the negotiations in 1973 and reiterated in 1975?

#### Answer

(5 July 1979)

*(a) Multilateral trade negotiations (MTNs) – tariff sector*

In accordance with the principles set out in the Tokyo Declaration, the Community made significant cuts in its Common Customs Tariff (CCT) for imports from developing countries. The Community's desire to allow bigger tariff cuts for developing countries came up against a number of obstacles and constraints:

- the Community had to take account of the interests of the developing countries with which it has preferential ties (ACP States, Mediterranean countries);

- in fairness to its own producers, it was forced to endorse the restrictive stance taken by its main partners with regard to products which are important for the developing countries, such as textiles and leather goods;

- the Community had to decide between what were often conflicting requests on the part of the developing countries, which were asking for the generalized system of preferences (GSP) margin to be maintained while at the same time calling for tariff reductions *erga omnes* in respect of the same products.

Under its GSP, which now covers all processed industrial products, the Community has improved the treatment it accords to products falling within some 159 agricultural tariff headings. While tariff cuts reduce the GSP margin, the fact that they are bound represents a permanent stimulus to the growth of the developing countries' exports.

The Community's tariff offer to developing countries other than the ACP States and the Mediterranean countries can be assessed at between 20 % and 30 % for both agricultural and industrial average rates. However, the value varies from country to country depending on the structure of exports.

It should be recalled that from 1 January 1977 the Community, without asking for any reciprocity, cut tariffs on a number of tropical products involving imports worth \$ 4 800 million in 1976. These reductions affect primary, semi-processed and processed products.

A number of developing countries made offers within the framework of the MTNs. Although the Community did not call for direct reciprocity from the developing countries in return for its own concessions, it could not escape the conclusion that the developing countries' contribution to the liberalization of world trade fell far short of what they could have done, particularly in the case of the most advanced among them.

#### (b) *Non-tariff sector*

The Community played an active part in getting specific provisions according special, differentiated treatment to the developing countries inserted in the agricultural arrangements and the codes on non-tariff measures. All agreements contain references to general aims such as the special needs of the developing countries in respect of trade, development and finance, their particular problems, or the desire to accord them additional benefits. For example, the preamble to the code on government procurement includes three recitals on special and differentiated treatment, one of which refers to the least developed countries.

It should be borne in mind that the special provisions in the agricultural arrangements and codes represent only part of the benefits which the developing countries will gain from the agreements resulting from the conclusion

of the MTNs, since there are also, among other things, the advantages that will accrue, at least on a *de facto* basis, to all trading nations as a result of the adoption of the injury criterion for countervailing duties, the much more uniform customs valuation methods, and so on.

Here are a few examples of specific provisions benefiting the developing countries:

- the code on subsidies and countervailing duties contains a special section recognizing explicitly that developing countries may be obliged to subsidize exports to gain initial entry to a market;
- the code on customs valuation provides that developing countries may adhere to it and sit on the management committee without being required to fulfil all the obligations, for a five-year period;
- the licensing code contains specific provisions for the developing countries in the field of licensing procedures, notably a two-year grace period for accession to the Agreement and especially favourable treatment for the least developed countries;
- the code on government procurement includes a provision to the effect that the negotiations on the lists of developing countries' purchasing entities should take account of certain special circumstances which may give grounds for derogations;
- the code on technical barriers to trade lists products exported by developing countries which could be taken into consideration for the purposes of drawing up and applying technical rules and standards, etc.

Some of the codes also contain clauses on technical assistance, which will be provided, for example, in the form of advice (the codes on government procurement, technical barriers and customs valuation), training for staff (customs valuation), the setting up of information centres (government procurement) or programmes (customs valuation).

In addition, the agreement on the legal framework governing international trade makes general provision for the developing countries to be granted special treatment in balance-of-payments matters, gives official sanction to special and differentiated treatment under GATT in the tariff and non-tariff fields, lays down a more detailed procedure for examining measures in connection with the settlement of disputes, and so on.

## WRITTEN QUESTION No 155/79

by Mr Radoux

to the Commission of the European Communities

(10 May 1979)

*Subject:* Terms of reference of committees

On several occasions Parliament has commented on the 'committees' of governmental experts responsible for delivering opinions on the implementation of Community measures in a wide range of sectors.

Parliament has always felt that, apart from agricultural management committees, which constitute a special case, these committees should play a consultative role *vis-à-vis* the Commission, and that the latter should retain complete freedom in the management of Community policies and the implementation of the budget.

The Commission supported this view:

- in its reply to the 'Inter-institutional dialogue on certain budgetary questions' (August 1978): 'the Commission reaffirms the principle that, in future, pursuant to Article 205 of the EEC Treaty, the objective to be pursued (...) is to make them [the committees] purely advisory';
- in its reply to Written Question No 193/78 <sup>(1)</sup>: 'the Commission considers (...) that the method which

would best enable it to perform the tasks assigned to it (...) is that of the purely advisory committees such as the Committee of the European Social Fund'.

However, a number of recent Commission proposals, submitted after these opinions and concerning the organization of new common policies, provide for the creation of committees which would not only have consultative powers but also what amounts to the right to veto action taken by the Commission.

- (a) How does the Commission explain this contradiction between its official statements of principle and its proposals for Regulations?
- (b) Is this due to uncertainty on its part about the policy to be followed or to a lack of coordination between its various departments?
- (c) Is it aware of the political importance of this matter, in particular in terms of its independence and its responsibilities for the implementation of policies and of the budget?
- (d) Does it not feel that the way this matter is resolved could affect the wider question of the allocation of inter-institutional powers within the Community?

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 238, 9. 10. 1978, p. 15.

## Answer

(6 July 1979)

The statements to which the Honourable Member refers reflect the position adopted by the Commission on the interpretation of Article 205 of the EEC Treaty, namely, that where it requires the assistance of committees in the implementation of its various policies, the objective which should be pursued in every case is to make these committees purely advisory. The Commission has further decided that it will not entertain any solution which confers more power on the Council than under the so-called 'Regional Fund Committee' formula.

There is thus no contradiction between the Commission's statements referred to by the Honourable Member and the fact that a number of recent proposals have provided for the creation of committees, assisting with decisions for the implementation of the budget, which would be more closely involved in the decision-making process rather than purely advisory. At no time has the Commission put forward a formula that goes beyond that of the 'Regional Fund Committee'.



## WRITTEN QUESTION No 156/79

by Mr Croze

to the Commission of the European Communities

(10 May 1979)

*Subject:* Classification of food-aid expenditure

The Commission has always proposed that food-aid expenditure should be classified as compulsory expenditure.

However, a recent debate on a proposal for a Regulation concerning the management of food aid <sup>(1)</sup> has shown that this classification is unjustified. Within the meaning of Article 203 of the EEC Treaty, food-aid expenditure:

- does not result necessarily from the Treaty but is based on Article 235;
- does not result necessarily from a Community Act: Decisions concerning the annual food-aid programmes are adopted after the budget and as a function of the appropriations entered in the budget;
- do not result necessarily from international agreements: with regard to food aid in cereals and

sugar, the Community is bound to respect the minimum amounts laid down by international agreements. However, it is free to decide the percentages of Community and bilateral aid respectively and also to supply more than the minimum laid down in the agreements. Furthermore, Community food aid in dairy products is not governed by any international agreement.

In its proposal concerning the 1979 food-aid programme, the Commission clearly acknowledges that the volume of aid is fixed in advance by the decisions of the budgetary authority relating to the 1979 budget. This confirms that the volume of expenditure depends entirely on the budgetary authority and hence corresponds exactly with the definition of non-compulsory expenditure.

Under these circumstances, is the Commission prepared to propose, in the preliminary draft budget for 1980, that food-aid expenditure be classified as non-compulsory expenditure?

<sup>(1)</sup> See European Parliament reports (Docs. 320/78 and 414/78).

## Answer

(9 July 1979)

The Commission has examined the question raised by the Honourable Member in the light of all current information.

It considers the classification of food-aid expenditure as justifiable now as when originally introduced and the reasons for the original Decision as still valid, arising as they do out of the interrelationship between the products supplied under food aid and the common organization of the agricultural markets – whose legal basis is Article 43 of the EEC Treaty and, in part, the Community's international commitments.

Hence, in the preliminary draft budget for 1980 the Commission has retained the compulsory classification for food-aid expenditure.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 160/79****by Mr Seefeld****to the Commission of the European Communities***(18 May 1979)**Subject: Saving fuel*

Given the desirability and necessity of saving fuel, what possibilities does the Commission see for promoting research into the development of an 'economy' engine?

**Answer***(4 July 1979)*

A first programme of energy conservation research has been in operation since 1975 and the Commission has recently proposed a second programme soon to be considered by the Council.

The first programme contained a transport component under which several contracts were concluded with the industry for research into the improvement of the characteristics of motors so as to reduce energy consumption.

At the commercialization stage, the Commission has a programme which could support demonstration projects, but up to now it has not received any such proposals from the industry, which is understandable in view of the extremely competitive nature of the industry.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 166/79****by Mr Schyns****to the Commission of the European Communities***(18 May 1979)**Subject: Overpricing of certain medicines*

1. In its answer to Written Question No 916/77 <sup>(1)</sup> by Mr Cointat, the Commission stated that it was 'determined to encourage parallel imports of medicines in order to level off unjustified price differences'. Could the Commission explain why there are still obstacles to parallel imports and list the measures it intends to propose to the Council to eliminate them? When will these proposals be forthcoming?

2. In the same answer, which it gave more than 14 months ago, the Commission stated that it would investigate the case of one particular medicine (sugar-coated amphotericin pills), which sold in packs of

16 pills for Bfrs 253 in Luxembourg and FF 13.35 (approximately Bfrs 100) in France. What were the Commission's findings?

3. Does the Commission appreciate that a cut in the excessive prices now charged would represent a substantial saving to the consumer, the taxpayer and the social security organizations?

4. Would the Commission not agree that retail prices could be reduced if medicines were sold under a common name?

5. Since it is plain that prices differ enormously, would the Commission be prepared to take appropriate steps to ensure that a proper common market in medicinal products is established in the near future?

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 98, 24. 4. 1978, p. 8.

**Answer***(4 July 1979)*

1. The two main obstacles to parallel imports are, firstly, the requirement that the person responsible to place the product on the market, in this case the importer, should hold a marketing authorization, and secondly, a failure to take into account the consequences of the Court of Justice's judgment in Case 104/75 <sup>(1)</sup>. In a proposal, to be transmitted to the Council within the next few weeks, the Commission will specify the requirements for the person responsible for the placing of a proprietary medicinal product on the market.

2. The Commission's investigations to date into the manufacture and marketing of amphotericin have shown that this product is obtained from a mixture of tetracycline, a broad-spectrum antibiotic which becomes less effective in the presence of certain mycoses, and amphotericin, an antifungal antibiotic which inhibits the proliferation of mycosis.

At present there are about 120 proprietary products using tetracycline hydrochloride as an active ingredient, manufactured by more than 50 laboratories and subsidiaries throughout the world; the market in this product may accordingly be considered sufficiently open and competitive.

By contrast, it seems that the production and use of amphotericin is confined to one laboratory (in France, Italy and Belgium) and to licencees of that laboratory (for example, in Germany).

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 214, 11. 9. 1976, p. 6.

The price differences between France and Luxembourg quoted by the Honourable Member are, apparently, even more pronounced if the comparison is with Germany, and if account is also taken of products other than amphotericin which use amphotericin as an active ingredient.

As stated in its earlier reply, the Commission intends to continue its investigation into this case with a view to determining whether these price differences result from infringements of the Treaty rules on competition.

It must also be pointed out that any investigation and research in the pharmaceutical field is bound to be a very slow process in view of the technical complexity of the products in question and the peculiarities of the market.

3. It is precisely because it appreciates this point that the Commission is intent on taking action against abusive pricing practices, whenever it is able to obtain satisfactory proof.

4. Yes.

5. The Commission would draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the large number of Acts adopted in the field of medicinal products – recently consolidated in a brochure on the rules governing medicaments in the European Community – and to the meetings of various committees and expert working parties (six committee meetings, 10 meetings of expert working parties in 1978), which provide some indication of the efforts which it is making to establish a proper common market in medicinal products.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 168/79****by Mr Luster****to the Council of the European Communities***(18 May 1979)*

*Subject:* Measures to combat international terrorism

There is a growing recognition that, although the special units set up by the Community Member States to combat terrorism, e.g., at airports, are certainly having some success, they nevertheless fail to strike at the root of the problem.

Indeed, there is strong support for the view that the first priority must be to eliminate the foreign bases of international terrorism, which means bringing the maximum political pressure to bear on those countries which allow or encourage terrorists to seek refuge, set up training camps and establish propaganda centres in their territory.

1. Would the Council not agree that the security measures hitherto adopted by the Member States are perhaps only effective against the more openly violent manifestations of terrorist activity but can do nothing against the financial, logistic and training basis of international terrorism?
2. How does the Council propose that a concerted European political stand be made against those countries that tolerate or even encourage the planning and execution of terrorist acts?

#### Answer

given by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the nine Member States of the European Community meeting in political cooperation

(10 July 1979)

Current action by the Member States to prevent international terrorism is not limited to specific actions but, in accordance with the concern expressed by the Honourable Member of Parliament, is aimed at contending effectively with every aspect of terrorism both through police cooperation and by legal measures.

Significant results have been obtained in respect of cooperation between the Ministers for the Interior and the police forces of the Member States. (These results include the drawing up of security measures at airports and of frontier checks on persons, the exchange of information on flight security and the speedy communication of information on terrorism, in order *inter alia* that the aforementioned measures may have their full effect.)

At the legal level, a working party of senior officials is involved in developing cooperation between the Nine, as has been stated in replies to previous written questions. This working party has already drawn up an agreement between the Member States of the European Communities concerning the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, which may be formally open for signature in the very near future. Secondly, it is continuing to examine a preliminary draft Convention on Cooperation on Criminal Jurisdiction, the scope of which will no longer be restricted to acts of terrorism but will cover all delinquency of a certain level of seriousness.

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#### WRITTEN QUESTION No 170/79

by Sir Brandon Rhys Williams

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 May 1979)

*Subject:* Protection of live animals in transit

Is it the opinion of the Commission that a maximum limit should be set on the length of time that animals are confined in transit either by road or by rail in order to ensure that they do not suffer; and that a limit should be set on the length of such journeys for the same reason?

**Answer***(9 July 1979)*

The Commission has studied the question of limiting the duration or distance over which live animals are transported to ensure that they do not suffer. The Commission is not of the opinion that such limitations are the best way to ensure, in general, that animals are protected during transport. The present Council Directive 77/489/EEC <sup>(1)</sup> concerning this question and the subsequent Commission proposal <sup>(2)</sup> developing implementing measures for the Directive are designed to ensure that animals are protected during their entire journey by all means of transport and no matter what their purpose or destination.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 200, 8. 8. 1977, p. 18.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No C 41, 14. 2. 1979, p. 4.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 173/79****by Mr Howell****to the Commission of the European Communities***(18 May 1979)*

*Subject:* Milk prices

Referring to my Written Question No 781/78 <sup>(1)</sup>, what are the 1978 maximum and minimum prices received by dairy farmers for raw milk in France, Germany, Ireland and the UK, and what percentage of the intervention price do these represent? Prices should be expressed in the currency of the country, and in pounds sterling converted at current market rates.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 85, 2. 4. 1979, p. 5.

**Supplementary answer <sup>(1)</sup>***(4 July 1979)*

Further to its answer of 30 May, the Commission can now give the Honourable Member the results of its research.

In 1978 average prices in the Member States concerned, for milk containing 3.7 % fat, were as follows:

Member State	100 kg	
	in national currency	in sterling <sup>(1)</sup>
France	96.88	11.21
Federal Republic of Germany	54.70	14.21
Ireland	11.08	11.08
United Kingdom	9.41	9.41

<sup>(1)</sup> Average 1978 market rate.

<sup>(1)</sup> A first answer was already given on 30 May 1979 (OJ No C 158, 25. 6. 1979, p. 16).

The Commission regrets that there are no statistics on the minimum and maximum prices paid to dairy farmers for raw milk in the Community and the Member States.

Nor is the Commission in a position to examine the accounts of dairy farms to obtain such data.

# WRITTEN QUESTION No 176/79

by Mr Luster

to the Commission of the European Communities

(22 May 1979)

*Subject:* Equal treatment for small/medium-sized bakeries and large undertakings

Having regard to the fact

- that the smaller bakeries are still unable to obtain Community butter at reduced prices,
- that, under the provisions of Regulation (EEC) No 232/75 <sup>(1)</sup> only undertakings with a minimum butter consumption of five tonnes per month can benefit from the enormous price advantage of Community butter,
- that butter from Community stocks is generally between 300 % and 400 % cheaper than butter obtained in the normal way,
- that this measure discriminates against the small and medium-sized undertakings which, because of their relatively small production capacity, cannot meet the requirements of Regulation (EEC) No 232/75 in its present form,
- that Regulation (EEC) No 232/75 must be viewed as a source of distortion of competition between large undertakings on the one hand and small and medium-sized bakeries on the other,
- that butter with carotene colouring or vanilla flavouring bears no comparison with, and consequently cannot be regarded as a substitute for, pure butter,
- that concentrated butterfat combined with other substances (possible combinations):

- (a) 80 % butterfat;  
15 % confectioner's sugar;  
5 % skimmed-milk powder spray;

- (b) 80 % butterfat;  
20 % wheat flour 405;

- (c) 80 % butterfat;  
17.5 % confectioner's sugar;  
2.5 % skimmed-milk powder spray,

is technically unsuitable for baking and furthermore makes it necessary to readjust the amounts of ingredients used,

- that, if positive results are to be produced from the use of butterfat combined with other substances, much more comprehensive and detailed research is required, and that in connection with these admixtures there is also the problem of processing by non-experts,
- that the above risks and difficulties do not arise if the butter is mixed with vanilla pod pulp (in the proportion 50–100 g to 100 kg butter) since this mixture presents no technical or bacteriological problems whatsoever and, in the opinion of the experts, the pulp – which is instantly visibly recognizable – cannot subsequently be removed from the butter (see, too, the opinion adopted by the International Union of Bakers and Confectioners – UIPCG – at the Congress in Vienna, 20–24 October 1978),

I ask the Commission:

How and when it will ensure that, if no ways and means are found of eliminating distortions of competition, and enabling small and medium-sized bakeries to use purer, cheaper butter, the UIPCG's request regarding the use of butter mixed with vanilla pod pulp will be granted,

or that, failing that, Regulation (EEC) No 232/75 will be annulled so as to restore equal opportunities on the market for the large undertakings on the one hand and the small and medium-sized undertakings on the other?

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 24, 31. 1. 1975, p. 24.

**Answer***(9 July 1979)*

Regulation (EEC) No 232/75 to which the Honourable Member refers has been repealed and replaced by Regulation (EEC) No 262/79 <sup>(1)</sup> which increases the uses to which butter can be put by providing for its use in the manufacture of uncooked dough and by allowing it to be processed into powder preparations.

The proposal for using butter mixed with vanilla pod pulp has been examined by Commission experts, who consider that marking it in such a way will not suffice to prevent it from being used for purposes other than those provided for in Regulation (EEC) No 262/79.

The Commission fully realizes that some manufacturers have a preference for unprocessed butter and that they have reservations as regards concentrated butter, the use of which is imposed in the case of small undertakings for inspection purposes.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 41, 16. 2. 1979, p. 1.

There is, however, no actual distortion of competition because:

- butter intended for processing into butteroil qualifies for an additional price reduction of about 17 ECU/100 kg;
- for some manufacturing processes concentrated butter presents undeniable technical advantages.

Moreover, the increase in the quantities of butterfats used under the present Regulation in the form both of concentrated butter and unprocessed butter is proof of the advantages which the measure, which is aimed at making available a basic product at a price about two thirds less than the market price, holds for the trade.

In view of this situation and in view of the size of butter stocks, the Commission cannot very well dispense with such a measure. The Commission's experts are continuing their research into other denaturing formulae which would enable undertakings which so request to use unprocessed butter.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 185/79****by Mr Lamberts****to the Commission of the European Communities***(30 May 1979)*

**Subject:** Forwarding of opinions issued by the Consumers' Consultative Committee and groups of experts

Having regard to the answers to Written Questions No 76/75 <sup>(1)</sup>, No 785/76 <sup>(2)</sup> and No 190/77 <sup>(3)</sup>, is the Commission prepared to reconsider its position concerning the forwarding of opinions issued by the Consumers' Consultative Committee and groups of experts together with all studies carried out in connection with proposals drawn up and submitted to the Council and, if so, does it not agree that such working documents should be made available automatically to the responsible committee of the European Parliament in order to provide the newly elected members with the most comprehensive information possible?

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 192, 22. 8. 1975, p. 3.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No C 70, 21. 3. 1977, p. 18.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ No C 180, 28. 7. 1977, p. 20.

**Answer***(4 July 1979)*

On several occasions the Commission has informed the European Parliament of its position with respect to the transmission of the opinions of the Consumers' Consultative Committee and the groups of experts that assist it in preparing its draft Directives.

The Commission confirms to the Honourable Member its intention not to circulate the summary records of the discussions and opinions of these advisory bodies.

As in the past, however, the Commission will continue to provide the European Parliament with any useful information that can throw light on the instruments submitted to it for an opinion.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 188/79****by Mr Bangemann****to the Commission of the European Communities***(30 May 1979)*

**Subject:** Fixing of a minimum alcoholic strength for spirituous beverages

In Case 120/78 <sup>(1)</sup>, the Court of Justice of the European Communities ruled that 'the fixing of a minimum alcoholic strength for spirituous beverages intended for human consumption, fixed by the legislation of a Member State, falls within the prohibition laid down in that provision (Article 30 of the EEC Treaty) where the importation of alcoholic beverages lawfully produced and marketed in a Member State is concerned'. It is common knowledge that in some Community Member States there is no legislation governing the alcoholic strength of spirituous beverages while in others, such as the United Kingdom, France and Italy, legislation of this type does exist, at least for certain spirituous beverages. Moreover, since the judgment has a direct bearing only on imports into Germany, confusion amongst consumers and distortion of competition between producers cannot be ruled out.

Does the Commission intend to introduce uniform Community legislation for certain spirituous beverages and, if so, when and on what legal basis does it propose to do so?

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 147, 22. 6. 1978, p. 6, and OJ No C 87, 3. 4. 1979, p. 6.

**Answer***(3 July 1979)*

The amended proposal for a Regulation on the common organization of the market in ethyl alcohol of agricultural origin and laying down additional provisions for certain products containing ethyl alcohol <sup>(1)</sup>, which the Commission has recently further amended <sup>(2)</sup>, will provide the legal bases for Community arrangements for spirituous beverages. It is the Commission's intention that these arrangements should include a minimum alcoholic strength for spirituous beverages.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 309, 31. 12. 1976, p. 2.

<sup>(2)</sup> COM(79) 237 final.



The Commission preferred regulation to harmonization Directives based on Article 100 of the EEC Treaty in order to ensure that the relevant measures are simultaneously and uniformly applied throughout the Community.

The Commission is anxious to see the difficulties described by the Honourable Member overcome as quickly as possible and therefore considers it highly desirable that a common organization of the market in ethyl alcohol should be introduced without delay.

#### WRITTEN QUESTION No 195/79

by Mr Schyns

to the Commission of the European Communities

(6 June 1979)

*Subject:* Protection of consumers (foodstuffs)

Not one Directive on the harmonization of foodstuffs has been adopted in the past two years; the Commission has merely been completing horizontal Directives on additives and changing some details in existing Directives.

1. Why has the Commission abandoned some Directives when (as in the case of mayonnaise) the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee made it clear that industry and consumers in the nine Member States were unanimous in their support for harmonization?
2. In 1976 the Commission withdrew several proposals submitted to the Council, mainly in order to prepare new proposals, on mayonnaise, ice cream, beer and confectionery.

What is the state of progress on these new proposals, if any?

3. With particular regard to confectionery, has the Commission noted that, in an opinion delivered in 1977, the Economic and Social Committee drew attention to the fact that, in an earlier opinion, published in OJ No C 89 of 23 August 1972, it had concluded that the national provisions governing confectionery needed to be harmonized? Does the Commission intend to take account of the views of consumers and industrialists as expressed in that opinion?
4. What is the state of progress with regard to the following proposals or preliminary proposals:
  - meat extracts,
  - yeasts,

- pasta,
- low sodium-content dietetic foodstuffs,
- biscuits and flour confectionery, and
- mustard?

5. What are the Commission's views on the following passage, taken from an opinion adopted unanimously by the Economic and Social Committee in November 1977?

'From a general point of view, the Committee would draw attention to the fact that the process of aligning "horizontal" laws must be continued. The free movement of goods will, however, only become a reality if adequate steps are also taken to align "vertical" laws. The Committee regrets that the Commission and the Council have both dragged their heels in this respect. It hopes that the abovementioned institutions can make up, either partly or in full, the time lost by drawing upon the views expressed by all the interested parties in the Advisory Committee on Foodstuffs and the Economic and Social Committee itself.'

6. Is the Commission aware that the adoption of Community lists of additives will not enable such products to circulate freely if the Member States do not authorize their use in the same foodstuffs?
7. Has the objective of eliminating technical barriers to trade been abandoned in the case of foodstuffs? If the Commission has not given up doing its utmost to make the free circulation of these products effective, how does it intend to achieve that aim?

## Answer

(5 July 1979)

1, 2, 3 and 4. The Honourable Member's claim that, with the exception of certain amendments changing details with regard to additives, no Directive on the harmonization of foodstuffs has been adopted in the past two years, is incorrect. An examination of the true situation clearly reveals that altogether since 1 July 1977 the Council has adopted 13 legal instruments concerning foodstuffs. They include in particular entirely new instruments relating to: the labelling of foodstuffs for sale to the ultimate consumer, materials and articles containing vinyl chloride monomer and intended to come into contact with foodstuffs, the acceptance by the Community of Codex standards for certain types of sugar, specific criteria of purity for anti-oxidants, specific criteria of purity for emulsifiers, stabilizers, thickeners and gelling agents, and coffee and chicory extracts. Further, amendments introduced since 1 July 1977 to earlier Directives concern very varied subjects such as food additives, cocoa and chocolate products, fruit juices and similar products including tinned milk.

A study of these instruments will convince the Honourable Member that in most cases these are not merely matters of detail.

The Commission recommendation concerning saccharine, the report on vinyl chloride monomer and the broad field covering methods of analysis where three Directives setting out 21 Community methods will be adopted on completion of the relevant procedures, represent a considerable body of work achieved by the Commission.

All the other activities of the Commission in relation to foodstuffs (e.g., preparation of new proposals, Secretariat of the Scientific Committee for Food, Secretariat of the Advisory Committee on Foodstuffs, Chairmanship and Secretariat of the Standing Committee for Foodstuffs, participation in meetings organized by other Community bodies, expression of the Community point of view on international bodies) should also be taken into account.

Consequently, the Commission emphatically denies the Honourable Member's assertion and feels confident in affirming that the record for the last 24 months has been largely positive.

With respect to the particular products mentioned by the Honourable Member, Community policy is to achieve

progress in sectors where it seems possible within a reasonable period of time. In this respect, an opinion, even if unanimous, issued by the Economic and Social Committee is but one of the components in a set of data and does not necessarily ensure that all the problems are solved.

In this connection, on 19 March 1979, the Commission forwarded a communication to the Council <sup>(1)</sup> setting out its position on the following sectors:

- meat extracts, yeast extracts and protein extracts, flavouring for soups and other dishes, bouillons, soups and meat-based sauces. The Commission considers that a vertical Directive is still necessary in this sector; it will subsequently present a new proposal to the Council;
- pasta: the Commission has realized that no solution is likely to be forthcoming in this area within the foreseeable future; it has decided to give up any activities in this area;
- margarine: the Commission considers that a vertical Directive is still necessary in this sector; it will subsequently present new proposals to the Council;
- low sodium dietary foods: a re-examination of the priorities in this area of foodstuffs led the Commission to conclude that the various children's foods should be tackled first. Low sodium dietary foods will be dealt with later;
- soft drinks: the Commission has already begun work on the preparation of a new proposal for this sector;
- natural yeasts and yeast residues: the Commission has realized that the possibilities for reaching unanimous agreement on the subject dealt with in its proposal was minimal. It is not considered that a vertical Directive would be appropriate. The Commission has consequently decided for the moment not to carry on with its activities in this sector.

With respect to the products referred to by the Honourable Member which are not included in the above list, the Commission is not at present in a position to make any statement with regard to subsequent revival of the relevant activities.

<sup>(1)</sup> Doc. COM (79) 128 final. The Commission is forwarding a copy of this communication directly to the Honourable Member.

6. Conditions to be laid down for the utilization of various additives in foodstuffs are under study in the Commission. Already, in connection with other written questions, the Commission has drawn attention to the vast complexity of this study which has even called for the development of appropriate methodology as a first step. Therefore no tangible results can be hoped for in the near future but the Commission will nevertheless continue to work along these lines.

5 and 7. The Commission has not of course given up the objective of eliminating technical barriers to trade. It is not responsible for the existence of the substantial number of barriers. In a great many cases they were initiated by national economic and social interests. Accordingly, within the limits of its possibilities, the Commission will continue to do its best to establish priorities in the light of the seriousness of the barriers and the prospects of success.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 208/79**

**by Mr Ansquer**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(8 June 1979)*

*Subject: Price of petroleum products*

Could the Commission indicate the latest prices for the principal petroleum products on the major import and sales markets in Europe?

**Answer**

*(9 July 1979)*

The Commission is now publishing the price level indicator for the main oil products once a week. Prices, expressed in dollars, are given for each Member State. In the table below the Honourable Member will find the price levels for the end of May 1979.

Where prices on the major import markets are concerned, the Commission with the help of most of the oil companies (including the independents) and traders has, since 1 June, been conducting a voluntary operation to record these prices and the related transactions for an area covering north-western and southern Europe.

The Commission plans the regular publication of information relating to this operation.

Weekly indicator of consumer price levels in the Community. Taxes and duties excluded <sup>(1)</sup>

Indicator of real prices at 28 May 1979

	Premium petrol fuel \$/1 000 litres	Regular petrol \$/1 000 litres	Automotive diesel-oil \$/1 000 litres	Heating oil \$/1 000 litres	Residual fuel oil \$/1 000 kg
Belgium	254.86	247.08	222.43	190.66	93.87
Denmark	215.83	208.21	214.76	187.46	108.16
Federal Republic of Germany	229.32	208.47	229.32	233.49	119.87
France	219.24	199.02	181.85	164.61	110.12
Ireland	255.37	246.22	267.64	232.43	178.14
Italy	167.91	156.70	161.19	151.03	133.37
Netherlands	236.37	222.64	195.83	166.41	98.24
UK	240.04	233.89	225.68	196.96	108.74
EEC					
(a) weighted average <sup>(2)</sup>	219.4	210.8	200.9	187.2	115.2
(b) percentage variation 28. 5. 1979/ 15. 12. 1978	+ 13.9 %	+ 14.7 %	+ 15.5 %	+ 30.1 %	+ 20.8 %
(c) weighted variation <sup>(2)</sup> , all products 28. 5. 1979/ 15. 12. 1978			+ 22.7 %		

<sup>(1)</sup> Price level: price level most often applied and thus representative of the oil market in each Member State.<sup>(2)</sup> The average result of weighting the quantities consumed for each product concerned during the first quarter of 1979.

## WRITTEN QUESTION No 210/79

by Mr Ansquer

to the Commission of the European Communities

(8 June 1979)

*Subject:* European Monetary System developments

What conclusions does the Commission draw from the first few weeks of operation of the European Monetary System?

Do the movements observed in the different currencies augur an early review of parities and a possible review of the basket of currencies?

## Answer

(6 July 1979)

The Commission considers that the EMS, which was formally introduced on 13 March this year, has operated in accordance with the rules laid down for the transitional phase. Pursuant to these rules, operation of the EMS is to be reviewed after an initial period of six months, i.e., in September, and the Commission feels it would be premature at this stage to draw any conclusions in the matter.

The Commission also takes the view that it should not, as a matter of principle, set out in a document that is to be made public an opinion concerning the future of the central rates of EMS currencies.

As for any revision of the currency basket, the Commission would remind the Honourable Member that the European Council, meeting in Brussels, laid down the following procedure:

'2.3. The weights of currencies in the ECU will be re-examined and if necessary revised within six months of the entry into force of the system and thereafter every five years or, on request, if the weight of any currency has changed by 25 %.

Revisions have to be mutually accepted; they will, by themselves, not modify the external value of the ECU. They will be made in line with underlying economic criteria.'

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#### WRITTEN QUESTION No 211/79

by Mr Ansquer

to the Commission of the European Communities

(8 June 1979)

*Subject:* Italian production of man-made fibres

Could the Commission indicate the percentage increase in the production of man-made fibres in Italy over the past three years and compare this with the average rate of increase in the other Community Member States?

#### Answer

(5 July 1979)

The figures requested by the Honourable Member are as follows:

##### Production of man-made fibres (discontinuous fibres and continuous yarns)

	Percentage variation over previous year		
	1976	1977	1978
Italy	+ 33.0	- 9.4	+ 7.7
Other EC countries	+ 22.6	- 8.1	+ 6.7

#### WRITTEN QUESTION No 228/79

by Lord Bessborough

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 June 1979)

*Subject:* Power stations fuelled by petroleum products

Would the Commission tabulate the current applications by the Community's public electricity utilities to construct power stations fuelled by oil products, specifying for each the

name of the applicant, the proposed location, the rated capacity in GW and the estimated annual oil consumption (in tonnes and in petajoules) of the normal operating conditions.

What is the capacity in GW and the estimated annual oil consumption (in tonnes and petajoules) of oil-fired electricity generating plant authorized by Member States since 1 January 1974?

**Answer**

*(9 July 1979)*

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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