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European Parliament

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I

(Information)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWER

WRITTEN QUESTION No 248/79

by Mr Verhaegen

to the Commission of the European Communities

(13 July 1979)

Subject: Regulation of vegetable proteins

For reasons of cost, it appears that high-protein soya derivatives are increasingly being added to meat and dairy products as a substitute for animal protein. It would appear that other foodstuffs are also being 'enriched' with soya protein.

The Commission is asked to state how the addition of soya derivatives to foodstuffs is regulated in the various Member States.

Answer

(30 October 1979)

In 1978 the Commission published a report by the study group which it had asked to examine the various questions arising in connection with the use of vegetable protein contained in foodstuffs, in particular, in meat products ⁽¹⁾. Although this report does not deal specifically with soya proteins only, it does give information on the laws in force in the Member States on the addition of vegetable proteins to meat products.

Briefly, it appears that most of the meat products are subject to provisions limiting the vegetable protein content where the vegetable protein is used either as a substitute for meat or as a binding agent. The use of non-meat ingredients in traditional meat products is generally strictly limited. In all cases appropriate labelling must indicate the presence and often even the quantity of vegetable proteins added.

The Commission has no specific information concerning other types of products.

⁽¹⁾ Document EUR 6026 of the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 272/79**by Mrs Ewing****to the Commission of the European Communities***(19 July 1979)*

Subject: Equality of treatment with regard to social security

Will the Commission report progress on the Directive to ensure the implementation of the principle of equal treatment of men and women in matters of social security in each Member State?

Answer*(23 October 1979)*

Member States have been given a time limit of six years to comply with the Directive of 16 December 1978 concerning the progressive implementation ⁽¹⁾ of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security. The Commission is to prepare a report on the application of this Directive one year later.

However, in June this year the Commission sent a letter to the Member States drawing their attention to the need to implement the principle of equal treatment progressively during the six-year period provided for by the Directive to enable the deadline to be met, in view of the complexity of the matter.

Further, next year the Commission intends to request the Member States to provide information on measures already adopted and programmes of measures to be taken to achieve the aims of the Directive.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 6, 10. 1. 1979, p. 24.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 344/79**by Mr Ansquer****to the Commission of the European Communities***(2 August 1979)*

Subject: Imports of manioc

What steps has the Commission taken to halt the excessive imports of manioc from Thailand?

Has the customs duty on manioc roots been deconsolidated, as proposed by the Commission?

Answer*(25 October 1979)*

Following Mr Gundelach's visit to Thailand in March, the Thai Government promised to hold exports of manioc to the Community in 1979 down to their 1978 level. The Thai

authorities also said they would negotiate measures to ensure a gradual cutback in the volume exported to the Community.

In addition, the Commission is financing a study on crop diversification being carried out in collaboration with the Thai authorities, which is aimed at developing crops other than manioc.

With regard to the bound rate of customs duty applicable to manioc, the Commission transmitted a recommendation for a Decision to the Council on 27 April, for the purpose of authorizing the Commission to open negotiations aimed at adjusting the tariff concession made for this product. On 18 September the Council authorized the Commission to initiate talks, although not, as yet, negotiations, with the interested Contracting Parties to the GATT. The necessary procedure has now been initiated in accordance with Article XXVIII (5) of the GATT.

WRITTEN QUESTIONS No 382/79

by Mr Seefeld

to the Commission of the European Communities

(9 August 1979)

Subject: Limiting traffic noise

Does the Commission intend to lay down uniform limit values in this area and, if so, when can the relevant proposal be expected?

Answer

(30 October 1979)

The Honourable Member will be aware that the Council has adopted several Directives on the approximation of the laws of the Member States on the permissible sound level and exhaust system of motor vehicles and motorcycles ⁽¹⁾.

In the minutes of 8 March 1977 the Council stated its intention of lowering the noise emission level for all types of motor vehicle to 80 db(A) by 1985. The objective for the more powerful types of motorcycle is the same. A memorandum from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Commission set targets for vehicles of which some fall below the 80 db(A) limit. The Commission will put forward proposals in good time for the further lowering of noise emission levels for motor vehicles and motorcycles after 1985. It will also address to the Council a proposal for a Directive to limit the noise emitted by rail guided vehicles. The Commission has in the meantime informed the Federal Republic of Germany, which submitted a proposal for a Regulation to limit the noise emitted by rail guided vehicles, that the Community Directive will take the planned German measure into account.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 42, 23. 2. 1970; OJ No L 321, 22. 11. 1973; OJ No L 66, 12. 3. 1977; OJ No L 349, 13. 12. 1978.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 383/79

by Mr Glinne

to the Commission of the European Communities

(9 August 1979)

Subject: Participation by Community citizens in voluntary service overseas

Early in 1978, the Belgian organizations which send voluntary workers overseas, grouped together in the non profit-making association Intercodev, 76, rue de Laeken, 1 000 Brussels, unsuccessfully asked the Belgian Minister for Cooperation with the Developing Countries that Community citizens taking part in voluntary service overseas be made eligible for the benefits granted under the Royal Decree of 24 September 1964, namely payment of a tide-over allowance on their return, and payment of social security contributions.

In a different area, the Minister of the Belgian Civil

Service is having a survey carried out among government departments and various public bodies to investigate ways of giving Community citizens access to employment in the Belgian Civil Service through a more flexible interpretation of Article 48 (4) of the EEC Treaty.

Does the Commission not agree that in all Member States, requests similar to that made by Intercodev should be treated favourably? Would it not also be a good time to relaunch, in a suitable form, the idea of a European corps of genuine volunteers in cooperation work, which would be a non-governmental organization with a Community identity, benefiting from Community aid?

Answer

(29 October 1979)

As the Honourable Member will be aware, the Commission already has a programme for project co-financing in the developing countries with non-governmental organizations. While, in the context of this programme, the Commission does not support the costs incurred by the volunteer sending bodies in the recruitment, orientation and resettlement of volunteers, it is not at all uncommon for it to contribute, on the same basis as for any personnel necessary for the implementation of a project, towards the volunteers *in situ* costs (accommodation subsistence etc.) in so far as they are not already covered by other sources of finance. This exercise extends across a wide range of skills and co-financed projects throughout the developing countries have included volunteer participation in the fields of agriculture, medicine, construction and training.

Except for this effort, however, there has until now been

no specific or separate programme of support for the volunteer sending organizations. Nevertheless, the Commission is conscious of the important contribution which can be made by volunteers. It is particularly aware of the part being played by the non-governmental organizations in this area. It is for these reasons that the services of the Commission participate actively in the important debate currently taking place on the overall role of volunteers and other workers in developing countries. Informal discussions, for example, are taking place both with the Member States and with the interested non-governmental organizations. The purpose of these discussions is to enable the Commission services to make an assessment of the desirability and possibility of increased Community involvement in this area of work. It is the intention of the Commission to keep the Parliament informed of any significant developments in this respect.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 437/79

by Mr Müller-Hermann

to the Commission of the European Communities

(6 September 1979)

Subject: Current session of the Third Conference on the Law of the Sea

Is the Commission prepared to submit to the European Parliament a report on the results so far obtained at the Conference on the Law of the Sea and on the objectives of the European Community?

Answer*(25 October 1979)*

The eighth session of the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea closed at the end of August only and it is therefore a little too soon to try to draw any conclusions.

The Conference represents a major attempt to redefine the legal rules governing the various activities traditionally carried out at sea and to establish rules to cover potential activities (exploitation of the sea bed, for example) in what it has now been agreed to consider as the 'common heritage of mankind'. The Community and its Member States are participating in this vast undertaking in a constructive spirit, with the aim of advancing international cooperation while looking to their present or potential interests (for instance in the matter of maritime transport and possible access to the mineral resources of the sea bed).

The wide range of technical problems – given the advanced technology involved and also the resources, in some cases considerable, that will have to be mobilized – the extreme diversity of the geographical situations of the world's states, and their divergent interests explain the slow pace of the Conference's progress. Since its

inception there have been no less than eight sessions of the Conference, each lasting several weeks or even several months, since in a legal codification exercise of this kind there could be no question of seeking a solution other than by consensus.

At the present time the discussions are concerned with a draft overall text drawn up by the Chairman of the Conference with a view to simplifying the debate. Numerous problems remain to be resolved but it seems that a number of general principles can be considered as more or less accepted by all the countries, such as the existence of the 200-mile economic zone and the principle of some sort of international control over the exploitation of the sea bed.

It is clear that because of the very diversity of the activities in question Community responsibility may be involved in certain fields covered by the Conference, while other areas are still the responsibility of the Member States. In due course, the Commission will report to the Parliament, but it is prepared in the meanwhile to brief the relevant committee on progress made.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 455/79

by Mr O'Connell

to the Commission of the European Communities

*(11 September 1979)**Subject:* Regional Fund and Social Fund aid to Dublin

Could the Commission state the proportion of (a) Social Fund and (b) Regional Fund allocations that has been granted to projects in Dublin City and County, and give details of these projects and the amount in each case?

Answer*(22 October 1979)***1. European Regional Development Fund**

Since it was set up in 1975, the European Regional Development Fund has assisted six projects in Dublin City. The amount of investment involved in these projects

(one industrial and five infrastructure projects) was 10.46 million EUA.

During the same period, the ERDF has assisted 11 projects (two industrial and nine infrastructure projects) in Dublin County, involving a total investment of 20.90 million EUA.

As all these projects formed part of global applications covering several projects costing less than 10 million EUA each, it is impossible to specify the exact amount of assistance granted to each individual project. However, the Community's contribution is generally 20% (for industrial projects) and 30% (for infrastructure projects) of public authority expenditure on such investments.

2. European Social Fund

Information on each grant approved by the European Social Fund is published in the annual report on the activities of the Social Fund. Tables giving the

breakdown of aid by field of intervention and country of origin of the promoters are also given.

Many of the projects aided by the Fund for Ireland are national programmes, even though the promoters' addresses may be in Dublin City or County. As Member States are until now not required to give details of the distribution of aid between regions and areas, the Commission does not have the necessary information to enable the publication of detailed regional breakdowns.

The Commission has engaged experts to advise on the computerization of the administration of the Fund and will examine, in this exercise, the possibilities of extending the range of information which could be collected and made available.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 463/79

by Mr O'Connell

to the Commission of the European Communities

(11 September 1979)

Subject: Studies on guaranteed minimum income and minimum wages in the Community

Can the Commission give details of its studies into guaranteed minimum income and minimum wages; when it expects these studies to be completed; whether any recommendations or proposals will be made to Member States on the basis of these studies; and what Member States have contacted the Commission expressing their interest in monitoring these studies?

Answer

(29 October 1979)

The methodological study on the concept of minimum income, which the Commission entrusted to independent experts for its own information, is now complete. On the other hand, the preparation by the Commission departments of the study on minimum wages in the Community has been delayed, partly owing to technical difficulties but mainly to constraints occasioned by the execution of priority tasks. The Commission hopes that the study will be completed in 1980, with the collaboration of government experts and the two sides of industry. On the basis of the conclusions of these studies and consultations, which give those concerned in the Member States an opportunity to express their views, the Commission will determine whether to make any specific proposals in this area at Community level.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 464/79**by Mr O'Connell****to the Commission of the European Communities***(11 September 1979)**Subject:* Footwear industry in Ireland

Is the Commission aware that the free trade conditions imposed by the Treaty of Rome have caused serious difficulties for the footwear industry in Ireland? Can the Commission state what Community aid has been forthcoming to date and whether in light of increasing unemployment in the industry, the Commission would consider further aid to this depressed sector.

Answer*(25 October 1979)*

The situation of the Irish footwear industry had begun to deteriorate before the accession of Ireland to the Community, the imports of footwear from all sources as a percentage of consumption having increased from 22 % in 1970 to 48 % in 1972.

In view of the difficulties being encountered by the industry a measure of temporary protection was accorded by the Community under Article 135 of the Act of Accession until 31 December 1977, when the transitional period terminated, by which time import penetration had reached 74 %.

The difficulties of the industry can therefore be only partially attributed to the reduction of tariff protection.

As far as the European Social Fund is concerned, the Commission can finance supplementary programmes in the footwear sector if the Irish authorities submit applications for aid in conformity with the rules applicable and with the priorities established within the guidelines for the management of the Fund.

Ireland has not submitted any investment project in the footwear industry for assistance from the Regional Fund.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 465/79**by Mr O'Connell****to the Commission of the European Communities***(11 September 1979)**Subject:* Work sharing

Can the Commission state what progress has been made in regard to proposals for work-sharing including the reduction of overtime, the introduction of a 35-hour week, and early retirement?

Answer*(25 October 1979)*

The Commission presented a paper to the Council in May which contained ideas on a number of work-sharing measures, including the reduction of overtime, the introduction of reduced normal working hours and early retirement.

Following the proposals of the Council meetings, the Commission has arranged meetings with and between the Social Partners at European level in order to pursue these questions and will be reporting, as requested, to the Social Council in November on the various points, especially overtime hours and alternance training. Reports on the other questions will follow early in 1980.

The Commission's reply to the Council will be taking into account the work of the Economic Policy Committee which is also preparing a report on the likely economic affects of the various work-sharing measures which have been proposed.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 471/79

by Mr Verhaegen

to the Commission of the European Communities

(11 September 1979)

Subject: Exchange rate of the pound sterling

Can the Commission state what the effect will be for the cost of the Community's 1979/80 agricultural policy if the recovery of the exchange rate of the pound is maintained at the present level (£1 = Bfrs 66 to 67)?

Answer

(22 October 1979)

If the exchange rate for the pound sterling were to remain at the level stated by the Honourable Member, this would normally result in a reduction in expenditure by the Guarantee Section of EAGGF in respect of compensatory amounts granted.

If the pound, which is fluctuating fairly widely at present, were to remain at the rate of £1 = Bfrs 67, the rate of the monetary compensatory amount as applied on 11 September 1979 would be reduced by one point. A reduction of one point in the rate of the monetary compensatory amount would reduce expenditure by some 27 million EUA over 12 months.

It should be pointed out that when the Council adopted the draft 1980 budget on 11 September 1979 it took account of the improved performance of the pound since the Commission had put forward its preliminary draft budget in June 1979 and accordingly reduced the appropriations for monetary compensatory amounts by 126.3 million EUA.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 476/79

by Mr O'Connell

to the Commission of the European Communities

(13 September 1979)

Subject: Directive on product liability

Does the Commission agree that a Directive on product liability whereby the producer is liable for damage caused by a defective article is badly needed throughout the Community.

If so, what proposals does the Commission have for such a Directive and when does it think it might be passed into Community law.

Answer*(22 October 1979)*

The Commission shares the Honourable Member's view on the need to approximate the laws of the Member States relating to liability for defective products within the Community. Accordingly, on 9 September 1976, it submitted a proposal for a Directive ⁽¹⁾ to the Council, on which the European Parliament gave its opinion on 26 April 1979 by carrying a motion for a resolution ⁽²⁾.

The Commission has just submitted a revised proposal to the Council ⁽³⁾. It hopes that the Council will begin its work in the near future. The rate of progress in the work will determine when a Community law on product liability can be introduced. The Commission is according priority to this project and will direct all its efforts towards ensuring that swift progress in the work is achieved.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 241, 14. 10. 1976, p. 9.

⁽²⁾ Doc. PE 57516 final.

⁽³⁾ Doc. COM(79) 415 final, 26. 9. 1979.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 478/79**by Mr O'Connell****to the Commission of the European Communities***(13 September 1979)*

Subject: Implementation of equal pay in Ireland

There have been reports that the Commission is involved in the first stage of legal proceedings against certain Member States for failure to implement the Directive on equal treatment of women in employment. Ireland was not mentioned among these Member States despite the fact that the gap between average wages for men and women has been narrowed by a mere 3% since the Directive was adopted, a fact which would seem to indicate scope for Community action to speed up the process.

Could the Commission state on what basis its review of the Directive on equal pay was carried out and whether any action is being contemplated at Commission level to speed up the implementation of equal pay in Ireland.

Answer*(22 October 1979)*

The last report by the Commission to the Council on the situation regarding the application of the principle of equal pay in the Member States of the Community was forwarded to the European Parliament on 24 January 1979 ⁽¹⁾ and served as a basis for the resolution adopted by Parliament on 9 May 1979. The main purpose of the report was to examine the situation regarding the transposition into national law of the provisions of each article of Council Directive 75/117/EEC of 10 February

1975 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the application of the principle of equal pay for men and women ⁽²⁾. On the basis of this purely legal analysis, on 21 March 1979, the Commission decided to initiate infringement procedures under Article 169 of the EEC Treaty against seven Member States. Ireland was not one of these States, mainly because the abovementioned legal analysis did not show that the Anti-Discrimination (Pay) Act 1974 failed in any way to fulfil the obligations laid down in Directive 75/117/EEC.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 140, 5. 6. 1979, p. 46.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 45, 19. 2. 1975, p. 19.

Further, in the conclusions to the report, to which the Honourable Member is referred, the Commission outlined national and Community lines of action which it considered would achieve better results in respect of the application of the principle of equal pay with reference to all Member States including Ireland.

In this connection, the Commission is shortly to invite the employers' and workers' organizations to meet at European level to work out the best ways and means of eliminating indirect wage discrimination through job classification systems.

The Commission sees the need for other measures to be taken nationally to improve the actual situation in regard to structural differences between men's and women's wages. The principal measure here, also described in the report referred to above, is to inform women about the means of action open to them if they suspect pay

discrimination. It is also necessary to increase knowledge and understanding of pay differences so that more of the women affected will be encouraged to investigate their pay situation than have done so in the past. The public authorities need to take an active part in this work. Also important here is the existence of well-equipped commissions for women's equality.

The Commission is not at the moment contemplating further proposals for legislation. It believes more will come of action to increase the use made of existing legislation. It of course intends to do what it can to stimulate this process. Finally, it would point out that the fullest possible application of the equal pay principle in individual firms, in accordance with the provisions laid down in binding national legislation, cannot be brought about without a determined effort on the part of the trade unions and, most of all, of the women concerned themselves, who have the right everywhere in the Community to seek redress through the courts.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 486/79

by Mr John David Taylor

to the Commission of the European Communities

(14 September 1979)

Subject: Preservation of environment in Northern Ireland

The Northern Ireland Department of the Environment, over which the Ulster people have no democratic control since the abolition of democratic local government in the Province by the British Government, has decided, without reference to or consultation with the people of Portaferry, to discharge untreated raw sewage into Strangford Lough which is a Lough renowned for its tourism, boating, swimming and wildfowl nature reserve. Arising from the Community's intention to

preserve the environment and the fact that Northern Ireland qualifies for regional aid:

1. Is the disposal of raw effluent and sewage into an almost entirely enclosed Lough encouraged?
2. Was this scheme submitted to the EEC for consideration of grant aid.
3. If a scheme, involving the treatment of this sewage at an estimated cost of £20 000 were submitted by the appropriate authority could it be considered for regional aid?

Answer

(24 October 1979)

1. It is not for the Community to pass judgement on decisions to authorize or prohibit the discharge of sewage and urban effluent into a given place. This problem is the responsibility of national or local authorities, according to the Member State in question.

2 and 3. No application for aid from the European Regional Development Fund has so far been submitted to the Commission by the United Kingdom Government in respect of the project to which the Honourable Member refers.

Any such application would be given due consideration by the Commission.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 506/79**by Mr John David Taylor****to the Commission of the European Communities***(14 September 1979)*

Subject: Grants from the Social Fund for projects in Ulster

Can the Commission give details relating to the number of projects aided by the Social Fund, the nature of the projects and the amounts granted for the following counties of Ulster: Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone since 1973, and also details of any applications pending.

Answer*(24 October 1979)*

1. Information on each grant approved by the European Social Fund is published in the annual report on the activities of the Social Fund. Tables giving the breakdown of aid by field of intervention and country of origin of the promoters are also given.
2. It will be observed that the number of projects from promoters located in Northern Ireland aided by the Social Fund for the years 1973 to 1978 was as follows:

Year	Number	Total amount (£ million)
1973	2	3.87
1974	17	4.29
1975	34	6.63
1976	36	8.80
1977	30	10.71
1978	39	14.72

3. As Member States have not until now been required to give details of the distribution of aid between regions and areas, the Commission does not have the necessary information to enable publication of the proportion of such general programmes applicable to Northern Ireland. For the same reason, breakdown of grants by county is not available.

The Commission has engaged experts to advise on the computerization of the administration of the Fund and will examine in this exercise the possibilities of extending the range of information which could be collected and made available.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 511/79
by Mr John David Taylor
to the Commission of the European Communities
(14 September 1979)

Subject: Regional aid to urban conurbation

Arising from its background report 'Community regional policy – a new phase' ⁽¹⁾ and in consequence of the fact that the greater Belfast area population of 750 000 persons suffers some of the worst congestion, pollution, urban decay, and poverty of any city in the Community will the Commission consider the City of Belfast for a special study and report?

⁽¹⁾ Brochure No 11/78, catalogue: CC AB 78 A 11.

Answer
(23 October 1979)

In the initial contacts made by the Commission as part of its preparatory work on 'integrated operations', the greater Belfast area was envisaged as one of the areas which might possibly be covered by an integrated operation.

Such integrated operations consist of a coordinated set of public and private measures and investments implemented in a limited geographical area and involving complementary actions by the national and local authorities of the Member States and by the Community through its financial instruments for structural purposes.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 514/79
by Mr Damseaux
to the Commission of the European Communities
(17 September 1979)

Subject: Agricultural prices in Belgium

In 1978, by way of derogation from Regulation No 17/64/EEC ⁽¹⁾, the validity of which had been extended by the Council in order to open a special projects tranche for 1978/79 of 70 million EUA, special measures were taken to assist agriculture in the Benelux countries. Thus Belgium was authorized to take certain measures to compensate for an insufficient rise in agricultural prices.

The Commission has recently agreed to provide a financial contribution of Bfrs 342 575 000 to Belgian projects relating to these special measures.

Can the Commission supply a list of these projects showing the objective, location and cost of each?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No 34, 27. 2. 1964, p. 586/64.

Answer

(23 October 1979)

On 28 June 1979 the Commission decided to grant aid from the Guidance Section of the EAGGF under Regulation No 17/64/EEC for 1978/79 in accordance with Regulation (EEC) No 2992/78 ⁽¹⁾. The projects selected for aid included 20 Belgian projects for a total sum of Bfrs 515 365 141 and a list of these is attached.

Project No B/131/78 in particular includes four types of measure:

I. Special aid measures for young farmers carrying out a development plan.

These are measures to facilitate farm modernization by young farmers carrying out a development plan who have been farming for only a short time (less than five years), on account of the increased cost burden of starting up and modernizing the farm simultaneously.

II. Measures to help young farmers when they start farming to obtain living accommodation of their own.

There being certain housing problems, such as the age (some 44% of farm accommodation was constructed before 1919 and some 22% between then and 1945) and unfitness of dwellings and the fact that several families live together, measures are envisaged to help young farmers when they first start farming.

III. Measures to assist farm management of farm accounts.

These are measures to help farmers who are carrying out a development plan and who are accordingly obliged to keep accounts.

IV. Measures in support of mutual assistance and staff replacement services.

Provision is made for measures to assist associations or federations for mutual assistance in case the farm operator is temporarily unable to work.

The total cost of these measures is estimated at Bfrs 1 370 300 000. On account of the type of measures in question it is not yet possible to give any further details.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 357, 21. 12. 1978, p. 3.

BELGIUM

Project No	Title	Proposed aid Bfrs
B/2/78	Improvement of farm roads in the communes of Assenede, Boekhoute, Ertvelde and Zelzate (East Flanders)	5 789 702
B/9/78	Improvement of farm roads in the commune of Villers-la-Ville (Mellery Division) (Brabant)	2 445 455
B/38/78	Setting up a fish vaccination centre in Onderval, in the commune of Waismes (Liège)	1 339 653
B/41/78	Extension of a vegetable research centre in Hoogstraten (Meerle) (Antwerp)	3 457 250
B/58/78	Roadworks in the commune of Houffalize (Luxembourg)	30 412 407
B/66/78	Farm road improvements in the commune of Holsbeek Kortrijk-Dutsel-Division (Brabant)	4 925 866
B/73/78	Farm road improvements in the communes of St Truiden, Borgloon, Peer and Tongeren (Limburg)	9 667 258
B/75/78	Farm road improvements in the commune of Lichtervelde (West Flanders)	12 383 737
B/76/78	Farm road improvements in the commune of Zedelgem (West Flanders)	8 960 412
B/77/78	Farm road improvements in the commune of Nevele-Landegem Division (East Flanders)	4 391 035

Project No	Title	Proposed aid Bfrs
B/85/78	Farm road improvements in the commune of Bertem (Brabant)	5 590 463
B/92/78	Drainage work in Estaimpuis (Hainaut)	19 029 891
B/97/78	Farm road improvements in the communes of Aywaille, Burg-Reuland, Ferrières and St Vith (Liège)	24 075 007
B/99/78	Establishment of a cattle quarantine centre for brucellosis in Natoye (Namur)	4 541 304
B/103/78	Modernization and extension of the centre for prevention of livestock diseases in Torhout (West Flanders)	4 600 890
B/111/78	Farm road improvements in the commune of Ramillies (Brabant)	3 865 005
B/114/78	Farm road improvements on the Zuidijzerpolder (West Flanders)	6 178 276
B/123/78	Establishment of fodder analysis centres in South-Eastern Belgium (provinces of Hainaut, Liège, Luxembourg and Namur)	5 155 332
B/125/78	Farm road improvements in the communes of Beauraing, Florennes, Hamois, Houyet, Onhaye and Rochefort (Namur)	15 981 198
B/131/78	Additional measures to help Belgian farmers	342 575 000
		515 365 141

WRITTEN QUESTION No 520/79

by Mr Damseaux
to the Commission of the European Communities

(17 September 1979)

Subject: Dumping of radioactive waste in the east Atlantic

Radioactive waste is reportedly being dumped in an area some 300 nautical miles off Cape Vilano (Portugal) in the eastern Atlantic from ships putting out from Community ports. The dump zone is said to be the area bounded by the coordinates longitude 16 to 17° 30' W, 10 miles north and south of latitude 46° N. The average depth is about 4 000 metres.

Can the Commission state:

1. What body specified this zone?
2. Who supervises operations?
3. How many trips carrying what amounts have been made from Community ports?
4. What effect is this dumping likely to have on the sea bed?

Answer

(23 October 1979)

1. The site to which the Honourable Member refers was chosen by the European Nuclear Energy Agency in Paris, now called the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA).

Radioactive waste disposal trials were carried out there over a period of 12 years.

The suitability of the site for sea dumping was reviewed in November 1977 and was confirmed by a group of experts on oceanography and radioecology in 1978.

2. The disposal operations were initially carried out under the supervision of the NEA. Since 1977, they have been supervised by the Multilateral Consultation and Surveillance Mechanism for Sea Dumping of Radioactive Waste, set up by the OECD Council in 1977.

3. Since the Commission is not involved in the NEA programme, it has not been receiving detailed information on the conduct of these operations.

According to an NEA source, a total of 59 670 tonnes had been dumped up to the end of 1978, representing 6 930 Ci of alpha activity and 435 850 Ci of beta and gamma activity (more than half of which is attributable to tritium).

4. Several models for assessing the radiological impact of the sea dumping of waste have been developed under the aegis of the NEA, the most recent in 1978. All these models led to the same conclusion, namely, that the operations under consideration are harmless.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 522/79

by Mr Damseaux

to the Commission of the European Communities

(17 September 1979)

Subject: The current status of the Mansholt reserve

In 1969, in view of the sluggish start to the common agricultural structural policy, and the fact that common measures decided on by the Council were taking several years to realize their full potential, it was decided that a part of the annual appropriation for the Guidance Section of the EAGGF would be held in reserve (Mansholt reserve). Between 1969 and 1975 a total of 531.1 million units of account was paid into this reserve fund. Since 1976, the annual appropriation of 325 million units of account has been totally absorbed in financing individual projects and common measures.

It is intended that any balance of this reserve not entered in the budget as at 31 December 1979 will be cancelled.

Can the Commission state the current amount of the balance, and does it not consider that any balance still outstanding as at 31 December 1979 should be used up and not allowed to lapse?

Answer

(29 October 1979)

The Council has adopted new provisions relating to the financing of eligible measures by the EAGGF Guidance Section, which take account of the development of the structural policy and the exhaustion of the 'Mansholt reserve' in the near future. Thus Regulation (EEC) No 929/79 of 8 May 1979 ⁽¹⁾ earmarks 3 600 million EUA for the period from 1980 to 1984, the annual appropriations to be fixed through the budgetary procedure.

It is estimated that about 133 million EUA of the Mansholt reserve will still be unused at the end of 1979 ⁽²⁾, but Article 6b inserted into Regulation (EEC) No 729/70 by Article 2 of Regulation (EEC) No 929/79 stipulates that these appropriations can no longer be entered in the budget after the end of 1979.

Thus the Commission notes that the Mansholt reserve system is superseded by the new financial provisions applicable as from 1980. These provisions are in fact more favourable to the development of the structural policy than the old system, which consisted of an annual ceiling of 325 million EUA plus the use of the Mansholt reserve.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 117, 12. 5. 1979.

⁽²⁾ See page 473 of the 1979 budget (OJ No L 23, 31. 1. 1979).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 523/79
by Lord O'Hagan
to the Commission of the European Communities
(17 September 1979)

Subject: Collegiate responsibility of the Commission

There are rumours that the Commission intends to dilute the principle of collegiate responsibility in order to answer questions from the European Parliament.

1. Are these rumours true?
2. Will questions, in future, become the personal responsibility of individual Commissioners?
3. Is the Commission aware that any breach of the collegiate responsibility of the Commission is contrary to the Treaty of Rome?
4. Does the Commission recognize that, if Commissioners assume personal responsibility for parliamentary answers, Parliament may wish to impeach individual Commissioners for the inadequacy of their replies?
5. What steps is the Commission taking to strengthen the Secretariat General of the Commission to answer Parliamentary Questions?

Answer
(25 October 1979)

The Commission will continue to take collective responsibility for its answers. It has decided, however, as part of the recent revision of its internal arrangements for replying to written questions, that answers will be transmitted to Parliament on its behalf by the member(s) responsible. This implies no change in the responsibility of the Commission as a whole for the answers given to Parliament.

The Commission's Secretariat-General, which continues to play an important part in preparing the Commission's answers to questions by Members of the European Parliament, has had its staff increased during the current budgetary year.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 526/79
by Mr O'Leary
to the Commission of the European Communities
(17 September 1979)

Subject: Passports

1. Could the Commission state the present position regarding the abolition of passports from individual Member States, and whether it is its intention to replace individual Member States' passports with a general EEC passport which would enable individuals to travel outside the Community?
2. Could the Commission state whether passports will be abolished altogether, and identity cards issued in lieu.

Answer

(22 October 1979)

1. The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to point 5 of its answer to Written Question No 241/79 by Mr Seefeld ⁽¹⁾, which states that the Commission is still working on the introduction of a uniform European passport.

The introduction of a European passport which is uniform only in appearance does not change any of the substantive rights attached to possession of this passport, such as, the right to travel outside the European Community. This question continues to be governed by the national law of the country issuing the passport and that of the country which the passport holder wishes to visit.

2. The Commission does not intend to propose the abolition of passports and the introduction of an identity card in their place. Such a step would prevent Community citizens from visiting certain non-member countries which demand a passport for entry.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 253, 8. 10. 1979, p. 7.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 537/79/rev.

by Mr John David Taylor

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 October 1979)

Subject: Northern Cyprus trade and tariffs with EEC

The proposed three year extension to the EEC/Cyprus Association Agreement involves both an amendment to the calendar period within which the EEC reduces its tariffs against Cyprus exports and a further improved access for EEC exports into Cyprus. As Northern Cyprus, which is no longer under the *de facto* jurisdiction of the Cyprus Government, is the main source in the island for citrus fruits and a major source for potatoes, will the increased facilities for Cyprus exports in accordance with the proposed three year extension extend to exports of products from within Northern Cyprus and exported from ports and airfields in Northern Cyprus?

Has the *de facto* Government of Northern Cyprus been included in the consultations which have concluded in this three year extension?

Has Northern Cyprus agreed to reduce further its tariffs against EEC exports in accordance with the reported terms of the three year extension?

Has the Government of Cyprus agreed to allow Northern Cyprus potatoes and citrus fruits to be exported to the EEC from the territory of Southern Cyprus?

If the provisions of this three year extension of the EEC/Cyprus Association Agreement do not extend to Cyprus exports from ports and airfields within Northern Cyprus, and the Government of Cyprus still intends to maintain a complete prohibition against the movement of persons or produce from Northern Cyprus into Southern Cyprus, how can Cypriot exporters of produce from Northern Cyprus take advantage of the extension of the Association Agreement and does it really make any sense in practical terms?

Answer

(26 October 1979)

The Commission's proposals to the Council provide essentially for the concessions granted to Cyprus to be maintained over the next three years.

Exploratory contacts between the Commission and the Cyprus Government on the subject of the Association have merely recorded Nicosia's viewpoint on the development of relations between Cyprus and the Community.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 542/79
by Mr John David Taylor
to the Commission of the European Communities
(20 September 1979)

Subject: Importation of carpets from the USA

Because of the reduced value of the USA currency and the continued cheap energy policy in the USA, there has been a dramatic increase this year of USA carpet exports into the EEC. This is having a disruptive and harmful influence upon the Community's tufted carpet manufacturing industry. Total imports from the USA into the UK in 1978 were 27 000, 26 000, 591 000, 739 000 square metres in the first, second, third and fourth quarters respectively. This total of 1 405 000 square metres in 1978 compares with 1 190 000 square metres in the first quarter of 1979 alone. Expressed another way the imports from the USA increased from 1·2 to 30·8 % between the first quarter of 1978 and the first quarter of 1979.

There is every evidence to suggest that this massive increase in USA imports has continued in the second and third quarters of 1979.

The carpet industry is important to the EEC and in no small way to Northern Ireland. In view of the stated opinion by Commissioner Davignon that all external aspects of trade should be examined and monitored monthly so that the Community may be aware of any developing trends that may be disruptive and harmful, I invite the Commission to confirm its concern at this rapid growth of USA carpet imports into the EEC and to state what corrective policies it intends to take in the immediate future before lasting damage is done to this important sector of the EEC textile industry.

Answer
(23 October 1979)

1. The Commission is aware of the fact that imports from the United States of tufted carpets have recently shown a strong increase in certain Member States. As in the case of man-made fibres, the price control on crude oil and natural gases in the United States, because it gives an artificial advantage to US producers of synthetic textiles, may be one of the factors that could explain this phenomenon.
 2. In order to know the extent these oil and gas price differences confer competitive advantages upon US industry, the Commission services have embarked upon a comprehensive study, with the help of the administrations in the Member States and the industry concerned. Moreover, the Commission has been discussing the issue with the US administration since July and has asked for a special bilateral discussion, on the level of officials.
 3. Once the results of these contacts and studies are known, the Commission will promptly consider what actions should be undertaken.
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WRITTEN QUESTION No 545/79**by Mr Cottrell****to the Commission of the European Communities***(20 September 1979)*

Subject: Alternative energy sources

Will the Commission make a statement, in view of the growing energy crisis and the desirability of developing alternative energy sources, on the practicality of such projects as the proposed Severn Barrage in the West of England and whether such projects should be viewed as a Community resource and therefore attract Community financing?

Answer*(22 October 1979)*

The Commission believes that recourse to economic alternative energy sources is very important. For this reason, the Community is engaged in providing financial aid to alternative energy projects under Council Regulation (EEC) No 1302/78 of 12 June 1978 ⁽¹⁾.

The Commission has not been informed of any recent developments on the proposed Severn Barrage, but will be interested to see the conclusions of the Severn Barrage Committee when these are available. Meanwhile, the Commission is not in a position to comment on the feasibility of such a barrage.

In the event of a Severn Barrage being proposed for the generation of electricity, the Commission would be pleased to consider what Community financial aid or loans might be granted.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 158, 16. 6. 1978, p. 3.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 551/79**by Mr Coppieters****to the Commission of the European Communities***(20 September 1979)*

Subject: Buildings for the European Community

It is rumoured that several hectares of building land have been set aside for the new buildings for the Council of Ministers in Brussels, without the population of the district concerned being consulted about these plans. Does the Commission not consider it desirable, in the interests of democratic participation, to take into account the wishes of the local inhabitants which they have repeatedly expressed in writing? Does the Commission not consider it necessary to provide more information about all the European Community's building projects in the district concerned?

Answer*(25 October 1979)*

In connection with the medium and long-term siting of its premises, the Commission submitted to the Council in 1975 a plan setting out the broad lines of its policy on Commission buildings in Brussels for the period up to 1981/82.

Agreement was reached following negotiations with the Belgian authorities both at administrative and political level. Briefing meetings were also held with the local residents' association and the inter-environment movement, and a consensus was reached by all the parties concerned on the compromise regarding the intended purpose of the land around the Charlemagne building (Sites 1, 2, 3 and 4).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 556/79**by Mr Berkhouwer****to the Commission of the European Communities***(20 September 1979)*

Subject: Child labour in the Italian footwear industry

Figures published by the International Labour Organization (ILO) show that 400 million children throughout the world receive no school education, and approximately half of them work from a very early age.

According to a report in the 'Economisch Dagblad' of 21 July, large numbers of children are employed in the footwear industry in the Naples area.

In view of the heart-rending descriptions of this child-slavery in that publication, is the Commission prepared to take steps to end this kind of exploitation, wherever it may occur in the Europe of the Nine?

Answer*(26 October 1979)*

The Commission can only endorse the statements made by Vice-President Vredeling in reply to Oral Question No H-78/79 by Mr Kavanagh on child labour in the Community ⁽¹⁾.

It considers that it is for the appropriate Italian Government department to ensure observance of Italian legislation on the protection of young people at work, which fixes the minimum age for employment at 15.

⁽¹⁾ Debates of the European Parliament, No 245 (September 1979) p. 232.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 563/79**by Mr Damseaux****to the Commission of the European Communities***(25 September 1979)*

Subject: Hormonal additives in cattle feed

Is it true that certain Member States permit the addition of corticosteroids, which are hormonal substances, to cattle feed? If so, which countries are involved? Which feedingstuffs contain such substances and in what amounts?

Answer*(26 October 1979)*

Council Directive 70/524/EEC of 23 November 1970 on additives in feedingstuffs⁽¹⁾ prohibits the addition for nutritional purposes of any substance having a hormonal or anti-hormonal effect. This ban therefore applies to the corticosteroid group.

According to the information available to the Commission, the use of corticosteroids in animal feed is not authorized in any Member State.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 270, 14. 12. 1970.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 574/79**by Mr Radoux****to the Commission of the European Communities***(25 September 1979)*

Subject: Construction of nuclear power stations

A programme for the construction of nuclear power stations was adopted a long time ago as part of the activities of the European Atomic Energy Community.

1. Will the Commission indicate, for each country, the extent to which the undertakings given have been fulfilled?
2. Will it confirm that, in the case of Belgium, the number of power stations stipulated in this programme has, in fact, been built?
3. Will the Commission state why the power stations provided for under this programme in other European Community countries have not been built?
4. Even if power stations are being built in each of the nine States pursuant to this programme, have there not also been delays? If so, in which countries, and for what reasons?
5. What further construction is planned, for each country, in compliance with the deadlines in the programme?

Answer*(25 October 1979)*

In its resolution of 17 December 1974 concerning Community energy ⁽¹⁾ policy objectives for 1985, the Council laid down a total of 160 GWe for the whole of the Community's nuclear energy capacity for that date.

At the present time, the GWe capacity of the nuclear power stations in operation or under construction in the Community is as follows:

	Germany	France	Italy	UK	Nether-lands	Belgium	Luxem-bourg	Ire-land	Den-mark	EEC
In service	8.8	8.4	1.3	8.1	0.5	1.7	—	—	—	28.8
Under construction	8.0	22.0	2.0	3.7	—	3.7	—	—	—	39.5
Total	16.8	30.4	3.4	11.8	0.5	5.4	—	—	—	68.3

It is possible that construction may begin on certain units which will become operational by 1985 but it appears unlikely that the total nuclear capacity will exceed 70-80 GWe at that time.

In 1974, Belgium planned to have 9 GWe nuclear capacity by the end of 1985; in 1976, however, this target was reduced to 5.4 GWe as a result of the contraction in electricity demand and it looks as if this programme will now be achieved within the set time.

A number of Community Member States have had gradually to reduce their nuclear programmes, mainly as a result of the lowered demand forecasts and partly as a result of public pressure.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 153, 9. 7. 1975, p. 2.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 575/79**by Mr Radoux****to the Commission of the European Communities***(25 September 1979)*

Subject: EEC-Cyprus Association Agreement

Does the Commission consider that the current situation in Cyprus is an obstacle to the conclusion of a new Association Agreement?

Is the Commission able to ensure that the advantages enjoyed by Cyprus under the Association Agreement will not be jeopardized in the event of an interruption?

Answer*(31 October 1979)*

The EEC-Cyprus Association Agreement concluded in 1973 is not limited in time. It covers two stages, however, the first of which, having been extended in 1977, is due to expire on 31 December 1979. The Commission has recently proposed to the Council that this first stage be extended again for a further three years, which would mean that the current trade arrangements between the Community and Cyprus should not change significantly over the next three years. This proposal is now being examined by the Council.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 591/79**by Mrs Edith Cresson****to the Commission of the European Communities***(27 September 1979)*

Subject: Unemployment and migrant workers

In its 'Report on the development of the social situation in the Communities in 1978', the Commission states that 'the total number of foreign workers in Community countries is estimated at six million, of which 1.63 million are Community nationals. Among the six million or so estimated unemployed in the Community, about 280 000 are foreign workers' ⁽¹⁾.

Was it the Commission's intention in quoting these figures to imply some kind of link between the six million European unemployed and the presence of six million migrant workers in the Community?

⁽¹⁾ See 'Report on the development of the social situation in the Communities in 1978', section 53 *in fine*.

Answer*(24 October 1979)*

The statement made in the Commission's report on the development of the social situation in the European Community in 1978, has given a factual description of the situation in regard to foreign workers and unemployment. The Commission in no way suggests that there is any relation between the figures of unemployed in the Community and the number of migrants.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 600/79**by Mr Purvis****to the Commission of the European Communities***(27 September 1979)*

Subject: Exploitation of the Community's gas reserves

Has the Commission examined the economies of gas gathering operations in the Community, and, if so, what steps is the Commission taking to further exploitation of the reserves of financially marginal gas fields?

Answer*(23 October 1979)*

The Commission is following research work with great attention. Previous studies into the feasibility of gas gathering systems in the North Sea concluded from the information then at hand, that they would not be economic unless there were further large discoveries of gas. Since then however, there have been significant increases in oil prices which could make such gas gathering systems economic.

The Community sponsors by financial support the development of new technologies in oil and gas. Through the completion of some of these projects the production of gas from marginal fields may become economically feasible.

One example of the emerging technology is the use of a floating platform to produce liquefied gas or methanol from fields which otherwise might not be produced. Another concept proposes the generation of electricity offshore from the gas. In addition projects aiming at the solution of problems such as handling liquefied gases at sea, storage, transportation and tanker loading are sponsored under the EEC scheme.

By a proposal of the Commission the Council has agreed to commit financial support to these projects of up to 12 million EUA. The Commission subsidy which varies between 25 and 40% of total investment costs must be repaid upon commercial exploitation of the results.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 603/79**by Mrs Walz****to the Commission of the European Communities***(27 September 1979)*

Subject: Transformer announced by Exxon

1. How does the Commission assess the performance of the current transformer announced by Exxon with claims that its use could cut energy consumption in industrial electric motors by up to 50%?
2. Has any similar research been carried out in the Community, and if so, with what success to date?

Answer*(23 October 1979)*

The Commission is aware of the existence of the ACS (Alternating Current Synthesis) electronic device to which the Honourable Member refers and which enables the rotation speed of electric motors to be controlled by simultaneously optimizing voltage and frequency.

This technique was invented in 1970 by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and developed by Electric Power Conversion System Venture, a subsidiary of Exxon Enterprises Inc. When used in pump-driving electric motors, it does produce substantial energy savings which can be as high as 50% in the most favourable cases.

It is also a well-known fact that most of the Community's electrical industry is conducting experiments on similar devices with comparable results.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 606/79**by Mr Marshall****to the Commission of the European Communities***(27 September 1979)*

Subject: Draft Directive on illegal immigration

Will the Commission give an assurance that no action will be taken to implement this draft Directive until the directly elected Parliament has had an opportunity of discussing it?

Answer*(31 October 1979)*

The Commission presented the original proposal for a Directive to the Council on 4 November 1976 and the European Parliament gave its original opinion on 14 November 1977. As a result, the Commission presented the modified proposal to the Council on 5 April 1978. The Council has asked the European Parliament for an opinion, and this was given by the Parliament on 10 October 1978. It is now for the Council to decide upon the proposal, before the Commission can implement any decision which may be taken by the Council.

The Commission is, therefore, in no position to give the assurance requested by the Honourable Member.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 607/79**by Mr Habsburg****to the Commission of the European Communities***(27 September 1979)*

Subject: Credits for Nicaragua

According to press reports the European Community has either offered or already granted substantial credits to the new government in Nicaragua.

Is this true?

If so, what terms and conditions were or will be imposed?

Are these credits intended to provide humanitarian aid to the unfortunate population or to further the Nicaraguan Government's plans for the future?

Answer*(29 October 1979)*

Under decisions taken in July and August this year the Community has granted Nicaragua emergency aid amounting to some 550 000 EUA for the purchase of medicines and seed,

together with food aid worth 2·92 million EUA. A sum of 2 to 3 million EUA has also been earmarked under the Community's financial and technical assistance programmes for the financing of reconstruction projects.

The Community hopes that these sums, which are not repayable, will help to ease the precarious situation in this suffering country, which took up arms to establish a system of pluralist democracy.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 621/79
by Mr Oehler
to the Commission of the European Communities
(1 October 1979)

Subject: Frontier workers

Could the Commission supply a statistical breakdown of the sex, age and professional qualifications of frontier workers on the internal and external frontiers of the Community?

Answer
(23 October 1979)

1. The Council of the European Communities ordered the compilation of statistics on foreign workers by Regulation (EEC) No 311/76 of 9 February 1976 ⁽¹⁾. Under the terms of the Regulation, these statistics are also to cover frontier workers. However, the results of the measure will only begin to emerge after the five-year implementation period, i.e. in 1981.

The provisions for implementing the Regulation do not include a breakdown by training qualifications. A classification of workers in this respect involves considerable statistical problems, which makes it

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 39, 14. 2. 1976, p. 1.

difficult to gather such information on a regular basis. It is therefore not planned to make such a breakdown for frontier workers.

2. Pending the availability of statistics obtained in pursuance of the Council Regulation, the Commission of the European Communities has set in train a number of studies of foreign labour, including frontier workers, in certain areas of Member States. These will be ready from 1980 onwards.

However, the studies are based purely on national data, which because of differences in coverage and definition are unsuitable for comparisons between Member States.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 624/79
by Mr Bangemann
to the Commission of the European Communities
(1 October 1979)

Subject: Behaviour of the French police to participants in the international march against nuclear power stations at Whitsun 1979

On crossing the border into France at the Neuenburg frontier point, participants in the demonstration had all their banners for a rally which had been planned and approved in Chalampé taken away and confiscated by the French police.

1. Can the Commission confirm that the fundamental right of the free expression of opinion exists in all countries of the EC?
2. Can the Commission confirm that a citizen of one EC country also has the right to express his opinions freely in a neighbouring country?
3. What is the Commission's view of the intervention by the French authorities described above?
4. In the event of the Commission coming to the conclusion that the intervention by the French police represents an infringement of the basic right to the free expression of opinion, what steps will the Commission undertake to penalize this infringement of rights and to guard against future infringements of the same kind?

Answer

(22 October 1979)

1. Yes.
2. The right to freedom of expression is, according to the constitutions of the Member States and the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, in principle enjoyed by everyone. Persons who are not nationals of the country in question may therefore as a rule also avail themselves of it. As the Honourable Member is no doubt aware, however, this right is subject in all Member States to a number of restrictions imposed on grounds of public policy and the maintenance of public security.
- 3 and 4. The crossing of frontiers for the purpose of attending political demonstrations is not covered by the rules of the EEC Treaty on the free movement of persons. It is therefore outside the Commission's terms of reference.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 625/79

by Mr Bangemann

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 October 1979)

Subject: Suspension of the cultivation of quality wines

The temporary suspension of wine cultivation, which expires this autumn, has led to considerable injustices in certain cases (e.g. tedious disputes over cultivation, profitability requirements, etc.).

If the end-date for the suspension of wine cultivation is put back beyond autumn 1979, is the Commission prepared to grant exceptional approval for recultivation in a limited number of specially situated cases, and only in the case of quality wines?

Answer

(26 October 1979)

The proposal for a Regulation forwarded by the Commission to the Council on 12 September 1978 ⁽¹⁾, which aims in particular to adapt wine-growing potential to market requirements,

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 232, 30. 9. 1978, p. 4.

provides for a considerable relaxation of the present total ban on new planting of vines. Discussion of this proposal in the Council has not yet been completed. The Council has, however, expressed its determination to reach a decision on the proposals before it relating to the wine sector by 31 October. The question of the ban on new planting, which applies until 30 November 1979, being extended under Article 5 of Regulation (EEC) No 348/79 ⁽¹⁾ does not therefore arise.

The Commission would point out that the relevant Community provisions do not prohibit replanting of areas under vines.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 54, 5. 3. 1979, p. 81.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 631/79
by Mr O'Leary
to the Commission of the European Communities
(1 October 1979)

Subject: Official Community languages

It is widely accepted that six official languages is administratively cumbersome and that the entry of further countries to the Community with new languages will cause insuperable administrative difficulties, is it the Commission's intention to introduce one or two official Community languages, and if not, why not?

Answer
(25 October 1979)

It is true that the use of six official languages causes a number of administrative problems and that the accession of new Member States will bring more. These difficulties, which will concern interpreting more than translating, could not however be described as insuperable.

As regards the Commission's position concerning the use of languages, the Honourable Member is referred to the answer given by Mr Jenkins to Oral Question No 79/78 by Lord Reay ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Debates of the European Parliament (report of proceeding of 15 June 1978, pages 262 to 265).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 636/79
by Mr O'Leary
to the Commission of the European Communities
(1 October 1979)

Subject: Employment for women

What percentage of the budget of each Member State is spent on employment for women?

Answer*(24 October 1979)*

The Commission has no information at its disposal showing the proportion of the budget in each Member State spent on women's employment.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 649/79**by Mr Michel****to the Commission of the European Communities***(2 October 1979)*

Subject: Distortions of competition

In certain Member States social security is financed in large part by contributions calculated as a percentage of salaries. In other Member States it is financed mainly by taxation.

Is not this situation likely to create distortions of competition, in particular in the case of tenders for public contracts announced in the Official Journal? Has the Commission had this question studied, and if not, is it prepared to do so?

Answer*(30 October 1979)*

The fact that the Member States' social security systems are financed in different ways does not in itself cause a distortion of competition.

These differences – which stem from features specific to individual Member States, notably as regards economic and tax structures – have not prevented intra-Community trade from increasing considerably to the benefit of all.

Competition operates through production costs, particularly unit costs; the cost of labour (direct and indirect wages and salaries) is only one of the

components and varies in importance according to whether industries are labour or capital intensive.

A problem can arise, in the context set out by the Honourable Member, if a Member State, for one reason or another, amends its financing system to assist a specific branch of industry, for example to maintain employment.

It is then for the Commission to determine whether there is a distortion of competition and to take any steps required under the Treaty.

Public contracts are just one specific example and the above considerations are therefore fully applicable.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 651/79

by Mrs Lizin

to the Commission of the European Communities

(2 October 1979)

Subject: Programme on radioactive waste management and storage

Could the Commission supplement the report which it gave on this subject in Doc. 11/79 of 26 March 1979 ⁽¹⁾ by supplying the following information:

- the allocation of sums granted, broken down by Member State,
- the list of recipients of contracts under this programme and the respective sums involved?

⁽¹⁾ COM(79) 81 final.

Answer

(23 October 1979)

The Honourable Member will find the information she requested in the following table.

(in national currency)

	Total Commission contribution	Contracts under negotiation	Total
Belgium ⁽¹⁾	Bfrs 170 026 725	Bfrs 5 800 000	Bfrs 175 826 725
Germany ⁽²⁾	DM 15 741 178	DM 308 000	DM 16 049 178
Netherlands ⁽³⁾	Fl 579 950	Fl 815 000	Fl 1 394 950
United Kingdom ⁽⁴⁾	£ 1 726 535	£ 123 800	£ 1 850 335
Denmark ⁽⁵⁾	Dkr 1 199 000	—	Dkr 1 199 000
France ⁽⁶⁾	FF 20 667 012	FF 5 309 000	FF 25 976 012
Italy ⁽⁷⁾	Lit 1 262 213 000	—	Lit 1 262 213 000
Ireland ⁽⁸⁾	£Irl 12 500	—	£Irl 12 500

⁽¹⁾ Contracts with Belgonucléaire, the Centre d'études de l'énergie nucléaire, Environmental Resources.⁽²⁾ Contracts with the Gesellschaft für Strahlen und Umweltforschung, the Hahn-Meitner Institut, the Kernforschungsanlage Jülich, the Kernforschungszentrum Karlsruhe, Steag Kernenergie, the Bundesanstalt für Geowissenschaft und Rohstoffe and Nukem.⁽³⁾ Contracts with the Stichting Energie Onderzoek Centrum Nederland.⁽⁴⁾ Contracts with Gravatom Industries, the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, the Natural Environment Research Council and the National Radiological Protection Board.⁽⁵⁾ Contract with the Ris National Laboratory.⁽⁶⁾ Contracts with the Bureau de recherches géologiques et minières, the Commissariat à l'énergie atomique, Géostock, the Société d'énergie nucléaire franco-belge des Ardennes, the University of Rennes.⁽⁷⁾ Contracts with Agip, the Comitato nazionale per l'energia nucleare, the University of Pisa.⁽⁸⁾ Contract with the Nuclear Energy Board.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 656/79

by Mr Key

to the Commission of the European Communities

(2 October 1979)

Subject: Publicity and information work

The information campaign related to direct election of the European Parliament showed that the general public are gravely ignorant of European affairs and that considerable effort is

required to inform them on the institutions of the Community and the policies they pursue.

In the light of the experience of the direct election's information campaign what efforts are being made by the Commission to improve the effectiveness of its information and publicity work?

Answer

(25 October 1979)

The direct elections information campaign brought to light not only the widespread ignorance of Community institutions and affairs, but also the extent to which knowledge and interest about the Community vary from country to country. The campaign stimulated a greatly increased demand for information about the Community, which has been sustained since.

Special manpower and financial resources were available during the campaign, and it was the first time that the Commission's information services, working with those of the Parliament, have had the resources to make substantial contact with the bulk of European opinion. Without these special resources the Commission is no longer able to respond on anything like the same scale. Whilst the work of the information services is subject to regular review, substantial improvement in effectiveness is unlikely without corresponding increases in resources.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 668/79

by Mr Glinne

to the Commission of the European Communities

(2 October 1979)

Subject: Medical record books in the social security systems of Member States

In Belgium, Article 37 of the Law of 9 August 1963 relating to social security provided for the introduction, in respect of all persons covered by sickness-invalidity insurance, of a medical record book showing the various treatments prescribed or carried out, thereby providing, without need for repetition of tests, the information required to establish a diagnosis and to initiate a course of treatment. The book was subsequently considered by the representatives of both sides of industry present in 1975 at the discussions held by the management committee of the National Institute for Sickness-Invalidity Insurance, but no definite action was

taken. The opposition of a large part of the medical profession, in the name of 'medical secrecy', has so far vitiated the initial steps taken by the legislator to introduce a measure, one of whose positive effects would undoubtedly be to curb a certain overconsumption of medical resources. The present Belgian Government, faced with the same hostility, is currently trying to reutilize or bring up to date the means afforded by Article 37 of the Law of 9 August 1963.

Could the Commission indicate in which other Community Member States the medical record book exists, specifying in each case the law in question and the date it came into force? Could it also explain the purpose of the medical record book?

Answer

(26 October 1979)

The Commission has no information concerning the existence in the Member States of medical record books designed to prevent unnecessary repetition of examinations, tests or treatment by listing the treatments prescribed or carried out.

None of the national experts involved in the preparation of the study on 'The organization, financing and cost of health care in the European Community', which was published recently as No 36 in the Social Policy Series, mentioned such record cards amongst the instruments used in their countries to limit expenditure on health care.

Further investigations are being carried out with a view to obtaining more up-to-date information than was available when this study was being drafted. The results of these investigations will be communicated to the Honourable Member as soon as possible.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 669/79

by Mr Glinne

to the Commission of the European Communities

(2 October 1979)

Subject: The 'dependent spouse' in relation to the Council Directive on social security

In Belgium, Article 165 of the Royal Decree of 4 November 1963 relating to social security implies that in the matter of sickness insurance, the definition of 'dependent spouse' prohibits a man from benefiting from the contributions and cover against the risks associated with his wife's occupational activities. The distinctly discriminatory wording of the text is thus flagrantly at variance with the Council Directive of last December on the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security, as also with social trends.

Could the Commission state what action it has taken to remedy this discrepancy in line with the Directive? Have similar situations been observed in other Community Member States? If so, please give details and outline the action taken by the Commission to ensure the primacy of the directive?

Answer

(26 October 1979)

1. Council Directive 79/7/EEC concerning the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security ⁽¹⁾ gives Member States six years to bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with it. Although there is still some time to run before the deadline, the Commission took the initiative in June 1979 of drawing governments' attention to the need to gradually implement the principle of equal treatment over the period in question. It has in fact noted with satisfaction that Member States are giving very careful thought to ways of eliminating existing forms of discrimination in matters of social security. Next year, therefore, the Commission is planning to ask Member States for details of measures adopted or envisaged in this connection.

2. The problem of the dependent spouse arises most particularly in social security systems based on the concept of the husband as head of family, a concept that is central to the Belgian, Irish, United Kingdom and Netherland's systems. It is also found to a lesser degree in the other systems (except in Italy) in connection with survivors' pensions. According to this concept, a married woman is normally presumed to be dependent on her husband, who is the insured person.

On the other hand, this presumption never works in the husband's favour: he may either be required to provide proof that he is dependent on his wife or no proof of dependency may even be acceptable. Under the Directive, these forms of discrimination should disappear. But, it should be noted that the Directive does not cover survivors' benefits or family allowances and furthermore, under Article 7, Member States retain the right to exclude from its scope the award of certain increases in benefits or derived entitlements of a wife in connection with long-term benefits.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 6, 10. 1. 1979, p. 24.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 671/79

by Mr Dankert

to the Commission of the European Communities

(2 October 1979)

Subject: Organization of training courses at the Commission in 1978

1. What was the real cost of organizing training courses at the Commission in 1978? How many trainees were involved? How were they distributed over the nine Member States? How long did they last?
2. How were trainees recruited? What means were used to publicize training courses at the Commission?
3. On what criteria were trainees selected?
4. What percentage of these sat a competition for the recruitment of Community personnel and what percentage of them were successful? What was the percentage of successful candidates among those who had not acquired experience of the Community through a training course? If these percentages differ, how is this to be explained?
5. Would it in general be true to say that ex-trainees who compete for posts in the European Community usually come from backgrounds higher up the social scale than do non-trainees? If so, why?

Answer

(22 October 1979)

1. (a) The cost of organizing in-service training in 1978 was 849 800 EUA.
 - (b) The Commission received 418 trainees in 1978.
 - (c) They came from the following countries:

Germany:	57,
France:	60,
Italy:	60,
United Kingdom:	56,
Belgium:	38,
Netherlands:	26,
Luxembourg:	6,
Denmark:	10,
Ireland:	16,
non-member countries:	88

(from 26 countries).
 - (d) The training lasted from three months minimum to five months maximum. Special courses lasting up to six months were organized for trainee interpreters.
- 2 and 3. (a) Applicants must be university graduates or holders of diplomas equivalent to university degrees at the end of a full course of study. Students who have successfully completed at least eight semesters of university education may be admitted. Applications are also accepted from public or private sector employees.
- Selection is based on qualifications; an appropriate geographical distribution is maintained. Priority is given to candidates:
- who obtained good academic results,
 - who have completed or begun a course on European integration,
 - whose work, in the public or private sector, demands a thorough knowledge of Community activity.
- A short list of applicants drawn up on the basis of these criteria is sent to the Commission departments concerned for a final choice to be made. This short list includes, where possible, at least twice as many applicants as there are places for which funds are available.

(b) Information regarding training is sent to universities and publicized by them.

that there is no need for additional publicity.

The fact that some 2 400 applications are received annually for the 400 or so places for which funds are available indicates

4 and 5. The Commission has no statistics regarding the participation of former trainees in the competitions which it organizes.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 678/79
by Mr O'Leary
to the Commission of the European Communities
(4 October 1979)

Subject: Number of Irish nationals working in the Commission

Would the Commission state how many Irish nationals are working in the Commission as of June this year? Would the Commission state the status and grade in respect of each one?

Answer

(26 October 1979)

The Honourable Member will find the information requested in the table below:

Officials and temporary staff of Irish nationality on 30 June 1979			
A 1	1	C 1	1
A 2	4	C 2	2
A 3	12	C 3	32
A 4	9	C 4	10
A 5	17	C 5	10
A 6	7	Total C	55
A 7	11	D 1	—
Total A	61	D 2	—
B 1	2	D 3	1
B 2	2	Total D	1
B 3	6	LA 3	—
B 4	3	LA 4	1
B 5	8	LA 5	—
Total B	21	LA 6	4
		LA 7	8
		LA 8	2
		Total LA	15
		Grand total	153

WRITTEN QUESTION No 684/79

by Mr Seeler

to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 October 1979)

Subject: Distortions of competition in horticulture under glass

Recent sharp rises in the price of heating oil have seriously weakened the economic position of West German greenhouse horticulturists' *vis-à-vis* their Dutch counterparts because they are dependent on oil for 90 % of their energy needs.

1. Is the Commission aware that 90 % of the energy consumed by greenhouse horticulturists in the Netherlands is obtained from natural gas and that, because of the government-approved special tariffs for natural gas, their energy costs are only between one half and one third of those of German concerns?
2. Is the Commission aware that in the Federal

Republic energy can account for up to 50 % of total costs and that therefore the difference in the price of energy has led to a considerable distortion of competition?

3. What does the Commission intend to do to end or at least reduce this distortion of competition?
4. What view does the Commission take of the possibility of helping these horticulturists, e.g. by removing administrative barriers to the use of heavy fuel oil and coal; or by reviving the Commission's guidelines of 12 June 1974 under which a subsidy could be granted on energy costs equal to 33 1/3 % of the price rise since 1973; or by encouraging investment in energy-saving measures and research projects in the energy field?

Answer

(25 October 1979)

The Commission is studying the matters raised by the Honourable Member and is not able to comment at present. As soon as the Commission has completed its study, it will present a comprehensive report to the Council and will transmit it to Parliament too.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 712/79

by Mr Key

to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 October 1979)

Subject: Regional policy

Regional policy has drastically changed within the United Kingdom since the new Government has come to power.

1. Can the Commission say how these modifications affect the eligibility of applications from the United Kingdom in general and Yorkshire South in particular?
2. Is the Commission satisfied that potential applicants to the Regional Fund are aware of the way in which the Fund operates? Whose responsibility is it to ensure that such information is widespread?
3. To what extent should grants from the Regional Fund increase, diminish or replace national spending on regional projects?

Answer*(23 October 1979)*

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question No 408/79 by Lord O'Hagan ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 275, 31. 10. 1979, p. 9.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 795/79**by Mrs Cresson****to the Commission of the European Communities***(16 October 1979)*

Subject: Child labour in Italy

What action does the Commission intend to take on the report by the International Labour Office which revealed the exploitation of Italian children performing clandestine outwork for footwear manufacturers?

Answer*(30 October 1979)*

The Commission has no knowledge of a report by the International Labour Office concerning the use of child labour in the Italian footwear industry.

The Honourable Member is referred to the Commission's answer to Written Question No 556/79 by Mr Berkhouwer ⁽¹⁾ and Oral Question No H-78/79 by Mr Kavanagh ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ See page 20 of this Official Journal.

⁽²⁾ Debates of the European Parliament, No 245 (September 1979), p. 232.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 805/79**by Mr O'Leary****to the Commission of the European Communities***(16 October 1979)*

Subject: Energy

What was the outcome of talks held between the senior energy officials of the Nine and the Persian Gulf States on 4 September 1979?

Answer*(31 October 1979)*

The Commission has no knowledge of the meeting referred to by the Honourable Member.
