

English edition

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I

(Information)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWER

WRITTEN QUESTION No 594/81

by Mrs Schleicher

to the Commission of the European Communities

*(9 July 1981)**Subject:* Social insurance contributions imposed on artists

What attitude does the Commission take towards the intention of the West German authorities to impose social insurance contributions on artists, particularly in so far as this affects sales by art dealers of works by artists from other Member States, and what steps does the Commission intend to take to prevent distortion of competition and unequal treatment in this field?

Supplementary answer given by Mr Thorn
on behalf of the Commission

(6 October 1982)

Further to its reply of 22 September 1981 ⁽¹⁾, the Commission can now inform the Honourable Member that, having examined the various aspects of the problem, it has reached the conclusion that there are grounds for a proposal relating to social security for artists.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 274, 26. 10. 1981, p. 15.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1723/81

by Mr Remilly

to the Commission of the European Communities

*(9 February 1982)**Subject:* Possible abolition of tax-free sales on journeys within the Community and their consequences

Considering that, as a general principle, 'tax-free' sales of goods within the Community conflict with Community

law in that the EEC is a customs union and a unified market;

considering that it would be wrong to ban the notorious 'butter cruises' while discriminating in favour of airport users, since the less affluent people who tend to travel by boat would thus be deprived unfairly of concessions to which the better-off people who tend to travel by air would still be entitled;

considering that certain innovations for which the European Parliament is campaigning (a European identity card, a European passport, a European driving licence) only make sense in the context of other measures intended to ensure that neither people nor goods are subjected to discriminatory treatment within the Community;

does the Commission intend to take the necessary steps to eliminate a form of trade which is contrary to Community law and inimical to harmonization?

Answer given by Mr Thorn
on behalf of the Commission

(8 October 1982)

Following the Court's judgment of 7 July 1981 in Case 158/80: Rewe v. Hauptzollamt Kiel (butter trips), the Commission has re-examined the whole question of sales free of duties, levies and taxes in travel within the Community.

The Commission has reminded the Member States that, in order to comply with the Court's judgment, they are required to apply the agricultural levies and customs duties to goods sold by duty-free shops in travel between the Member States. With the exception of these levies and customs duties, the Commission has taken no action with regard to duty-free shops.

At the same time, the Commission has asked the German Government to abolish completely the practice of 'butter trips' and to bring its national law into line with Community law.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1740/81

by Mr Kyrkos

to the Commission of the European Communities

(9 February 1982)

Subject: Price fixing of agricultural products

With regard to the fixing of new prices for agricultural products in the Community, is the Commission aware of the actual production costs of Greek agricultural products so that prices can be fixed that guarantee Greek farmers' incomes? If not, what steps does the Commission intend to take so as to have a yardstick to refer to when fixing agricultural prices?

What does the Commission believe to be the proper way to tackle the problem of different inflation rates in the various Member States and the effects these have on the competitiveness of products and producers' incomes?

What measures does the Commission intend to take in the short term to deal with this problem in Greece so that prices for agricultural products can be fixed in such a way as to guarantee the income of Greek producers?

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

(7 October 1982)

The Commission receives from the national statistical offices the data enabling it to assess changes in production costs and farm incomes. The latest estimates available, covering February 1981 to February 1982, show that the rate of inflation in Greece was 19.5%. The increase in production costs was 24.5%. With regard to incomes, Greece was one of the Member States in which farm income per head showed a real increase in 1981 (1.8%).

The problems engendered by differing inflation rates within the Member States have been studied in a Commission report to the Council ⁽¹⁾. One of the points made in the report is that high inflation rates are not necessarily accompanied by relatively low increases in

⁽¹⁾ COM(82) 98 final, 17. 3. 1982.

real agricultural incomes. The Commission has also found that over long periods the effects of the divergencies are corrected fairly satisfactorily.

Nonetheless, difficulties may arise in the short term. With regard to Greece, the Council, acting on Commission proposals, has adopted a number of decisions to deal with these problems (devaluation of the representative rate for the drachma, more rapid alignment of the prices of certain agricultural products on the common prices, increases exceeding the Community average in the prices of certain Mediterranean products, etc.). The Council has also noted a Commission statement to the effect that it will be laying before the Council in the near future a report, with proposals where appropriate, taking account of the problems Greek farmers have to contend with.

The Commission also sent to the Council on 28 July 1982 a proposal for the adaptation, in respect of Greece, of the conditions of application, including the rate of the EAGGF contribution, of Directive 75/268/EEC on mountain and hill farming and farming in certain less-favoured areas, and a proposal for the amendment of Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 on the improvement of the conditions under which agricultural products are processed and marketed ⁽²⁾.

⁽²⁾ COM(82) 440 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 362/82

by Mr Kyrkos

to the Commission of the European Communities

(30 April 1982)

Subject: Agricultural aids

Can the Commission give an annual account, for each year since the entry into force of the CAP, of the relationship between the aids granted under the EAGGF Guarantee and Guidance Sections (separately) and the number of persons employed in agriculture in all the Member States?

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

(7 October 1982)

If the Honourable Member will refer to the answer given to Written Question No 1507/81 by Mr von der Vring ⁽¹⁾, he will find statistics, broken down by Member State, on the relationship between public expenditure on agriculture and the number of persons employed in agriculture.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 85, 5. 4. 1982, p. 5.

The further information requested will be sent, in tabulated form, directly to the Honourable Member and to the Secretariat of Parliament.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 483/82

by Mr Seefeld

to the Council of the European Communities

(14 May 1982)

Subject: Difficulties encountered at the Community's internal frontiers in the transport of goods and passengers

In 1979 the European Parliament adopted a report on the difficulties encountered at the Community's internal frontiers in the transport of goods and passengers by road and addressed a number of demands to the Council in the corresponding motion for a resolution.

In November 1980 the Council answered my Written Question No 1073/80 (1) on the subject:

Can the Council say:

Since the answer to my question in 1980, which of the demands from 1979 made by the European Parliament

- (a) have now been met,
- (b) have not been met, and if not why not?

(1) OJ No C 329, 16. 12. 1980, p. 6.

Answer

(6 October 1982)

1. As regards checks on the carriage of goods across internal frontiers, the Council would point out that it will not be possible to dispense completely with frontier and internal checks until excise duties and prohibitions and restrictions on the transfrontier carriage of goods have been harmonized within the Community.

On the subject of point 7 of the resolution, the Council is convinced that Community legislation on the release of goods for free circulation, providing for a whole set of simplified procedures, such as computerization of declarations and direct customs clearance on the premises of the undertaking concerned, will simplify matters increasingly as these new systems are put into operation by customs administrations and economic operators.

Moreover, the Commission has placed before the Council two proposals for Regulations aimed at introducing

further simplifications for economic operators within the Community. One is a proposal for a Regulation establishing a system for the intra-Community circulation of goods sent from one Member State for temporary use in one or more other Member States; this proposal is being examined by the Council at the moment. The other is a proposal for a Regulation on simplifying trade formalities within the Community; this has just been forwarded by the Commission.

2. As far as transfrontier transport is concerned (points 4, 9 to 12 and 14 to 17 of the European Parliament's resolution), the Council confirms its opinion that Community legislation on the carriage of passengers and goods by road does not create obstacles for crossing the Community's internal frontiers.

3. With regard to simplifying formalities and making frontier checks more flexible (points 1, 2, 6 and 7 of the European Parliament's resolution), the Council has just received from the Commission a proposal for a Directive on the facilitation of formalities and inspection in respect of the carriage of goods between Member States, together with an experts' report on difficulties encountered in international road, rail and inland waterway transport.

The Council will not fail to study both these documents very attentively, since facilitating frontier crossing is one of the priority subjects listed in the Council resolution of 26 March 1981 on the Council's proceedings on transport up to the end of 1983.

4. On the subject of identity checks, the Council would recall the resolution adopted on 23 June 1981 by the representatives of the Governments of the Member States, meeting within the Council, where it is stated that the establishment of a passport of uniform design is likely to facilitate the movement of nationals of the Member States.

In the interest of achieving a fuller passport union, the Commission has submitted to the Council a draft resolution on the easing of the formalities relating to checks on citizens of Member States at the Community's internal frontiers.

5. Turning to the measures advocated in the European Parliament's resolution, it may be pointed out that the Council has adopted the first Directive on the introduction of a Community driving licence. Moreover, the Council has in the past adopted a number of measures facilitating frontier crossing such as the Directive on summer-time arrangements, of which no mention is made in the European Parliament's resolution.

The Council would like to reassure the Honourable Member that its own subordinate bodies are continuing to scrutinize a number of the measures envisaged in the resolution mentioned by the Honourable Member, such

as the amount of fuel admitted duty-free and possible Community participation in financing infrastructure projects of Community interest.

6. Of the three proposals for Directives on tax matters referred to in the reply to Written Question No 1073/80, one, that concerning the raising of duty-free allowances for travellers, was adopted by the Council on 29 June 1982. Pursuant to that Directive, travellers within the Community will have a duty-free allowance of 210 ECU from 1 January 1983.

The proposals on the temporary imports of certain means of transport and permanent importation of personal property when moving house are still the subject of disagreement, mainly on two points: the definition of the 'normal residence', which is essential in deciding the place of taxation, and the adoption of Community measures to prevent fraud in connection with the duty-free importation of certain private means of transport.

7. As regards veterinary controls, the Council believes that the considerations set out in the reply to Written Question No 1073/80 are still valid as far as trade in animals under Directive 64/432/EEC ⁽¹⁾ is concerned.

In the case of checks in intra-Community trade in fresh meat as covered by Directive 64/433/EEC ⁽¹⁾ the relevant Council bodies are, at the request of a number of delegations and as part of an examination of a proposal for an amendment to that Directive, studying what means could be employed in order to confine checks to the identification and conformity of the documents accompanying meat and to simplify dispute procedures.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No 121, 29. 7. 1964.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 571/82

by Mr Cousté

to the Council of the European Communities

(1 June 1982)

Subject: Revision of the OECD Arrangement on export credit guarantees

Will the Council state what guidelines were adopted at the meeting of Finance Ministers on 26 April 1982 concerning the revision of the OECD Arrangement on export credit guarantees?

Answer

(6 October 1982)

1. At its meeting on 26 April 1982 on economic and financial questions the Council did, in fact, produce guidelines on the position to be adopted by the

Community in the negotiations to adjust several provisions of the 1978 Arrangement on guidelines for officially supported export credits. These guidelines were the subject of a formal Council Decision on 4 May 1982.

2. The definition of the Community's negotiating position had to take the following into account:

- firstly, certain provisions of the Arrangement had been amended with effect from 16 November 1981, but only for a period of six months,
- secondly, the unofficial talks held between the participants in the Arrangement at the beginning of March 1982 with a view to exploring solutions which could be substituted for the abovementioned amended provisions had revealed that revision of several other aspects of the Arrangement was also envisaged.

3. Concluding the negotiations which took place on 6 and 7 May 1982 between the participants in the Arrangement, the Chairman of the meetings of the participants, Mr Wallen, drew up a proposal for the revision of several of the provisions in the Arrangement. At its meeting on 14 June 1982 the Council asked the Commission to propose certain amendments to the above proposal. A revised proposal from Mr Wallen, dated 19 June 1982, was examined at the Council meetings on 23 and 30 June 1982.

4. At its meeting on 30 June 1982 the Council signified its agreement to the proposal dated 19 June 1982 from Mr Wallen, Chairman of the meetings of participants in the Arrangement on Guidelines for Officially Supported Export Credits, on the understanding that:

- (a) the no-derogation commitment in point 4 of Mr Wallen's proposal will take effect from 15 October 1982 and will cover all officially supported operations, irrespective of the form of support;
- (b) the amended credit terms for Category I outlined in Mr Wallen's proposal will not apply to Greece or Ireland until 1 May 1983. The Community will immediately hold the necessary consultations with the other participants in the Arrangement with a view to securing agreement on the transitional arrangements in question.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 611/82

by Mr Bord

to the Commission of the European Communities

(7 June 1982)

Subject: Canadian imports of footwear from Europe

The Canadian quota for imports of footwear from Europe which has been in force for three years has now

been lifted with respect to leather footwear but remains in force with respect to other footwear. What measures does the Commission intend to take to persuade Canada to abolish the quota altogether?

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

(6 October 1982)

When quotas on non-leather footwear were renewed by Canada on 1 December 1981 the Commission demanded immediate consultation within the framework of GATT. At this point the Canadian authorities were reminded of the fact that the compensation accepted by the Community following the previous renewal of overall quotas for one year in December 1980 was conditional on Canada restoring unrestricted access for Community footwear. The Commission therefore reserved the right to reopen the whole question of compensation for all the periods under quota. The consultations were kept open to enable the effect on Community non-leather footwear exports to be assessed.

In recent months it became apparent that the Canadian authorities were under pressure to reintroduce quotas on leather footwear and the Commission on a number of occasions drew the attention of the Canadian authorities to the serious consequences such a retrogression would entail.

On 9 July 1982 Canada reintroduced quotas on leather footwear. The Commission immediately requested a consultation within the framework of GATT. At this consultation held in Brussels on 27 July the Commission asked the Canadians to withdraw the measure reserving all Community rights on future action.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 623/82

**by Mr Pedini, Mr Arfé, Mr Cariglia, Mr Filippi,
Mrs Gaiotti de Biase and Mr Hahn
to the Council of the European Communities**

(7 June 1982)

Subject: Extent of cultural activities in the Community

The importance of cultural activities in the Community is increasing in terms of the effects of the involvement of young people and of the encouragement of social awareness and voluntary work among the elderly.

Does the Council of Ministers feel that it would be appropriate to create a Council of Ministers responsible for cultural affairs in the nations of the Community both in order to assess the possibilities of employment and,

where appropriate, possible Community action with regard to taxation and the exploitation of cultural assets at the European level?

Would such a Council of Ministers for cultural affairs be able to propose coordinated action to safeguard and preserve our cultural heritage, taking into account the economic and social value of these cultural elements particularly in the depressed areas of the Community?

Answer

(6 October 1982)

The Council agrees that certain activities of the kind referred to by the Honourable Member might be economically and socially advantageous. However, the requirements in order for such measures to be adopted in the Community framework are not at present met.

It should also be noted that provisions on cultural cooperation are envisaged in the draft European Act (the Genscher-Colombo Plan), currently still under consideration.

The Council would in addition point out that the European Foundation will be able in the course of its work to consider means by which Community countries can preserve and subsequently develop their common cultural heritage in the light of contemporary social and technological developments.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 642/82

by Mr Rogalla

to the Commission of the European Communities

(7 June 1982)

Subject: Obligation to hold a residence permit

1. Is the Commission aware of the legal position of officials leaving the active service of one of the institutions or of children of such officials who are no longer dependent and wish to remain resident in Belgium?

2. Has the Commission been informed of the difficulties and in some cases rude and dilatory treatment which persons in this position have had to face when applying for a residence permit in various Belgian communes?

3. Is the Commission aware of the fact for example, even when married to Belgians, Community officials' sons applying for a residence permit are required by the Belgian authorities to reveal the contents of their bank accounts, have their dwellings inspected and, although they may have held a Belgian driving licence for years, to refrain from driving a motor vehicle?

4. Is there any justification for the fact that an official whose son is married to a Belgian has to stand guarantor for his son to enable him to obtain a residence permit?

5. Is the Commission or its departments aware of cases where, under threat of expulsion, a person applying for a residence permit has been ordered to return to his country of origin, where the delivery of a residence permit has been delayed for a very long period, in many instances for more than a year or where the person concerned has been obliged to report to the communal authorities concerned every three months?

6. Does the Commission not agree that in cases such as those outlined above, the Belgian authorities have violated the relevant Community rules? In view of its duty to defend the interests of its officials is the Commission henceforth prepared to make vigorous representations to the Belgian Government with a view to securing the introduction of a procedure for the issue of residence permits to former Community officials and their relatives who have already been resident for many years in Belgium?

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

(8 October 1982)

The Commission is aware of the legal and administrative difficulties which sometimes arise for officials of the European institutions who leave active service and wish to remain resident in Belgium, and for members of their family who are no longer dependent on them.

Community rules apply to the non-dependent children of officials when they enter the labour market as wage-earners or self-employed persons. The Commission has always taken action when infringements have come to its attention.

As regards the more general problem of granting active and retired officials and members of their family the same rights as are conferred by Community rules on the free movement of persons, the Commission would draw the Honourable Member's attention to Case 152/82 now before the Court of Justice, which deals with problems similar to those raised by him.

The Commission has not been informed of specific cases of the type described in points 3 and 5 of the question. If the Honourable Member provides the necessary evidence, the Commission will of course raise the matter with the Belgian authorities and do all within its power to help those concerned.

Depending on any information it receives and on the judgment of the Court of Justice, the Commission may

also ask the Belgian authorities to consider the whole *de facto* and *de jure* situation raised by the Honourable Member.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 782/82

by Mrs Fuillet

to the Commission of the European Communities

(29 June 1982)

Subject: Mediterranean plan

The motion for a resolution on the establishment of a Mediterranean plan proposed in the Pöttering report was adopted on 16 February 1982.

The Commission was asked to draw up integrated development programmes for the severely disadvantaged Mediterranean regions and to draft proposals for the creation of a Development Fund for the Community's Mediterranean regions and Spain and Portugal.

The Commission was also requested to consider the advisability of establishing a European Development Company and present a proposal for a Council Regulation within three months.

Can the Commission state how far its work in this connection has progressed?

Does the Commission consider that these basic structures will be established before 1984, so that they may assist the Community in overcoming the problems of enlargement?

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

(6 October 1982)

During the debate on the resolution put forward by Mr Pöttering ⁽¹⁾, the Commission voiced agreement with the aims of the resolution, which are in full accordance with its own views on the situation in the Mediterranean regions, as set out in its report on the May Mandate of 1980.

On the basis of that report the Commission has now started to prepare proposals for the Council on integrated programmes of action to help these regions of the Community. Having laid down broad guidelines for the programmes, it has now framed a number of specific

⁽¹⁾ Debates of the European Parliament, No 1-280 (February 1982).

measures and intends to lay its proposals before Council and Parliament by the end of this year.

As regards the establishment of a development fund and a European Development Company, the Commission is currently considering how best to achieve the objectives set out in the Pöttering report – that is, how best to finance the planned measures and transfer the necessary technical and administrative know-how to the Mediterranean regions.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 793/82

by Sir John Stewart-Clark

to the Commission of the European Communities

(29 June 1982)

Subject: Concessionary rail travel within the European Community

Can the Commission give details of concessionary rail travel for pensioners of the respective national rail networks when travelling on the railways of other Member States?

Is it, for example, true that pensioners of British Rail may travel free in Italy, or even Canada, but not in France? Is there a logical reason for the varying concessions, and does the Commission consider that it would be much simpler if all European Community rail networks combined to offer the same concessions to this section of the Community's population?

**Supplementary answer given by Mr Contogeorgis
on behalf of the Commission ⁽¹⁾**

(8 October 1982)

Under the agreements concluded by the railways within the Committee dealing with International Travel facilities for Railway Staff (FIP), the FIP international concessionary rail card (30 % reduction on most European networks) is given to pensioners who were entitled to receive it for at least 10 years of their working life.

The conditions governing the issue of free travel passes are laid down by bilateral agreements concluded separately between networks on the basis of reciprocity. For example, pensioners from the Belgian and British

⁽¹⁾ A first answer was already given on 27. 8. 1982 (OJ No C 259, 4. 10. 1982, p. 24).

railways qualify for an annual pass for themselves and for members of their families.

The Commission does not intend to intervene in order to harmonize these arrangements which are determined by the staff policies specific to each railway network.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 800/82

by Mr Gérard Fuchs

to the Commission of the European Communities

(5 June 1982)

Subject: Economic relations between the EEC and South Africa

Those who favour maintaining the existing economic relations between the EEC and South Africa rely mainly on the argument that the Community is dependent on imports of South African raw materials.

Can the Commission state:

- whether the statistics in current use relate to the quantities of raw materials actually extracted in South Africa or whether they include amounts which are extracted in neighbouring countries and which have no connection with South Africa other than the fact that they pass in transit through that country?
- should the latter be the case, what is the exact breakdown by country of origin (Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, etc.) and by raw material as regards the principle imports usually referred to?

Is the Commission able to draw any conclusions from the replies given to the preceding questions?

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

(8 October 1982)

It is impossible to tell from the available statistics on imports from the Republic of South Africa whether any of those imports originate from neighbouring countries. Nevertheless, the information on mining and metallurgical production indicates that transit through South Africa of alloy metals such as chromium, manganese or vanadium can only be of marginal importance. Exports originating in neighbouring countries are generally recorded as such.

With regard to platinum and gold it should be noted that the data on the United Kingdom's imports from the Republic of South Africa are confidential. Nevertheless, it is likely that virtually all the Community's imports of platinum come from the Republic of South Africa.

In the case of uranium, whilst it is true that data on imports from South Africa also include appreciable quantities extracted in Namibia it is not possible from the data currently available to establish the breakdown requested by the Honourable Member.

The Commission is aware of the important role played by South Africa in supplying the Community with certain raw materials and considers that it is in the Community's interest to diversify its sources of supply to the greatest possible extent.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 807/82

by Mr Lomas and Mr Megahy
to the Council of the European Communities

(5 July 1982)

Subject: Spanish accession

Spain has recently put forward a document to the Community confirming that it would like a 10-year transition period in which to align its tariff levels to those of the Common External Tariff, and also a 10-year transition period regarding tariff concessions given to third countries of the Community.

What is the Council's view on this request and would a similar 10-year transition period be considered regarding movement of labour, capital and goods into Gibraltar?

Answer

(6 October 1982)

In view of the fact that negotiations are in progress on this matter and will be continuing, the Council would confine itself for the moment to noting that at this stage the positions of the two Parties in the accession negotiations on the question of the tariff transitional period raised by the Honourable Members are substantially different.

With respect to the *territorial scope* of the Community provisions, the Community has frequently stressed during the accession negotiations that this territorial scope is defined by the Community provisions on the matter and in particular by Article 227 of the EEC Treaty, as amended by Article 26 of the Act of Accession of 22 January 1972 and Article 20 of the Act of Accession of 28 May 1979.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 848/82

by Mrs Lizin
to the Commission of the European Communities
(8 July 1982)

Subject: Nuclear safety

Will the Commission state the methods used in each European country to monitor the knowledge of supervisory and technical staff?

Are there compulsory examinations in certain countries? If so, at what intervals and at what levels of responsibility?

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

(6 October 1982)

The Commission has already carried out surveys on the selection and training of nuclear power station staff as part of its policy on nuclear safety.

The extent of the data obtained from these surveys goes beyond the scope of an answer to a Parliamentary Question. The Commission will, however, make the information available to the Honourable Member for consultation in its departments.

The Commission would like to point out that, in accordance with the provisions of Article 24 of the Council Directive of 15 July 1980⁽¹⁾ amending the Directives laying down the basic safety standards for the health protection of the general public and workers against the dangers of ionizing radiation, the Member States are obliged to inform workers exposed to ionizing radiation of the risks that their work entails and to provide them with appropriate training. Article 24 of this Directive repeats verbatim the provisions of the previous Directives.

Under the terms of Article 33 of the Euratom Treaty, the Commission has examined the national draft laws, regulations and administrative provisions drawn up to ensure compliance with the basic safety standards, and is satisfied that these have been met.

The Honourable Member is also referred to the Commission's answer to Written Question No 1537/80 by Mr Coppieters⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 246, 17. 9. 1980.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 67, 26. 3. 1981.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 866/82

by Mrs Weber

to the Commission of the European Communities

(12 July 1982)

Subject: Charges for the use of kindergartens in the Member States

1. Are charges made for the use of kindergartens in all the Member States of the Community?
2. Are the charges flat rate or do they vary according to the parents' income?

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

(6 October 1982)

Although the study on pre-school education in the European Community published in 1980 as No 12 in the Commission's Education Series did not cover financial organization in any detail, it does indicate that in most Member States no direct parental contribution is required for the pre-school education of children in public-sector establishments. The Commission is making further enquires on the precise points raised by the Honourable Member and will communicate the results to her as soon as they are available.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 868/82

by Mrs Weber

to the Commission of the European Communities

(12 July 1982)

Subject: Refund of expenses relating to particular forms of therapy and measures to combat the risks posed by medicines

1. In which Community Member States are natural and homeopathic preparations treated separately for the purpose of reimbursing expenditure by:
 - (a) private sickness insurance schemes;
 - (b) official sickness insurance schemes or similar institutions, and what form does this take?
2. In which Member States are prescriptions issued by non-medical practitioners and particular forms of treatment such as acupuncture, Niehans' therapy and ozone therapy recognized by private or State insurance schemes and eligible for reimbursement?
3. Which other Member States have institutions similar to the German Bundesgesundheitsamt (Federal Office of Public Health) and what powers do they have?

4. Which Member States have introduced record sheets on the side-effects of medicines and is it intended to introduce a similar system throughout the Community?

5. The Federal Office of Public Health as part of its systematic plan to identify and combat the risks posed by medicines has recently investigated or commissioned studies on the side-effects and in particular the carcinogenic effects of a number of approved medicines and taken action in certain cases, e.g.:

- making Rauwolfia preparations and Rauwolfia alkaloids subject to prescription,
- withdrawing approval or removing from the market: aristolchia and preparations thereof; preparations containing boric acid, except for eyedrops; preparations containing chloroform or urethane;

and has announced similar measures covering other medicaments, particularly medicinal herbs.

6. Have similar measures also been adopted in other Member States and is there any provision for mutual information aimed at achieving harmonization?

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

(8 October 1982)

The Commission has certain general information on the organization of financing and of the services offered by the social security schemes in force in the Member States.

This information, *inter alia*, is set out in comparative tables of social security schemes which appear every two years.

All Member States keep lists of the types of pharmaceutical products (toothpastes, tonic wines, cosmetics, etc.) which are not reimbursed by the social security authorities or corresponding bodies. Homeopathic medicaments are not included on the lists of medicaments reimbursed under the social security schemes in the countries where such lists exist. In any event, the Commission has no detailed information at its disposal on the reimbursement of any particular type of medicament or medical treatment, whether this is done through official schemes or private insurance schemes. In pursuance of Community Directives⁽¹⁾, all Member States are required to evaluate the quality, safety and efficacy of medicaments. To that end, they have at their disposal the technical services of a Ministry of Health or

⁽¹⁾ Directive 65/65/EEC, OJ No 22, 9. 2. 1965; Directive 75/318/EEC, OJ No L 147, 9. 6. 1975; Directive 75/319/EEC, OJ No L 147, 9. 6. 1975.

of a specialized institution such as the Bundesgesundheitsamt. These services are competent to issue, suspend or revoke authorizations to market medicaments.

All Member States have set up monitoring schemes to detect the undesirable effects of medicaments. Any significant information emerging is circulated within the Community through the Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products or, in an emergency, through a network of persons to be contacted in connection with questions of the monitoring of medicaments, marketing authorizations or manufacturing errors. From an international standpoint, the World Health Organization, which relays such information, has devised a standard data sheet adapted to data-processing techniques.

The Bundesgesundheitsamt keeps the Commission and the Committee for Proprietary Medicinal Products regularly informed of any measures taken in the light of monitoring observations. Similar measures have also been taken by other Member States and notified through this Committee.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 891/82

by Mr Rogalla

to the Council of the European Communities

(20 July 1982)

Subject: Passport and other checks

Is the Council aware of the views of the citizens of Europe on the usefulness of passport and other checks at the Community's internal frontiers?

Have opinion surveys been carried out on this subject and is the Council prepared to include this question and appropriate sub-questions in the 'Eurobarometer'?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 893/82

by Mr Rogalla

to the Council of the European Communities

(20 July 1982)

Subject: Obstacles to passenger traffic

Does the Council agree that the Commission enjoys a wide-ranging right of initiative pursuant to Article 3 (c) of the EEC Treaty and is it prepared to ask the Commission within two months to put forward by the end of 1982 proposals or, where necessary, measures for the gradual removal of obstacles to passengers traffic so that they can be adopted and come into force by the end of 1988?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 894/82

by Mr Rogalla

to the Council of the European Communities

(20 July 1982)

Subject: Passport and other checks at the Community's external frontiers

When will the Council, if necessary, in conjunction with the Commission, consider how passport and other checks at the Community's external frontiers can best be organized at European level, once the existing obstacles to passenger traffic within the Member States, including what Foreign Minister Genscher has called the 'archaic' system of checks, have been abolished?

Joint answer to Written Questions Nos 891/82, 893/82 and 894/82 put by Mr Rogalla

(29 September 1982)

1. With regard to the abolition of checks at the Community's internal frontiers and the need to maintain some of them, the Council would refer the Honourable Member to its replies to Questions H-693/81 ⁽¹⁾ and 365/82 ⁽²⁾, as well as the reply to Question 483/82 ⁽³⁾ put by Mr Seefeld.

Furthermore, the Commission has already forwarded to the Council:

- a communication on the enlargement of the internal market containing a draft resolution on the simplification of frontier checks,
 - a draft resolution on the easing of the formalities relating to checks on persons at the Community's internal frontiers,
- which will be examined in detail by the relevant Council bodies.

2. It is not for the Council to decide what questions should be included in the 'Eurobarometer' surveys.

3. In the case of checks at the Community's external frontiers, the Council, while it is prepared to examine any proposal which the Commission might wish to submit on this question, would draw the Honourable Member's attention to the fact that uniformity of external frontier checks raises important questions such as that of a common visas policy.

⁽¹⁾ Debates of the European Parliament, No 1-280 (February 1982).

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 239, 13. 9. 1982, p. 2.

⁽³⁾ See page 3 of this Official Journal.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 932/82

by Mr Cousté

to the Council of the European Communities

(22 July 1982)

Subject: Changes to the agreement on guidelines for export credits

Now that the extra time the Council decided to give itself to consider the above matter has expired, will the Council state its position as regards the agreement on guidelines for export credits?

Answer

(29 September 1982)

The Honourable Member is referred to the Council's reply to his Written Question No 571/82 ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ See page 4 of this Official Journal.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 961/82

by Mr Rogalla

to the Council of the European Communities

(30 July 1982)

Subject: Internal market

Does the Council still have confidence in the expertise and diligence of its specialized personnel and that of the Member States, who, according to the Council's reply to a question put by Mr Pearce at the July 1982 part-session, are taking years to arrive at the necessary compromises on the Commission's proposals, although certain of the latter are straightforward and legally mandatory. What are the grounds for such confidence?

Answer

(6 October 1982)

The Council has already adopted a very large number of Directives and Regulations governing the whole area of customs legislation, and is convinced that this process of gradual harmonization, which is fundamental to the

achievement of an internal market, will continue to grow with the active assistance of all the bodies concerned at Community and national level.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 982/82

by Mr Marck

to the Council of the European Communities

(6 August 1982)

Subject: 1982/83 milk price

Instead of coming into force on 1 April, the 1982/83 milk price took effect some 50 days later causing a considerable loss of income to producers. An accompanying measure for milk stipulates that if production increases in 1982 by 0.5% compared with 1981 the intervention prices for butter and powdered milk may be lowered with a simultaneous reduction in the price paid for milk.

If the Council puts this measure into effect, would it then not be reasonable to take account of the losses suffered as a result of the belated implementation of the 1982/83 milk price?

Answer

(6 October 1982)

Owing to the difficulties arising in discussions on the fixing of agricultural prices for the 1982/83 marketing year, the Council was indeed obliged to extend the 1981/82 milk year a number of times with the result that the new prices could not come into force until 20 May 1982 instead of the scheduled date of 1 April.

In fixing prices for the 1982/83 milk year the Council did not decide to adopt the ancillary measure referred to by the Honourable Member. It did however take note of a Commission statement that, if the 1982 guarantee threshold were exceeded, the Commission would submit proposals to the Council for an appropriate reduction in intervention prices, to come into force on 1 April 1983.

In such an eventuality the Council would in due course take into consideration all relevant factors before coming to a decision on any Commission proposal for a cut in intervention prices. The European Parliament's opinion would also be sought on any such proposal.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 984/82

by Mr Fernandez

to the Commission of the European Communities

(6 August 1982)

Subject: Structure of labour costs in Community industry

In its answer to Written Question No 2035/80 ⁽¹⁾ by Mr Flanagan on the above subject the Commission provides a table showing the structure of labour costs in the years 1975 and 1978.

Could the Commission supplement this information by providing a similar table for the year 1981?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 103, 6. 5. 1981, p. 25.

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

(8 October 1982)

Community surveys of the structure of labour costs are conducted every three years. The results of the last survey – relating to 1981 – will not be available until 1983.

For the intermediate years the Commission updates the figure for total labour costs, but this work does not enable it to identify annual changes in the structure of these costs. Information about the updated costs for 1979 and 1980 was published by the Statistical Office of the European Communities in its statistical bulletin *Wages and Incomes*, 2-1982.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 992/82

by Mr Cousté

to the Council of the European Communities

(6 August 1982)

Subject: Reform of the ERDF

Does the Council plan to adopt in the near future the reform of the ERDF which is vital for the harmonious development of the European regions?

Answer

(6 October 1982)

During the first half of 1982 the Council bodies worked very intensively on the proposal for a Council Regulation amending Regulation (EEC) No 724/75 establishing a

European Regional Development Fund, submitted by the Commission on 29 October 1981.

On 26 April 1982, a few days after the European Parliament had delivered its opinion on this matter, the Council itself held an initial policy debate on this subject.

Subsequently, discussions have continued within Council bodies, and the Council will endeavour to reach a decision as soon as possible.

Nevertheless, as in the past, the ERDF continues to work in the interests of the harmonious development of the regions of the Community. Until it is amended, the Regulation establishing the ERDF will basically remain in force, thus enabling the Commission to continue to manage the Fund.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1004/82

by Mr Ansquer

to the Council of the European Communities

(6 August 1982)

Subject: Summary of the recent conclusions of the Council of Environment Ministers

Can the Council provide a summary of its conclusions in the environmental sector? Have practical measures been envisaged? Will they result in a better quality of life for both producers and consumers?

Answer

(6 October 1982)

At its most recent meeting on 24 June 1982, the Environment Council reached agreement on several Commission proposals, which were for:

- a Regulation on the implementation in the Community of the Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,
- a Directive on air quality standards for lead,
- a Directive on methods for the surveillance and monitoring of environment affected by waste from the titanium dioxide industry,
- a Decision on the consolidation of precautionary measures concerning chlorofluorocarbons in the environment.

These legal acts will be formally adopted in the near future and in some cases have to be taken into the national legislation of the Member States.

The decisions taken by the Council at its meeting on 24 June 1982 are in addition to other previous decisions, and together they constitute the various aspects of the environmental policy which the Community and its Member States have been following since that policy was first devised in 1972 and found expression in the 1973 and 1977 programmes of action.

The Council is convinced that these acts, along with the numerous other acts in the field of environmental protection which it has adopted or will adopt in the future, will contribute to improving the quality of life of the peoples of the Community.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1018/82

by Mrs Cinciari Rodano

to the Commission of the European Communities

(6 August 1982)

Subject: Equal education opportunities for girls: pilot projects

On 24 May 1982 the Council of Education Ministers agreed on the introduction of a new series of 25 Community pilot projects over the period 1983 to 1986. These projects are designed to back up national policies and are intended in particular to promote the active integration of school and extra-curricular activities in order to widen the social and vocational opportunities for preparing for working life.

The Education Committee, which planned the pilot projects, stressed that particular attention will have to be paid to young girls experiencing serious difficulties in entering working life.

In the light of these factors, and bearing in mind the European Parliament's resolution of 11 March 1982 on a Community programme in the education sector and its resolution of 12 May 1982 on the new Community action programme for the promotion of equal opportunities for women (1983 - 1985), can the Commission explain how these pilot projects will be designed to ensure genuine equality of opportunity for girls?

In this connection, will the Commission notify Parliament of these projects before they are finally approved, given that relatively few girls were able to benefit under the first series of pilot projects?

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

(8 October 1982)

The question of equal opportunities for girls in education has been taken into account in the Community action

programme on transition of young people to adult and working life. One of the priority themes of this five-year programme, which is now coming to its end, was the design and development of specific actions to ensure equal opportunities for girls.

Although only a few projects were specifically designed for girls, care had been taken that girls were equally represented in the programme without any discrimination.

At present the Commission is preparing a specific analysis of the experience of this programme as regards equal opportunities for girls; a summary of this analysis will be published in a special bulletin in 1983.

The emphasis on the improvement of opportunities for girls in education, training and access to work will be continued in the new programme of pilot projects on transition from education to adult and working life, approved by the Council and the Ministers of Education on 24 May 1982. The experience of the first programme will be taken into account in the implementation of the new programme, as will the principles of the new Community action programme for the promotion of equal opportunities for women (1982 - 1985).

On the basis of proposals to be elaborated jointly by the Commission and the national policy coordinators for the programme, the Education Committee will decide on details of the implementation of the programme early next year to enable the individual projects to start as planned at the beginning of the school year 1983/84.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1019/82

by Mrs Cinciari Rodano

to the Council of the European Communities

(6 August 1982)

Subject: Equal education opportunities for girls: pilot projects

On 24 May 1982 the Council of Education Ministers agreed on the introduction of a new series of 25 Community pilot projects over the period 1983 to 1986. These projects are designed to back up national policies and are intended in particular to promote the active integration of school and extra-curricular activities in order to widen the social and vocational opportunities for preparing for working life.

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In the light of these factors, and bearing in mind the European Parliament's resolution of 11 March 1982 on a Community programme in the education sector and its resolution of 12 May 1982 on the new Community action programme for the promotion of equal opportunities for women (1983 – 1985), can the Council explain how these pilot projects will be designed to ensure genuine equality of opportunity for girls?

In this connection, will the Council notify Parliament of these projects before they are finally approved, given that relatively few girls were able to benefit under the first series of pilot projects?

Answer

(6 October 1982)

The report from the Education Committee on education and training in the context of the employment situation in the European Community was agreed by the Council and the Ministers of Education meeting within the Council on 24 May 1982. It points to the problems of stereotyped attitudes and discrimination, *inter alia*, against girls which have been aggravated by the current economic situation.

The Member States will therefore be considering those problems when they come to put forward their suggestions regarding pilot projects for inclusion in the new series referred to in the resolution of the Council and of the Ministers for Education concerning measures to be taken to improve the preparation of young people for work and to facilitate their transition from education to working life, adopted on 12 July 1982 ⁽¹⁾.

It will be for the Education Committee to decide on the whole of the new series of pilot projects and oversee it under the procedures in section II of the resolution of 9 February 1976 comprising an action programme in the field of education ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 193, 28. 7. 1982.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 38, 19. 2. 1976.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1025/82

by Mr Michel

to the Council of the European Communities

(11 August 1982)

Subject: Dangerous cosmetics

The Commission has set up a Scientific Committee composed of leading experts on toxicology from the

Member States, and has until recently followed its recommendations.

For the first time, however, the Commission has ignored the opinion of the toxicologists it chose to consult, who recommended banning a hair dye which has been shown to be mutagenic and may also cause cancer.

The Commission claims that it decided not to act on the toxicologists' opinion in order to take account of the interests of the industry concerned. But that opinion was very much in the industry's favour, since it was prepared temporarily to tolerate other substances on which it stated that the toxicological data were unsatisfactory (so much so that some Member States have had to apply the safeguard clause to comply with Article 3 of the Directive).

1. In view of the fact that the Commission consulted the industry concerned, but has at no time consulted workers' representatives responsible for industrial health and hygiene, nor even its own advisory committee on such questions, is the Council prepared to obtain the opinion of representatives of those who handle these products every day in hairdressing salons, before it takes a decision?
2. Is it prepared to ensure that in future the Commission consults not only the industry involved, but also the workers, whose interests are no less legitimate?

Answer

(6 October 1982)

The Council would point out to the Honourable Member that, when framing a proposal, it is for the Commission alone to decide which experts it considers should be consulted at *Community level*.

For the purposes of discussion of a Commission proposal in the Council, the Member States' authorities can at *national level* undertake any consultation of experts they might deem to be necessary or relevant.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1037/82

by Mr Herman

to the Commission of the European Communities

(11 August 1982)

Subject: Own resources

In answer to my Written Question No 213/82 ⁽¹⁾ concerning a Commission proposal relating to

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 174, 12. 7. 1982, p. 15.

irregularities in connection with own resources, the Commission stated that on 22 July 1981 it decided to allow itself time to consider this matter while the system proposed by the Member States was put to the test.

The Commission decided to wait until the middle of 1982 before drawing any conclusions.

Can the Commission say whether, after this period of reflection, it now intends to propose new rules to prevent irregularities occurring in the collection of own resources?

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

(8 October 1982)

The Commission is in the process of assessing the results achieved by Council Regulation (EEC) No 1468/81⁽¹⁾ requiring Member States to ensure correct application of the law on customs and agricultural matters. It will inform Parliament of its findings and any measures it may see fit to take.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 144, 2. 6. 1981, p. 1.

CORRIGENDA

Corrigendum to the answer given to Written Question No 754/82 by Mrs Lizin
(*Official Journal of the European Communities* No C 245, 20 September 1982)

Page 17, the first paragraph of the answer should read as follows:

'The number of bovine animals slaughtered for brucellosis in the Community during the years 1980 - 1981 was 539 107.'
