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European Parliament

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I

(Information)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWER

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1321/82**by Mr Michael Welsh (ED – GB)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(15 October 1982)**Subject: GSP benefits*

In its answers to my previous questions on this subject (1061/81 ⁽¹⁾, 1680/81 ⁽²⁾ and now 710/82 ⁽³⁾), the Commission makes it clear that it is anxious not to influence operators in countries benefiting from the GSP in their decision on sourcing raw and semi-finished materials. This means that if a semi-finished EEC product is finished in an ACP, EFTA or Mediterranean associate country, the final product will enjoy duty-free treatment in the EEC, whereas the reverse will be true in the case of a GSP country.

1. Does the Commission feel that this discrimination against GSP countries, as opposed to members of EFTA, the Lomé Convention and Mediterranean associate countries is justified?
2. If it is of such vital importance to avoid influencing the purchases of raw and semi-finished products from GSP countries, what are the different considerations which make it so much less vital in the case of Lomé Convention countries?
3. Why should GSP beneficiaries be denied the benefits of diagonal cumulation enjoyed now by EFTA countries?

**Answer given by Mr Narjes
on behalf of the Commission***(26 January 1983)*

1. The Honourable Member is asked to refer to the answer to point 1 of Written Question No 710/82, which the Commission has already given him.

The Commission would moreover draw the Honourable Member's attention to the fact that the beneficiary countries, with a few exceptions, are not applicants for bilateral cumulation (or 'donor country content').

2 and 3. The Lomé Convention and the agreements with the Mediterranean and EFTA countries have a broader objective regarding the promotion of industrial and commercial cooperation than the generalized system of preferences (GSP), and the provisions on bilateral cumulation to which the Honourable Member refers are one of the instruments for achieving that objective.

However, as it has already pointed out in its answer to point 2 of Written Question No 710/82, the Commission does not rule out the possibility of considering adjustments to the current GSP rules of origin.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1609/82**by Sir James Scott-Hopkins (ED – GB)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(18 November 1982)*

Subject: Use of quota section payments of European Regional Fund in the United Kingdom

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 333, 21. 12. 1981, p. 32.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 126, 17. 5. 1982, p. 6.

⁽³⁾ OJ No C 262, 6. 10. 1982, p. 12.

What proportion of UK payments by the European Regional Fund in 1982 went to public utilities in the United Kingdom?

**Supplementary answer given by Mr Giolitti
on behalf of the Commission**

(21 March 1983)

Further to its answer of 26 January 1983 ⁽¹⁾, the Commission is now able to provide the Honourable Member with the following information.

Payments from the European Regional Development Fund, Quota Section, during the 1982 financial year to public utilities in the United Kingdom amounted to £ 27 million. This represents 30,4 % of payments made in respect of UK infrastructure projects and 25 % of all ERDF quota payments for both infrastructure and industry projects.

The public utilities concerned are those bodies in England and Wales responsible for the supply of water, gas, electricity, and telecommunications, and in Scotland and Northern Ireland for gas, electricity, and telecommunications. In Scotland and Northern Ireland, the responsibility for water supply is vested in the local authorities (Scottish Regional Authorities) and in the Northern Ireland Office respectively, which have therefore not been included as public utilities.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 62, 7. 3. 1983, p. 14.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1632/82

by Mr Allan Rogers (S – GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(23 November 1982)

Subject: Coal supplies

1. Is the Commission aware that Ireland has received new loans from the European Investment Bank for the construction of a coal-fired power station?
2. Will the Commission state what the coal source will be for this power station?
3. Will the Commission state where Ireland currently gets its coal supplies?

4. Will the Commission ensure that, when EEC loans or aid are provided for such projects, the coal is supplied from Member States?

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

(28 February 1983)

1. The loans to which the Honourable Member refers were made by the European Investment Bank for the construction of the Moneypoint coal-fired power station and were duly approved by the Commission, as required by Article 21 of the Bank's Statutes. The Commission has also approved another loan for the same project, based on Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty.

2 and 4. The first units at the station are scheduled to go into service in 1986.

The Commission understands that no decisions have been taken on the coal source as yet.

On the EIB loans, the Commission refers the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question No 1428/81 by Mr Moreland ⁽¹⁾ and emphasizes that there exists an international trade in coal. Many electricity distributors — particularly in Member States with no, or insufficient, coal reserves of their own — regard free access to supplies as essential for optimum, economic operation of their coal-fired plant.

As for the loans granted under Article 54 of the ECSC Treaty, the contract must contain an undertaking by the investor that the plant's total annual coal burn will include Community coal proportionate to the share of the total investment covered by the loan from the Commission.

3. In 1981 Ireland drew its coal supplies from the following sources:

| | ('000 tonnes) |
|---|---------------|
| Indigenous production | 69 |
| Community coal (of which English coal: 443) | 504 |
| Non-Community coal (of which: coal from the USA 585 coal from Poland 184) | 787 |
| Total | 1 360 |

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 65, 15. 3. 1982.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1742/82**by Mrs Ursula Schleicher (PPE – D)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(10 December 1982)*

Subject: The Federal Department of Health in Germany

Do institutions similar to the West German Federal Department of Health exist in other countries of the European Community and, if so, in which countries and what are their functions?

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

(10 March 1983)

The Federal Department of Health is a higher federal authority as specified in Article 87 (3) of the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany and was set up by an Act dated 27 February 1952 as one of the responsibilities of the Federal Minister for Youth, Family Affairs and Health. Its main tasks are to advise the federal and Land parliaments and governments, to conduct scientific research into public health matters and to perform special administrative tasks assigned to it by a number of individual federal laws, the main ones being the Medicines and Drugs Act, the Chemicals Act and the Federal Epidemics Act.

The Federal Department of Health is therefore mainly involved in providing scientific advice, conducting research and performing central administrative tasks in individual areas. There is no direct equivalent for this combination of tasks in the other Member States, where administrative tasks of the type performed by the Federal Department of Health are normally reserved for national ministries, while research is conducted and advice provided by public institutions, including some which are outside universities, in ways very similar to those adopted by the Federal Department of Health.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1796/82**by Mrs Raymonde Dury (S – B)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(17 December 1982)*

Subject: Measures for gypsies

The resolution of 1976 initiating a Community programme in the field of education and the various Decisions and Implementing Regulations governing the European Social Fund do not appear to provide for specific Community measures for gypsies, although the latter form a significant section of society and one of the least favoured in respect of education and training.

1. Can the Commission say what measures have already been taken for the benefit of gypsies?
2. Does the Commission not consider that, in conjunction with either a programme of measures to facilitate the transition from school to employment or a review of the European Social Fund, it would at least be appropriate to initiate a series of Community pilot projects?

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

(10 March 1983)

1. Under the European Social Fund, the Commission has financed three pilot projects on the training of gypsies in the following places: St. Kieran's, Ireland; Oldenzaal Commune, the Netherlands; Bremen, Federal Republic of Germany.

In connection with the St. Kieran's experiment, the section of the Fund devoted to regional aid has for three years been providing assistance for the training of 150 gypsies in Ireland. If other initiatives eligible for assistance under the European Social Fund are proposed, the Commission will examine the possibility of supporting them.

2. The Commission intends to have a study made on problems relating to the literary education and access to vocational training of gypsies and the schooling of their children. The Commission will consider what action may be taken in the light of this report.

Although the second programme on the transition from education to working life makes no reference to gypsies, it is possible that some pilot projects at present being discussed with a view to inclusion in the programme take account of certain specific problems concerning the children of gypsies in so far as these families live in or are passing through districts in which the projects are located.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1811/82

by Mr Dieter Rogalla (S – D)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(17 December 1982)

Subject: Monetary Union

1. Is the Commission aware of the facilities offered by the Member States for obtaining motor fuel at night on major European motorways, especially the E3 and E5?
2. Does the Commission know that petrol stations in the Netherlands close at night and that the all-night service pumps can be operated only with Dutch bank notes?
3. Could the Commission use this situation as an opportunity to introduce a number of ECU bank notes to be valid throughout the Community and handled by the banks in the same ways as Eurocheques?

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

(21 March 1983)

The Commission set out its views on the creation of an ECU bank note in its answer to Written Question No 1810/82 by the Honourable Member ⁽¹⁾. However, it would like to add the following on the particular point raised in the present question.

After making inquiries with a number of banks that are very active in ECU transactions, the Commission has found that the creation of monetary instruments denominated in ECU, such as travellers' cheques, could be considered only if there were sufficiently clear demand; this would at any rate have to be on a larger scale than that referred to by the Honourable Member. Furthermore, the growing use of other monetary instruments such as cash cards and credit cards casts doubt on the future development of any such demand.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 111, 25. 4. 1983.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1887/82

by Mr Reinhold Bocklet (PPE – D)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(14 January 1983)

Subject: EUROP classification scheme

In Regulation (EEC) No 1208/81 determining the Community scale for the classification of carcases of adult bovine animals ⁽¹⁾, the European Community has a system that appears to be Europe-oriented but is in fact totally impractical, as experience to date has shown. The Commission has now submitted a working document on a proposal for a Council Regulation determining the Community scale for the classification of pigs that dispenses with the EUROP classification system.

1. What are the reasons for the Commission's decision not to use the EUROP classification system?
2. Do these reasons mean that the Commission will initiate a review of Regulation (EEC) No 1208/81 with the aim of abolishing the EUROP classification scheme on account of the previous negative experience?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 123, 7. 5. 1981, p. 3.

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

(21 February 1983)

The Commission does not share the view of the Honourable Member and would like to underline that the grid is used to classify different categories of cattle based on two quality criteria, conformation and fat cover.

This classification which makes no value judgment about any class enhances considerably the transparency of the market which has advantages for producers, buyers and sellers.

The EUROP system has never been applied in the pigmeat sector. The reason for the new proposal in the pigmeat sector is to take advantage of the most recent technological developments.

It is important not to confuse the classification in the beef and pigmeat sectors. The experience in classification in the beef sector is not bad as the Honourable Member alleges. Five Member States have been applying their own national carcase classification schemes for some years now, classification has been used for intervention purchases in certain Member States and since 28 June 1982 parallel price

recording is done in all Member States except the Federal Republic of Germany where it started on 1 January 1983. Following visits by the Commission's and national experts to all Member States, the Commission would emphasize the very positive views expressed by all the experts concerned as to how well the classification grid was functioning, its usefulness and desirability.

The Commission is confident that the progress being made with the implementation of the classification grid is very satisfactory and does not intend to make any major modification to Regulation (EEC) No 1208/81.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1900/82

by Mr Robert Moreland (ED – GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(14 January 1983)

Subject: Research and development in the ceramics sector

Following the Council's Decision of 17 May 1982 adopting a research and development programme (1982 to 1985) in the raw materials sector, will the Commission say:

1. what steps it is taking to implement sub-programme I.4 on clay-based materials for the ceramics industry and sub-programme IV.6 on technical ceramics;
2. what measures are being taken to ensure that research in the ceramics sector is oriented towards improving techniques that will help the industry compete with the Far East, as specified in the European Parliament's resolution of 18 December 1981;
3. how it is taking account of Parliament's recommendations that funds be procured rapidly and fully utilized, and that research programmes be integrated as far as possible and not operate as *ad hoc* programmes;
4. what it is doing as regards full involvement of the ceramics industry in ensuring that the programme responds to the needs of that industry?

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

(18 March 1983)

1. For the implementation of the ceramics programme (clay-based materials and technical ceramics), the Commission has published an invitation to submit proposals. It has examined these with the assistance of the Advisory Committee on Programme Management (ACPM) and is now negotiating contracts with the successful applicants.

With the limited budget available for contracts in this field (4,5 million ECU compared with applications for financial support amounting to 20,4 million ECU) a stringent selection had to be made out of the 120 proposals received: about 45 contracts will be concluded.

2. In selecting the proposals to be funded, care was taken to ensure that they would address problems of direct importance to the competitiveness of the ceramics industry, such as the reduction in fabrication faults and the development of new ceramics materials.

In the field of technical ceramics, preference was given to those proposals with a high degree of technical innovation in particular for new ceramics, such as carbides, nitrides or oxides of silicon, zirconium or aluminium, for future applications in adiabatic diesel engines, gas turbines or electronic devices.

3. Funds available are being committed as rapidly as possible, but, as already mentioned, they are insufficient to cover all the proposals deserving support. A special effort is being made to coordinate related projects originating from several Member States. Contact groups of contractors are being established to further this coordination in the two main areas of the programme: clay-based materials and technical ceramics.

4. The ceramics industry is and will be involved in the implementation of the research programme in several ways: initial consultation in the formulation of the programmes, membership in the Advisory Committee, invitation to specialized meetings and seminars to discuss results and make use of them in the industry.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1913/82

by Mr Richie Ryan (PPE – IRL)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(14 January 1983)

Subject: Payment of Social Fund grants in Dublin City and County

What proportion in value of Social Fund grants

paid to Ireland has been in respect of operations in Dublin City and County, where there is the greatest number of unemployed persons in Ireland, and will the Commission support measures to increase the amount of Social Fund grants payable in the Dublin region?

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

(14 March 1983)

Ireland as a whole is classified as a region of absolute priority and, under the Rules of the Social Fund, benefits from a rate of intervention which is 10% higher than the normal rate.

The four major beneficiaries in Ireland (ANCO — the Industrial Training Authority, the Industrial Development Authority, the National Rehabilitation Board and the Department of Education) all present national programmes which are not broken down on a regional basis and consequently it is not possible to state what proportion of Social Fund grants are paid in respect of operations in Dublin City and County.

It is for the appropriate institutions in Ireland to present eligible operations for the Dublin region.

in particular Article 76 and Title VII of Lomé-II (financial and technical cooperation), are available for this purpose, to be used according to the priorities established by the recipient countries.

The Commission encourages any justified exploitation of the geothermal resources available to certain ACP States.

The Community is currently involved in the following projects:

Ethiopia

Fourth and fifth EDFs:

geothermal research (borehole programme and associated training) — a more detailed description of this project is being sent direct to the Honourable Member and the Parliament secretariat.

Djibouti

Fifth EDF:

proposed exploratory study with a view to preparing concrete projects connected with the electrification of the country.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1927/82

by Mr Gérard Fuchs (S – F)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(14 January 1983)

Subject: European Development Fund

Can the Commission indicate the number and type of projects in which the EDF is involved in the exploration or utilization of geothermal energy sources in ACP countries? Does it intend to pursue a systematic research and development policy in this area?

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

(18 March 1983)

One of the development priorities backed by the Commission is to make the ACP States self-sufficient in energy by diversifying the means of energy production and developing national and regional resources. The provisions of the Lomé Conventions,

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1935/82

by Mr Jaak Vandemeulebroucke (CDI – B)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(14 January 1983)

Subject: Steel production quota for the first quarter of 1983

The quotas for Community steel production were recently established for the first quarter of 1983.

Can the Commission say what quota was allocated to Belgium and provide a breakdown per unit of production in Belgium?

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

(18 March 1983)

Article 2 (4) of Commission Decision No 1696/82/ECSC of 30 June 1982 (1) states that:

'For the purposes of this Decision, any group of concentrated undertakings within the meaning of Article 66 of the Treaty shall be regarded as a single undertaking even if such undertakings are located in different Member States.'

This has the consequence (a) that the quotas allocated to certain Belgian undertakings include quotas relating to production by certain plants located in the Community but outside Belgium and (b) that quotas relating to certain Belgian production units located within Belgium have been allocated to foreign undertakings located outside Belgian frontiers.

The apportionment of quota allocations among production units within the same undertaking is clearly a matter to be decided by the management of that undertaking and is determined by its commercial and industrial strategy.

Owing to these circumstances, and to the confidential nature of such information, it is not possible to inform the Honourable Member more fully.

(¹) OJ No L 191, 1. 7. 1982, p. 4.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1937/82

by Mr Roger-Gérard Schwartzberg (S - F)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(18 January 1983)

Subject: Campaign against the grape-leaf roller

As part of the campaign against some insects which have the most destructive effect on vines, the 'grape-leaf rollers', researchers from the INRA (National Agricultural Research Institute) in Bordeaux are carrying out laboratory experiments on a new form of 'sexual confusion' designed to prevent by chemical means the mating of these vine parasites. Unfortunately it would appear that the researchers do not have sufficient financial resources to continue their experiments on a large scale.

Could the Commission not provide aid for the Bordeaux INRA researchers as part of the aid given to the south-west?

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

(16 March 1983)

To avoid confusion, the Commission would remind the Honourable Member that the Community aid to the three regions of France known as the 'Grand sud-ouest' is being granted under a specific regional

development measure covered by the non-quota section of the EDF. The purpose of the measure is to encourage the development of small and medium-sized businesses and to promote industrial innovation and tourism in rural areas; there is no provision for assistance towards agricultural research.

The Commission is fully aware, however, of the problems caused by various crop pests, including the grape-leaf rollers. Under Council Decision 78/902/EEC of 30 October 1978 adopting joint research programmes and programmes for coordinating agricultural research (¹), the Commission set up a research programme in 1979 on biological and integrated control with the specific aim of reducing the use of pesticides by techniques such as the one referred to by the Honourable Member. Under the current programme, scheduled to run until 31 December 1983, the vine was not on the list of priority crops adopted by mutual agreement by the Commission and the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR) in which France's representative is the Director-General of the INRA.

But there is still a chance for this research to be funded under the scheme for the coordination of agricultural research because the same two bodies — the Commission and the SCAR — are now preparing the next five-year programme, to run from 1984 to 1988; it is possible that biological and integrated control in wine-growing could be included. Proposals inviting tenders under the new programme will be issued in 1983 through the national delegations to the SCAR. Applications for funds for research meeting the conditions of the proposal inviting the tender must be sent to the French delegation to the SCAR before the closing date.

(¹) OJ No L 316, 10. 11. 1978, p. 37.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1943/82

by Mr Mario Zagari and Mr Gaetano Arfè (S - I)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 January 1983)

Subject: Situation in the Marche region of Italy

In view of the serious situation in the Marche, where

between 2 000 and 3 000 people are now homeless following a landslide which has made hundreds of homes uninhabitable and also affected hospitals and essential public services, what measures has the Commission taken to assist the victims of a calamity which constantly threatens to become more serious?

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

(15 March 1983)

On 12 January 1983 the Commission decided to grant 300 000 ECU in emergency aid to the people of the city of Ancona, following the landslide which occurred there on 14 December 1982. The aid was paid out on 14 January, and Commission staff have already visited the area to decide with the local authorities how it can be used to provide rapid assistance to the victims.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1946/82

by Sir James Scott-Hopkins (ED – GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 January 1983)

Subject: Inflation

What was the level of inflation over the last three months on an annual basis in each of the 10 Member States?

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

(18 March 1983)

The rate of inflation as measured by the 'Consumer Price Index', over the last three months calculated on an annual basis, was as follows in each of the Member States:

| | October 1982/81 | November 1982/81 | December 1982/81 |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Federal Republic of Germany | 4,9 | 4,7 | 4,6 |
| France | 9,3 | 9,4 | 9,8 |
| Italy | 17,1 | 16,6 | 16,2 |
| Netherlands | 4,8 | 4,4 | 4,2 |
| Belgium | 9,8 | 8,9 | 8,1 |
| Luxembourg | 10,4 | 10,8 | 10,4 |
| United Kingdom | 6,8 | 6,2 | 5,4 |
| Ireland ⁽¹⁾ | | 12,3 | |
| Denmark | 10,6 | 10,1 | 9,0 |
| Greece | 20,0 | 19,9 | 19,1 |
| EUR-10 | 10,0 | 9,7 | 9,4 |

⁽¹⁾ Fourth quarter 1982 compared with fourth quarter 1981.

These figures are published by the Statistical Office of the European Communities in the monthly bulletin 'Consumer Price Index'.

The name of the Honourable Member has been put on the mailing list for this publication.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1947/82

by Mrs Mechthild von Alemann (L – D)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 January 1983)

Subject: Closer integration of frontier populations and frontier regions

1. How does the Commission view the Federal Republic of Germany's failure to recognize Dutch school-leaving examinations (e.g. the 'Atheneum' examination taken by a girl who is a German national living on the German-Dutch border and who attended the Dutch school only a few kilometres away) in the light of the need for closer integration of frontier populations and frontier regions?

2. What steps does the Commission intend to take to ensure mutual recognition of German and Dutch school-leaving qualifications?

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

(15 March 1983)

1. The Commission shares the view of the Honourable Member that there should be closer trans-frontier cooperation in the field of education in frontier regions, particularly where two or more of the Member States are involved, as for example, in the Euregio region (Aachen-Liège-Maastricht) linking the frontier regions of the Federal Republic of Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. The Commission has actively encouraged the development of such cooperation, particularly in the field of higher education, through the development of joint programmes of study involving higher education institutions in the different Member States in such regions.

2. The recognition of school-leaving diplomas leading to admission to universities and other institutions of higher education is governed by the Council of Europe Convention of 11 December 1953, to which all Member States of the European Communities are signatories. In addition, it is understood that a bilateral convention between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands for the mutual recognition of diplomas awarded in the two countries has been drawn up, but has not yet been signed. Furthermore, the Commission draws the attention of the Honourable Member to the work of the *Kommission für Deutsch-Niederländische Zusammenarbeit in Hochschulangelegenheiten*, which is concerned with resolving problems of trans-frontier cooperation in the educational field between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1957/82

by Mr John Purvis (ED – GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 January 1983)

Subject: Comparative costs of veterinary drugs

Can the Commission provide information on the comparative costs of veterinary drugs between Member States and also compared to the USA?

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

(17 March 1983)

Statistics on the production of or the trade in phar-

maceuticals usually show no distinction between medicines for human and veterinary medicines.

However, it is considered that, on average, drugs account for between 1 and 1,5% of stock-farming costs in the Member States.

Furthermore, at a recent symposium held by the pharmaceuticals industry, the figures below were put forward as representing 'animal health' sales by drug companies. These figures are estimates for 1981 and they represent basically sales of veterinary medicines in all the Member States except Greece, Luxembourg and Ireland.

(approximate value in ECU)

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Belgium | 54 000 000 |
| Federal Republic of Germany | 200 000 000 |
| Denmark | 28 000 000 |
| France | 229 000 000 |
| Italy | 139 000 000 |
| Netherlands | 81 000 000 |
| United Kingdom | 183 000 000 |

By way of comparison, in 1981 sales of pharmaceutical preparations for veterinary use amounted to 541 million ECU in the United States.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1963/82

by Sir Fred Warner (ED – GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 January 1983)

Subject: Community standard for CB users

As the French Government is liberalizing its standards on CB by sanctioning the use of 40 channels spread over AM, FM and SSB from 1 January 1983, and as the UK Government continues to sanction use of FM channels only and to prohibit import of rigs with other capabilities, contrary to Articles 30 to 36 of the EEC Treaty, can the Commission say what action it is taking to achieve a Community standard for CB users so that they can take their rigs from one Member State to another and use them freely there?

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

(15 March 1983)

The Honourable Member suggests that the actions of the UK Government are contrary to Articles 30 to

36 of the EEC Treaty. The Commission has not yet reached any such conclusion. The fact is that the Member States each allege particular interests (including public order, public safety) in support of their individual rules. If proved, these matters would permit an exception to Article 30.

The Commission has therefore looked into the question whether there is evidence to support the contentions of the Member States and has discussed the matter with certain of the Member States whose rules are complained of, with CB users and with a representative of the body primarily responsible at European level for questions of standards for radio equipment and allocation of radio frequencies, the CEPT (European Conference of Posts and Telecommunications).

It has also had an expert study done, details of which were communicated to the Parliament in late 1982.

Some of the relevant evidence has still to be made available to the Commission; no final decision on the Articles 30 to 36 issue is yet possible.

The CEPT discussed a new recommendation on CB radio at the beginning of 1983. It is hoped that it will be formally adopted later in the year. The Commission hopes to be able to base its own initiatives on this new document.

In the meantime, the Commission also proposes to take action independently of the CEPT recommendation on the more specific question of difficulties in crossing frontiers in vehicles fitted with CB equipment.

It has concluded that certain penalties imposed on such occasions for more possession of non-conforming equipment are unjustifiable under Articles 30 to 36, and will take infringement proceedings in appropriate cases. The Member States are being informed of these conclusions and invited to take the necessary steps to abolish the offending practices.

The primary effect of this initial action will be to enable people to move freely within the Community without dismantling the CB equipment in their cars. It should have the further effect in a significant number of cases of ensuring that equipment approved in one Member State can actually be used in another — this is, however, unlikely to be so where the case involves the United Kingdom. That situation must await either the final decision on the

Articles 30 to 36 issue or a successful Commission initiative based on the CEPT's planned new recommendation.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1966/82

by Mr Protogene Veronesi (COM — I)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 January 1983)

Subject: JRC — Ispra — relations with the European Parliament

In view of the fact that, on 24 November 1982 the management of the JRC laboratories in Ispra issued a staff notice (No LS/NS/12/82), signed by G. R. Bishop, on the subject of 'Relations with the European Parliament', informing staff that any contacts or meetings between officials and staff and Members of the European Parliament must be the subject of a report to be submitted to Mr T. A. Dinkespil, Director of the Centre:

1. does the Commission not consider that this measure is detrimental to:
 - (a) the dignity of Members of the European Parliament, particularly as regards their duties as elected representatives of the citizens of the Community;
 - (b) freedom of political information, for which direct exchanges between Members of Parliament and officials and staff of the laboratories are a prerequisite?
2. will the Commission withdraw immediately this staff notice, as it could induce the public to draw the most diverse, and in some cases disturbing, conclusions about the activities of the JRC?

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

(16 March 1983)

The sole purpose of the staff notice to which the Honourable Member refers is to remind officials of the coordination rules which apply within the Commission's departments.

This internal coordination is necessary if exchanges between Commission officials and Members of Par-

liament on official matters of a topical nature are to be of value to both institutions.

The Commission regrets that the intention of the document in question has been wrongly interpreted by the Honourable Member.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1967/82

by Mrs Vera Squarcialupi (COM – I)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 January 1983)

Subject: Prevention of 'Cooley's disease' or Mediterranean anemia

It is estimated that there are more than 180 million carriers of Cooley's disease — also known as thalassemia or Mediterranean anemia — in the world and that 100 000 children affected by the disease are born each year. In Europe alone it is estimated that there are almost five million carriers and about 2 500 children born with the disease, almost all of them in Italy and Greece.

The disease, considered by the World Health Organization to be one of those needing to be combated most intensively, causes appreciable changes to many of the patient's organs, breaks down natural defences and leads quickly to death.

The only way of combating this serious disease is through prevention, notably by means of prenatal diagnosis, particularly when the parents are carriers of Mediterranean anemia.

Prenatal diagnosis has already produced encouraging results. In the United Kingdom, where it has been practised for five years, thalassaemia births have fallen by 80%; in Sardinia they have fallen by 60%, in Greece by 50% and in Cyprus by 77%.

Does the Commission not consider that the following measures would be useful in combating this disease:

- (a) organizing an intensive information campaign throughout the European Community aimed at young couples in particular, encouraging or making compulsory premarital check-ups;
- (b) coordinating research in this field into both methods of prevention and more effective and less-costly cures?

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

(16 March 1983)

The Commission is aware of the interest aroused by the problem referred to by the Honourable Member. The Commission will, as from July 1983, therefore be coordinating most of the activities pursued by the Member States in this particular field of research. This coordination will come under the sectoral research and development programme in the field of medical and public health research (1982 to 1986).

Annex I to Council Decision 82/616/EEC ⁽¹⁾ mentions, under the 'pre-, peri- and postnatal care' research area, the screening of haemoglobinopathies by standardization or improvement of existing methodologies, as well as by studies on early detection and treatment.

However, other priorities in the field of public health and budget restrictions do not allow the Commission to consider organizing any information campaign on pre-marriage check-ups at Community level.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 248, 24. 8. 1982, p. 12.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1970/82

by Mr Yves Galland (L – F)

to the Council of the European Communities

(18 January 1983)

Subject: The PLO and the recognition of Israel

On 29 November 1982 a statement was published at the United Nations to the effect that the countries of the EEC supported Palestinian self-determination at the same time as Israel's right to existence and the mutual recognition of all the parties concerned.

It is surprising to find, however, that on the same day, Monday, 29 November 1982, Mr Ibrahim Souss, PLO representative in France, declared in the course of a day of solidarity with the Palestinian people that the PLO would 'never recognize Israel'.

Has Europe reacted to these official statements and does the Council think that the Community should

maintain the same position on the problem of the Middle East?

**Answer
given by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs
of the 10 Member States of the European Community
meeting in political cooperation ⁽¹⁾**

(6 April 1983)

As stated by the European Council in its Venice Declaration of 13 June 1980, and subsequent declarations, the Ten consider that a comprehensive just and lasting peace settlement in the Middle East should be based on the principles of:

- the right to existence and security of all States in the region, including Israel,
- the right to self-determination of the Palestinian people with all that this implies, and
- mutual recognition by all the parties concerned.

The Ten do not consider that statements by one party or another purporting to reject these principles affect their validity.

⁽¹⁾ This reply has been provided by the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation, within whose province the question came.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1973/82

by Mr Horst Seefeld (S – D)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 January 1983)

Subject: Landing cards

In response to my Written Question No 1808/81 ⁽¹⁾, the Commission explained that it would commence proceedings against France and Italy under Article 169 of the EEC Treaty.

What has happened in the meantime?

How do matters stand at the present time?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 118, 10. 5. 1982, p. 22.

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

(15 March 1983)

France and Italy abolished landing cards at the end of last year at the Commission's request. The actions

which had been commenced against these countries for infringing the Treaties were then withdrawn.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1987/82

by Mrs Anne-Marie Lizin (S – B)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1983)

Subject: Cooperation with Zaire

The Commission is currently negotiating a Sysmin agreement with Zaire.

1. What raw materials are covered by the agreement and what are the quantities involved?
2. What is the nationality of the companies concerned?
3. What demands have been made by Zaire in the course of the negotiations?
4. On what specific points are there differences of opinion between the Commission and the Zairean negotiators?

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

(22 February 1983)

1. Zaire produces 470 000 tonnes per year of copper and 15 000 tonnes per year of cobalt. Zaire requested assistance under Sysmin. These two mining sectors experienced serious difficulties in 1980 and 1981.

2. Gécamines, a company wholly under Zairean State control, is responsible for most of Zaire's copper production and all of its cobalt production. There is a geological association between the cobalt and copper mined in Zaire.

3 and 4. Zaire, which has been engaged in an expansion programme since the mid-1970s, has decided as a priority to devote all its efforts to maintaining existing capacity. The estimated cost of this operation will be \$ 500 million, of which \$ 300 million is to be obtained through external financing; Zaire has requested the Community to provide as large a share as possible of the funds required.

The financial aid provided under Sysmin amounted to 40 million ECU in respect of the period 1980 to 1981; the 'common accord' procedure had been concluded between Zaire and the Community in January 1982, highlighting the urgent need for the

industry's earnings to be used to safeguard production plant and equipment. With this in view, the special tax arrangements applied to the industry and the marketing arrangements were amended in order that its economic viability should not be jeopardized. Hence, 'export taxes', indirect taxes levied regardless of the state of the industry and inappropriate to the cyclical nature of mining, were abolished. This has had the effect of improving the transparency of marketing operations.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1995/82

by Mr Andrew Pearce (ED – GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1983)

Subject: Commission staff

With reference to the Commission's answer to my Written Question No 1114/82⁽¹⁾, does not the Commission take the view that the fact that five posts at Director-General level and three posts at Director level have been held by more than one person of the same nationality could suggest that certain Member States have some particular right to have one of their nationals in a particular post, thereby breaching Article 27 of the staff Regulations, will it confirm that Article 27 will be strictly applied in future and will it undertake to inform the Parliament if any of the Directors-General and Directors referred to in its answer to Written Question No 1114/82 are at some future date replaced by a further person of the same nationality as the previous incumbent?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 320, 6. 12. 1982, p. 21.

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

(16 March 1983)

Under Article 7 of the Staff Regulations, officials are assigned by appointment or transfer by the Appointing Authority acting solely in the interest of the service and without regard to nationality. (The provisions of Article 7 of the Staff Regulations are applicable by analogy to temporary staff.)

Article 27 of the Staff Regulations states that officials of the highest standard should be recruited on the broadest possible geographical basis without any posts being reserved for nationals of any specific Member State.

Because of the need to find a broad geographical base when recruiting officials for the most senior grades, some posts may sometimes be filled by persons of the same nationality (as stated in the answer to Written Question No 1114/82). However, contrary to what might be supposed from reading the Honourable Member's question, this does not mean that certain Member States enjoy the right of having their nationals appointed to specific posts or that the provisions of Article 27 of the Staff Regulations are ignored.

The Commission attaches considerable importance to the strict application of the Staff Regulations. Parliament is kept fully informed of the staff appointments and transfer through the various editions of the Commission's Directory.

Furthermore, all appointments to Director-General posts are reported in the monthly Bulletin of the European Communities.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1996/82

by Mr Andrew Pearce (ED – GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1983)

Subject: Subsidies to United States farmers

What evidence has the Commission regarding subsidies from public funds to United States' farmers, what is the total annual sum involved and will the Commission publish the detailed information in its possession on this subject?

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

(16 March 1983)

The United States Federal Government provides direct support for farmers' incomes from the budget of the Department of Agriculture (USDA). Other

federal agencies indirectly provide Government funds for farmers, for example the Environmental Protection Agency for irrigation problems. The individual States also grant public funds to farmers, from their own budgets, but very little information is currently available.

The USDA budget contains budget items specifically intended for the support of farmers' incomes, for instance the budget of the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC), which covers loans to farmers, purchase of products, storage premiums, direct payments etc.

For 1982, CCC expenditure came to \$ 12 000 million and should be about the same in 1983. The Public Law 480 budget is used for donations and has exceeded \$ 1 000 million for 1982 and 1983. The other budget items are earmarked for some degree of direct support for farmers' incomes. As an indication, the total USDA budget for 1982 was \$ 31 500 million and the proposed budget for 1983 is also \$ 31 500 million.

The Commission does not plan to publish detailed information on the United States agricultural budget.

2. Could it state which service industries are included in the 56 % of employment in the Community and provide a breakdown of the different sectors?

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

(15 March 1983)

1. According to national estimates supplied to Eurostat, the respective shares of the various sectors of activity in total employment was as follows in 1981:

Agriculture: 7,2 %,
Industry: 36,8 %,
Services: 56,0 %.

These figures include all wage and salary earners (including the armed forces), besides employers, the self-employed and family workers.

The Commission has no breakdown available showing the respective shares in total employment of 'manufacturing industries' and 'other (including the construction sector)'.

However, a breakdown is available for wage and salary earners only; the respective shares of the sectors referred to by the Honourable Member were as follows in 1981:

| | (%) |
|---|------|
| Agriculture | 2,5 |
| Manufacturing industry (ISIC 3) | 30,9 |
| Other, including the construction sector (ISIC 2-4-5) | 10,2 |
| Services | 56,4 |

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2024/82

by Mr Michael Welsh (ED - GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1983)

Subject: Employment in the services sector

'The Financial Times' of 7 January 1983 gives a breakdown of employment in the Community by type of activity. The figures for 1981 are as follows:

| | (%) |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Agriculture: | 7,2 |
| Manufacturing: | 26,6 |
| Services: | 56,0 |
| Other (including construction): | 10,2 |

1. Could the Commission confirm the accuracy of these figures?

2. The service activities include the retail distribution, hotels and catering activities, repairs, transport and communications, banking and finance, insurance, business services, renting services, public administration and other services.

A breakdown showing the proportion of wage and salary earners employed in each branch of the service industries is available for certain Member States but not for the Community as a whole. The available data are being transmitted directly to the Honourable Member and to the Secretariat of the European Parliament.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2026/82

by Mrs Joyce Quin (S - GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1983)

Subject: French Government measures to aid the fishing industry

Further to the supplementary answer given by Mr

Narjes to Written Question No 1143/80 by Mr Kirk ⁽¹⁾, will the Commission please supply precise details of 'the number of French measures' which it is investigating under Article 93 (2) of the EEC Treaty?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 245, 20. 9. 1982, p. 1.

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

(15 March 1983)

The Honourable Member will find a reply to her question in the 'Bulletin of the European Communities', in which the Commission publishes every month all the aid projects notified, with its comments.

With regard to the French measures it is now examining, under Article 93 (2) of the EEC Treaty, she will find a description in Bulletins No 7-8/1980, point 2.1.108, No 2/1982, point 2.1.85 and No 6/1982, point 2.1.141. These measures were also the subject of communications in Official Journals No C 8 of 14 January 1982, No C 57 of 5 March 1982 and No C 159 of 24 June 1982.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2027/82

by Mrs Winifred Ewing (DEP – GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1983)

Subject: Community support in the field of tropical medicine

Will the Commission publish details of any financial help given or proposed to support the activities of schools of tropical medicine and similar institutes in the various Member States, in the fields of research, of advice to developing countries and of teaching courses for students from, or intending to work in, developing countries?

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

(16 March 1983)

The Community R & D programme 'Science and Technology for Development' 1983 to 1986 ⁽¹⁾ includes the sector 'Tropical Medicine'. 10 million ECU (out of 40 million for the total programme) are

allocated to this sector in order to part-finance relevant research and training activities by institutes of Member States as well as of developing countries in the framework of contracts to be concluded between the institutes participating in the programme and the Commission.

Invitation to tender research proposals are at present under preparation and will be ready for publication in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* in early April 1983. Successful research contracts will be mentioned in the annual list of all contracts pertaining to the research budget.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 352, 14. 12. 1982.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2033/82

by Mrs Vera Squarcialupi (COM – I)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1983)

Subject: Campaign against drugs

Now that a year has elapsed since the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the campaign against drugs, and given the constant increase in drug-taking and the rise in the number of deaths in many Community countries, can the Commission indicate what measures have so far been taken in response to the European Parliament's proposals?

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

(18 March 1983)

The measures adopted by the Commission with respect to the campaign against drugs are mainly directed at improving the quality and quantity of information available in the Member States on the development of the phenomenon of drug abuse and the nature of the preventive measures, treatment and services concerned.

The Commission has undertaken work in two areas: a pilot project collecting the abovementioned information has just been completed and the Commission staff are preparing a summary which will be forwarded as soon as it is published to the Honourable Member and the Parliament Secretariat;

secondly, a survey is being carried out which will lead to a comparative study of health legislation and an evaluation of the means of action available to the Member States.

The Commission maintains close contacts on this question with the other international organizations concerned, in particular the World Health Organization (WHO). A seminar on current problems connected with drugs will be organized in the second half of 1983 in conjunction with the WHO and the Council of Europe (Pompidou Group).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2057/82
by Mr Pierre-Bernard Cousté (DEP – F)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(28 January 1983)

Subject: Borrowing operations for the NCI (New Community Instrument)

In its answer to my Written Question No 578/82 ⁽¹⁾, the Commission said:

'nonetheless, the Commission's position has always been to give priority to the continued availability of the NCI; it therefore welcomes the decision authorizing a new tranche of borrowings, limited though it is to 1 000 million ECU ...'

Can the Commission give details of the borrowing operations in question: the exact amount, procedures to be followed, lenders, etc.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 232, 6. 9. 1982, p. 14.

Answer given by Mr Ortoli
on behalf of the Commission

(22 March 1983)

The Decisions of the Council authorizing borrowings in the name of the EEC are basic authorizations, which allow one or more borrowings to be carried out, up to the authorized ceilings. In each case to date, the Commission has contracted several borrowings relative to each Decision.

The Honourable Member is referred to the Commission's Report, transmitted annually to the Parliament, entitled 'Report on the Borrowing and Lending Activities of the Community' for details of operations carried out up to December 1981 ⁽¹⁾.

Borrowing operations carried out in 1982, which will be the subject of a report to be transmitted later in 1983, are summarized below.

| Currency and amount | | Coupon | Duration in years | Type: public/private |
|---------------------|----------------|---------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Bfrs | 1 000 000 000 | 15,25 % | 12 | Public |
| DM | 200 000 000 | 9,75 % | 12 | Public |
| Yen | 20 000 000 000 | 8,00 % | 10 | Public |
| DM | 18 300 000 | 9,12 % | 15 | Private |
| Fl | 60 000 000 | 11,25 % | 10 | Private |
| Fl | 150 000 000 | 10,50 % | 12 | Public |
| FS | 100 000 000 | 6,25 % | 10 | Public |
| DM | 34 250 000 | 8,50 % | 7 | Private |
| DM | 200 000 000 | 7,75 % | 12 | Public |
| Bfrs | 3 000 000 000 | 13,25 % | 8 | Public |
| Fl | 75 000 000 | 8,78 % | 10 | Private |
| Fl | 75 000 000 | 9,00 % | 15 | Private |
| US \$ | 200 000 000 | 11,50 % | 12 | Public |

⁽¹⁾ Report for 1979 COM(81) 8 final; Report for 1980 COM(81) 419 final; Report for 1981 COM(81) 466 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2061/82
by Mrs Yvonne Théobald-Paoli (S – F)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(28 January 1983)

Subject: Construction of the world's largest tidal power station in the USSR —
 Comparison with the French model in service

According to reports reaching the West, the USSR is to build in Kamchatka a tidal power station which will be the largest in the world.

Has the Commission any information on:

1. the techniques the Soviets will use to build this power station,
2. the degree of profitability of the project expected by the Soviets on one hand and by international experts on the other,
3. any similarities between the technical features and profitability of the project and those of the power station in service in France?

Answer given by Mr Davignon
on behalf of the Commission

(9 March 1983)

The Commission has very little information on the Hydroproject Institute's design for a tidal power station at Penzhin Bay (Penhinskaya Guba) on the Sea of Okhotsk between the Kamchatka Peninsula and continental USSR. Nor does it know of any decision to go ahead with the plan. It has no information on the economics of the project.

This project would rely on novel bulb-type turbine units in caissons. Conventional bulb-type turbine units are a common feature in hydro-electric power stations in the Community and world-wide.

Three projects on different scales have been under consideration. Below, the salient features of all three are compared with those of the units planned in the Community and the one in service at La Rance (France):

| Project | Basin area (km ²) | Barrage length (km ²) | Installed power (MW) | Annual output (GWh) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Penzhin 1 | 19 000 | 72 | 100 000 | 300 000 |
| Penzhin 2 | 6 320 | 31 | 35 000 | 100 000 |
| Penzhin 3 (USSR) | 200 | | 1 000 | 3 000 |
| Severn (United Kingdom) | 540 | 14 | 7 200 | 13 000 |
| Chausey (France) | 800 | 32 | 10 000 | 24 000 |
| La Rance (France) | 22 | 0,7 | 240 | 500 |

Tidal power stations with a single basin do not generate electricity continuously: their generating periods and power output vary from day to day, depending on the tides. Other power plants are needed to keep the grid supplied during the tidal unit's daily idle periods. This inherent characteristic of tidal power stations is a serious economic obstacle to their use.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2083/82**by Mr Andrew Pearce (ED – GB)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(1 February 1983)**Subject: VAT*

What steps has the Commission taken since 30 July 1982 to harmonize the application of VAT on admission to zoos and when will such harmonization take effect?

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

(15 March 1983)

The Commission has studied the point raised by the Honourable Member in more detail and considers that the different treatment in the Member States of VAT on admission charges to zoos is unlikely to result in distortion of competition between Member States.

In view of this and bearing in mind the Commission's priorities in areas where differences in the application of VAT have a direct effect on intra-Community trade, the harmonization sought by the Honourable Member would not seem to be particularly urgent.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2099/82**by Mr Rolf Linkohr (S – D)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(7 February 1983)**Subject: Community subsidies for milk producer associations*

Some years ago, Südmilch AG Stuttgart, a south German dairy undertaking, established the Schwäbisch Gmünd-West Milk Producer Association, and received funds from the Community for the purpose. However, last year the members of this milk producer association decided to part company with Südmilch and to supply Molkerei Hohenlohe of Schwäbisch Hall in future.

1. Will the Commission state how much subsidy was paid to Südmilch AG?
2. Would it not be proper for Südmilch AG to be required to repay the aid it has received, now that the purpose for which it was granted no longer applies?

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

(18 March 1983)

No Community aid has been granted to Südmilch AG for the foundation of a milk producers' group.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2102/82**by Mrs Anne-Marie Lizin (S – B)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(7 February 1983)**Subject: Ban on widows of Belgian officials receiving retirement pension concurrently with survivor's pension*

Does the Commission consider the attitude of the Belgian Government, which decided, with effect from 1 July 1982, to stop the widows of officials receiving their own retirement pensions concurrently with their survivor's pensions to be compatible with the spirit of the Third European Directive on equal treatment in the field of social security?

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

(16 March 1983)

If the concurrent receipt of benefits — prohibited for women — were allowable for men, this would constitute discrimination.

In the event, the problem does not arise for men since under Belgian law they are not entitled to the survivor's pension. The Commission would also point out, in this connection, that Directive 79/7/EEC does not apply to survivors' pensions.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2106/82**by Mrs Anne-Marie Lizin (S – B)**

**to the Foreign Ministers of the 10 Member States of
the European Community meeting in political
cooperation**

*(7 February 1983)**Subject: Statements by Mr Taelemans, the Belgian Ambassador to Moscow*

As the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation now consider that security matters fall within their terms of reference, do they intend to

harmonize the attitudes of the Ambassadors of the Ten in Moscow on security issues?

Has there been any coordination of the response to Mr Andropov's proposals in respect of the Geneva negotiations?

In this context, do the Foreign Ministers consider Mr Taelemans' statements after his interview with Mr Gromyko in Moscow to be appropriate and desirable?

Answer

(6 April 1983)

Although certain important foreign policy questions bearing on the political aspects of security are being dealt with by the Ten, matters bearing on the defence and military aspects of security are not discussed in the framework of European Political Cooperation.

As the statements of Mr Taelemans after his interview with Mr Gromyko were not made on behalf of the Ten but in his capacity as his country's ambassador to Moscow, the Presidency is not in a position to comment on them.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2111/82

by Mr James Moorhouse (ED – GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(7 February 1983)

Subject: Competition in air transport

In his reply to Oral Question No 0-101/82, the Commissioner stated that he was answering as briefly as possible. Will he now please provide further written information on the replies received from Member States by 13 August 1982?

Will he also provide information on the letters to airlines concerning the application of capacity-sharing arrangements and other commercial agreements which could constitute presumed infringements of the rules of competition?

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

(16 March 1983)

The Commission has no new information to add to the statements made during the debate on air transport in December of last year as regards the system applied by governments and airlines to fix air tariffs in the Community ⁽¹⁾.

As indicated at that time, the Commission's examination of the tariff setting procedure has not yet led to any conclusive results and further enquiries may be necessary in order to establish precisely what the respective roles of the governments and the airlines are in this area. More detailed comments on this matter would be premature at present and could give rise to misleading conclusions.

The purpose of the questionnaires to the airlines referred to by the Honourable Member was to collect information on their pooling agreements, including capacity arrangements, as well as a number of other matters on which common decisions appear to be taken. Most of the 74 airlines to whom such letters were sent have reacted in writing. Many of these replies are helpful for the Commission in its enquiry, which is still pending ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ See Debates of the European Parliament on Air Transport of 16 and 17 December 1982 (Annex to the Official Journal — No 1-292).

⁽²⁾ See reply to Oral Question No 11-692/81 by Lord Bethell (Annex to the Official Journal — No 1-280).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2121/82

by Mr Leonidas Kyrkos (COM – GR)

**to the Foreign Ministers of the 10 Member States of
the European Community meeting in political
cooperation**

(7 February 1983)

Subject: Piracy on Community vessels in Nigeria

Can the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation state what measures they propose to take to put an end to the unacceptable situation regarding piracy on Community vessels on the open sea off the coast of Nigeria?

Answer*(6 April 1983)*

The Member States of the European Community have on several occasions made representations to the Nigerian authorities about the problem of armed attacks on merchant ships, most recently on 8 February 1983.

As a result of actions taken by the Nigerian authorities on earlier occasions, the number of attacks seemed to decline for a period of time, in particular in the inner port area of Lagos. In recent months, however, shipowners from European Community countries have reported renewed incidents of armed attacks, in particular in the outer port area. The Member States of the European Community are concerned about these reports and have urged the Nigerian authorities to look into the matter again with a view to strengthening the protective measures in order to secure safe conditions in all parts of the port of Lagos.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2125/82**by Mrs Else Hammerich (CDI – DK)**

to the Foreign Ministers of the 10 Member States of the European Community meeting in political cooperation

(7 February 1983)

Subject: Differences in voting at the UN

I enclose a graph from 'The Economist' of 4–10 December 1982 showing the differences in voting at the UN during 1981.

Can the Foreign Ministers please update the information for 1982?

Answer*(6 April 1983)*

During the 37th session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, consultation and coordination among the 10 Member States of the European Community remained active and covered all issues of the agenda. The Ten shared a common position on 270

resolutions (including consensuses), 72 % of the total. On resolutions which were put to a vote, the Ten voted together on 41 % of the cases.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2138/82**by Sir Fred Warner (ED – GB)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(10 February 1983)*

Subject: Emergency aid for Angola

With reference to its written report to Parliament of 10 January 1983 on the granting of five million ECU for emergency aid to 'refugees and displaced persons in Angola', can the Commission state:

1. on what date this payment was authorized;
2. how much emergency aid was provided for these refugees in 1982;
3. to what authority or organization the aid is directed in the first place;
4. who undertakes the distribution of this aid;
5. what proportion, if any, of the intended recipients originate from Namibia?

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

(18 March 1983)

1. Payment of 2 600 000 ECU was authorized on 15 November 1982 and 2 400 000 ECU on 9 February 1983, the latter sum being the funds intended for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which had had to be suspended at that organization's request.

2. It had already been decided earlier in 1982 to allocate 300 000 ECU, and the abovementioned aid was added to that sum, bringing the total up to 5 300 000 ECU, a third of which being for Namibian refugees.

3. The aid was channelled through the following organizations:

- (i) 300 000 ECU (decision of 12 January 1982):

War on Want consortium (Oxfam Belgium, Trocaire and the Fonds pour la Coopération au Développement).

- (ii) 5 000 000 ECU (decisions of 15 January 1982 and 9 February 1983):

| | (ECU) |
|--|-----------|
| ICRC | 2 400 000 |
| UNHCR | 1 800 000 |
| CEBEMO | 210 000 |
| MEMISA | 120 000 |
| Caritas Neerlandica | 20 000 |
| Caritas Germanica | 150 000 |
| War on Want | 175 000 |
| Trocaire | 20 000 |
| Oxfam Belgique | 20 000 |
| Fonds pour la coopération au développement | 20 000 |
| Komitee Zuid-Afrika | 20 000 |
| DAPP | 45 000 |

4. The organizations referred to above are responsible for supplying the products and supervising distribution, which is carried out by local organizations. Only the ICRC carries out the whole operation itself.

5. The number of Namibian refugees in Angola can be put at 70 000, which accounts for the potential number of Namibian recipients of the Community's emergency aid.

For the record, the Honourable Member may wish to note that the Community also provides food aid for these people, as has already been mentioned in the Commission's answers to Written Questions Nos 1812/81 ⁽¹⁾ and 146/82 ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 118, 10. 5. 1982.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 150, 14. 6. 1982.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2176/82

by Mr Robert Jackson (ED – GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(10 February 1983)

Subject: Demography

Can the Commission state what proportions of the Community's total male and female population were over 60:

- in the most recent year for which comprehensive figures are available;
- in 1973?

Is the Commission able to give an estimate of the likely proportion of the Community's population that will be over 60 in the year 2000?

Answer given by Mr Burke on behalf of the Commission

(15 March 1983)

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

Percentage of the total population aged 60 years or over — EUR-10

| Year | Persons (%) | Males (%) | Females (%) |
|------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1973 | 18,4 | 15,6 | 21,0 |
| 1980 | 18,2 | 15,2 | 21,2 |
| 2000 | 20,1 | 17,3 | 22,9 |

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2198/82

by Mrs Yvonne Théobald-Paoli (S – F)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 February 1983)

Subject: Cooperation between the Community and Japan in the field of education

Can the Commission report on the situation as at 31 December 1982 and the prospects with regard to cooperation between the Community and Japan in the field of education?

Answer given by Mr Haferkamp on behalf of the Commission

(21 March 1983)

Up until now the Commission has not been involved in any cooperation programmes with Japan in the field of education. The Commission is able to keep itself informed about major educational developments in Japan through its participation in the OECD's activity in the area of education. As far as the future is concerned, the Commission is particularly interested in examining the ways in which the Japanese education and training systems have responded to the introduction of new information technologies in society.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2199/82

by Mrs Yvonne Théobald-Paoli (S – F)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 February 1983)

Subject: Cooperation between the Community and Japan in the field of energy

Can the Commission report on the situation as at 31 December 1982 and the prospects with regard to cooperation between the Community and Japan in the field of energy, with particular reference to nuclear energy and renewable sources of energy?

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

(9 March 1983)

Strictly speaking, there has been no cooperation between the Community and Japan in the energy field to date.

However, questions of mutual interest such as the study of the international energy situation and the implementation of energy policies in the Community and Japan are being discussed by the Commission and the Japanese authorities at the twice-yearly high-level consultations. The Commission intends to maintain and strengthen these contacts through bilateral discussions and on the occasion of multilateral meetings, for example within the IEA.

According to the conclusions of the 1982 survey of investment in the ECSC industries, the total crude steel production capacity in the Community should fall to 187,6 million tonnes in 1985.

In its general objectives for steel, the Commission sets a maximum annual production target of 142,1 million tonnes.

As the level of utilization will therefore be distinctly inadequate, what measures does the Commission intend to take to safeguard the profitability of the production plants?

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

(17 March 1983)

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2224/82

by Mr André Damseaux (L - B)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 February 1983)

Subject: Restructuring the Community iron and steel industry

The 1982 survey of investment in ECSC industries does indeed point to a total crude steel production capacity in the Community of 187,6 million tonnes in 1985. But this figure — like the others in the same survey — cannot be considered to give an accurate idea of the quantitative position of restructuring in the Community steel industry, because it reflects in particular the future level of production capacity as foreseen by the steelmakers early in 1982. It therefore takes no account of capacity reductions decided on since then.

THE COMMUNITY LEGAL ORDER

Jean-Victor LOUIS

The European Communities are not simply a forum of discussion and negotiation between States. Their institutional structure, far more complex and original than that of traditional international organizations, has given birth to a vast quantity of legislation, most of which can be relied upon directly before national courts. The Court of Justice of the three Communities is faced with a workload increasing year by year in its efforts both to clarify the interpretation of Community law for the benefit of national courts and to resolve disputes between the institutions and individuals or Member States. In short, the Communities constitute a unique legal order with a highly complex structure, which penetrates further every day into economic and social reality in the Member States, yet still remains largely unrecognized.

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Jean-Victor Louis — Born 10 January 1938 — Agrégé in international law, Brussels University (ULB), 1969 — Lecturer in Community law, ULB — Former Director and Research Director, European Studies Department, ULB — Director of the Cahiers de Droit Européen — Head of the Legal Department, Banque Nationale de Belgique — Author of 'Les règlements de la Communauté économique européenne' and, with others, of 'Le droit de la Communauté économique européenne', ed. Jacques Mégret (nine volumes published).

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THE CUSTOMS UNION OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY

Nikolaus VAULONT

Preface by Étienne DAVIGNON

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Nikolaus VAULONT. Born in 1937. Doctor of law (University of Bonn). Joined the Federal Republic of Germany's federal finance administration in 1967. Since 1971 has been an official at the Commission of the European Communities, where he is currently Assistant to the Director-General of the Customs Union Service.

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