

English edition

Information and Notices

Contents

I *Information*

European Parliament

Written Questions with answer:

No 815/83 by Mrs Simone Martin to the Commission Subject: Exports of UHT milk	1
No 821/83 by Mrs Yvette Fullet to the Commission Subject: Irrigation projects in the Member States	1
No 825/83 by Mr Dieter Rogalla to the Commission Subject: Consistency between monetary policy and practice	2
No 828/83 by Mr Pierre-Bernard Cousté to the Commission Subject: Planned cooperation between the Community and the United States in the field of nuclear fusion	2
No 829/83 by Mr Pierre-Bernard Cousté to the Commission Subject: Air transport	3
No 841/83 by Mr Allan Rogers to the Commission Subject: Published sources of statistics	3
No 842/83 by Mr Dimitrios Adamou to the Commission Subject: Withdrawal of Greek apricots	4
No 850/83 by Ms Joyce Quin to the Commission Subject: Aid given by the German Länder to German shipyards	5
No 851/83 by Ms Joyce Quin to the Commission Subject: European Regional Development Fund — 'quota-free' special programmes	5
No 853/83 by Ms Joyce Quin to the Commission Subject: European Regional Development Fund — quota-free section	6
No 856/83 by Mr Karl von Wogau to the Commission Subject: United Kingdom design copyright law	6

Contents (continued)	No 858/83 by Mr Kenneth Collins to the Commission	
	Subject: Influx of heroin	6
	No 859/83 by Mr Eisso Woltjer to the Council	
	Subject: Boar taint in uncastrated young male pigs	7
	No 863/83 by Mrs Ien van den Heuvel to the Commission	
	Subject: Complaint by two members of the Netherlands emancipation council on the implementation of the Directive on the equal treatment of men and women in matters of social security	7
	No 867/83 by Mr Félix Damette to the Commission	
	Subject: Intra-Community trade relations by country expressed as 'job equivalent'	8
	No 868/83 by Mr Félix Damette to the Commission	
	Subject: Application of the alignment rule (Article 60 (2) (b) of the ECSC Treaty)	9
	No 870/83 by Mr Félix Damette to the Commission	
	Subject: Pattern of French-Federal German trade	9
	No 872/83 by Mr Félix Damette to the Commission	
	Subject: Statement of intra-Community agricultural budget balance by Member State	10
	No 876/83 by Mr Georges Frischmann to the Commission	
	Subject: Types of aid given by Member States to basic industries and the energy sector ..	10
	No 884/83 by Mr Robert Battersby to the Commission	
	Subject: Commission staff flexible working hours	11
	No 886/83 by Mr Rudolf Wedekind to the Commission	
	Subject: Community framework programme for science and technology (1984 to 1987) ...	11
	No 887/83 by Mr Rudolf Wedekind to the Commission	
	Subject: Protectionist advertising in the United Kingdom	12
	No 888/83 by Mr Rudolf Wedekind to the Commission	
	Subject: Turning back at the French border of lorries carrying electrical appliances	12
	No 891/83 by Mr Horst Seefeld and Mr Gerhard Schmid to the Commission	
	Subject: Transport of fresh milk to Italy	13
	No 901/83 by Mrs Renate-Charlotte Rabbethge to the Commission	
	Subject: Presentation of total volume of development aid	13
	No 903/83 by Mrs Vera Squarcialupi to the Commission	
	Subject: Consumer protection with regard to meals provided by restaurants, hospitals, canteens and similar mass caterers	13
	No 904/83 by Mrs Vera Squarcialupi to the Commission	
	Subject: Appropriate mark to indicate the use of contact lenses	14
	No 915/83 by Mr Gérard Fuchs to the Commission	
	Subject: European Development Fund	14
	No 916/83 by Mrs Marie-Jane Pruvot to the Commission	
	Subject: Extent of opticians' rights	14

(Continued on inside back cover)

Contents (continued)	No 918/83 by Mr Alfred Lomas to the Council	
	Subject: Resumption of food aid to Vietnam	15
	No 932/83 by Mr Michael Welsh to the Commission	
	Subject: Greek pharmaceutical imports	15
	No 950/83 by Ms Ann Clwyd to the Commission	
	Subject: Court of Justice judgment given on 8 October 1981 in Case 175/80 (Tither v. European Commission)	16
	No 957/83 by Mr Andrew Pearce to the Commission	
	Subject: Grants from the European Regional Development Fund	16
	No 964/83 by Mr Brian Key to the Commission	
	Subject: Air pollution monitoring	17
	No 968/83 by Mrs Winifred Ewing to the Commission	
	Subject: Coastal protection	17
	No 979/83 by Mr Noel Davern to the Commission	
	Subject: Irish Steel	17
	No 980/83 by Mr Seán Flanagan to the Commission	
	Subject: ERDF aid for fast passenger ferry service to the Aran Islands (Ireland)	18
	No 1003/83 by Mr James Moorhouse to the Commission	
	Subject: Belgian State aids to Sabena and Sobelair	18
	No 1013/83 by Mr Willy Vernimmen to the Council	
	Subject: First framework programme 1984 to 1987	19
	No 1027/83 by Mr Andrew Pearce to the Commission	
	Subject: Food aid	19
	No 1041/83 by Mr Andrew Pearce to the Commission	
	Subject: Level of information about the Bank for International Settlements	19
	No 1052/83 by Mr Andrew Pearce to the Commission	
	Subject: Import of rum in France	20

I

(Information)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWER

WRITTEN QUESTION No 815/83

by Mrs Simone Martin (L — F)

to the Commission of the European Communities

*(25 July 1983)**Subject:* Exports of UHT milk

Does the introduction of import arrangements in respect of UHT milk in the United Kingdom justify the adoption of different health standards from those which obtained in the United Kingdom prior to the ruling of 8 February 1983?

**Answer given by Mr Dalsager
on behalf of the Commission***(19 October 1983)*

The Court of Justice in the judgment mentioned by the Honourable Member admitted in principle the possibility for the United Kingdom to apply standards for imported milk which would provide health safeguards equivalent to those governing national production. The Court, however, stipulated that in respect of imports the requirements laid down should not go beyond what is strictly necessary for the protection of health.

In the context of the establishment of the new system of imports of UHT milk into the United Kingdom, the Commission will ensure that the above criterion is applied to any alteration of United Kingdom health requirements.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 821/83

by Mrs Yvette Fullet (S — F)

to the Commission of the European Communities

*(25 July 1983)**Subject:* Irrigation projects in the Member States

1. What proportion of the national budgets is set aside for irrigation projects in the Member States?
2. What percentage of funding is provided by regional public authorities in each Member State?

**Answer given by Mr Dalsager
on behalf of the Commission***(4 October 1983)*

Apart from the irrigation projects provided for as part of the various measures for accelerating agricultural development in Greece (Regulation (EEC) No 1975/82 of 19 July 1982⁽¹⁾), only two specific irrigation measures have been adopted by the Council; the first relates to the Mezzogiorno in Italy (Regulation (EEC) No 1362/78 of 19 June 1978⁽²⁾) and the second to Corsica (Directive 79/173/EEC of 6 February 1979⁽³⁾).

The total cost of these projects is 813 million ECU, 50 % of which is payable by the Member States concerned.

In addition to the above Community measures, there are also a number of major national measures but the Commission does not have adequate information on this subject.

(1) OJ No L 214, 22. 7. 1982, p. 1.

(2) OJ No L 166, 23. 7. 1978, p. 11.

(3) OJ No L 38, 14. 2. 1979, p. 15.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 825/83
by Mr Dieter Rogalla (S — D)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(25 July 1983)

Subject: Consistency between monetary policy and practice

1. What savings in foreign exchange have been made by France — in absolute figures and as a percentage of GNP — during the period 1981 to 1983 as a result of:

- (a) fewer French nationals travelling abroad;
- (b) restrictive legislation on transfers of foreign currency applied to French nationals?

2. Would a greater degree of consistency in all Member States between monetary policy and monetary practice in the European Economic Community in recent years, for example the use of the ECU as a currency in its own right, have made the French measures unnecessary in terms of their financial effects?

3. When can the Member States be expected to reach agreement on the general recognition of the ECU as a currency or on the enlargement of the EMS?

Answer given by Mr Ortolini
on behalf of the Commission

(28 September 1983)

1. (a) In 1981 and 1982, spending abroad by French tourists totalled FF 36 700 million and FF 36 900 million respectively. It should be emphasized that such transactions were regarded *de facto* as having been liberalized. They remained so until April this year, when restrictive measures entailing the imposition of an annual ceiling per person were introduced under the recovery programme adopted by the French Government in March. These measures will be lifted at the end of the year. The French authorities estimate that the savings in foreign currency that might be achieved in 1983 will amount to some FF 5 000 million. This would help bring about the improvement that is needed in the balance of payments, the reduction in the current deficit being put at some FF 20 000 million for 1983.

(b) Estimates along the lines indicated by the Honourable Member cannot be provided, since it is not possible to make a comparison between the periods in question and a situation in which capital movements were not subject to any restriction.

As a guide, the trends of transactions in foreign securities and in direct investment by French residents in 1981 and 1982 are given below:

	<i>(FF '000 million)</i>	
	1981	1982
— purchases of foreign securities	- 11,8 ⁽¹⁾	+ 2,6 ⁽²⁾
— direct investment abroad	- 24,8	- 17,5.

2. A greater degree of monetary integration would have been matched, in the real economy, by closer convergence of Member States' economic policies.

3. The questions relating to the development of the EMS were with the Commission's prompting subjected to close scrutiny, particularly in 1981 and during the first half of 1982, culminating in the presentation of various specific proposals to the Council in March 1982. The Council, meeting informally on 15 May 1982, was unable to reach agreement on the draft resolution presented by the Commission⁽³⁾; it instructed the Monetary Committee and the Committee of Governors to keep these questions under review.

As regards recognition of the ECU as a currency in its own right, it is to be noted that most of the Member States have already conferred this status upon it. The questions concerning the general recognition of the ECU and the contribution it might make to maintaining the cohesion of the EMS and to promoting the financial integration process were dealt with in two communications to the Council⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Two-thirds of the purchases were made in the second quarter.

⁽²⁾ This reversal in the trend in foreign security transactions by residents is due to the fall in interest rates, which facilitated the disposal of foreign bonds by resident banks, and introduction of the 'investment franc' market, which brought to a halt net purchases of foreign securities by other residents.

⁽³⁾ Doc. COM(82) 133 final.

⁽⁴⁾ Doc. COM(83) 207, 18. 4. 1983; COM(83) 274, 24. 5. 1983.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 828/83
by Mr Pierre-Bernard Cousté (DEP — F)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(25 July 1983)

Subject: Planned cooperation between the Community and the United States in the field of nuclear fusion

Will the Commission report on the progress of the contacts between the Community and the United

States with a view to collaborating on a nuclear fusion project?

When can such a project be put into operation and what benefits would be derived by the various Member States given their respective 'state of the art' in the nuclear energy field and taking into account possible differences between their options in this area?

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

(11 October 1983)

In accordance with the recommendation of the European Parliament on the strengthening of international collaboration in the field of fusion, in particular with the United States⁽¹⁾, the Commission has established exploratory contacts on this subject with the American authorities at several levels, beginning with talks between Vice-President Davignon and Dr Keyworth, Chief Science Adviser to the President of the United States, in May 1982. From these contacts and from discussions within the advisory bodies concerned with the Community's fusion programme, it has emerged that the conclusion of a framework agreement between Euratom and the United States for cooperation in the field of fusion is both possible and desirable. In June 1983, the Commission accordingly submitted to the Council, on the basis of Article 101 of the Euratom Treaty, a draft Decision issuing instructions to the Commission on the negotiation of such an agreement⁽²⁾. As soon as the Council adopts this Decision, the negotiations will begin. It would be possible for the Commission, with the approval of the Council, to conclude this Agreement before the end of 1983.

Provided that the fusion programme combines all the activities developed in this field in the Community, all the Member States should be able to benefit from a form of cooperation under which each of the partners will have access to knowledge acquired by the others. In particular, therefore, the cooperation should help to avoid duplication, which is a source of delays or additional costs.

(1) Sitting of the European Parliament, 12. 3. 1982 — OJ No C 87, 5. 4. 1982.

(2) Doc. COM(83) 349 final, 14. 6. 1983.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 829/83
by Mr Pierre-Bernard Cousté (DEP — F)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(25 July 1983)

Subject: Air transport

Will the Commission indicate what measures it intends to take to avoid its various proposals on European air transport introducing further bureaucracy in the air transport network, which would in turn increase airlines' costs?

What measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure that the Member States gradually abolish their own regulatory mechanisms as its plans for the European air transport industry are put into effect.

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

(11 October 1983)

The Commission is aware of the importance of avoiding the introducing of further bureaucracy into civil aviation, and indeed so far as possible of reducing it. It will have these factors very much in mind in the preparation of its policy paper on civil aviation.

The procedures for ensuring that Member States implement legislation approved by the Council are well-established. The Commission will use them as necessary and appropriate.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 841/83

**by Mr Allan Rogers (S — GB)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(25 July 1983)

Subject: Published sources of statistics

With reference to the *Classement hierarchique des régions selon l'indicateur de référence du Fonds social européen*, published on 19 April 1983, by the Statistical Office of the European Communities, will the Commission publish or indicate the place and date of publication of:

1. the basic statistics used to calculate the reference indicator; and
2. the formula used to calculate the reference indicator from the basic statistics?

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

(28 September 1983)

The statistics used for calculating the European Social Fund reference indicator were obtained from the Community labour force survey conducted in 1981, national gross domestic product at market prices in 1981 and the statistical indicators at sub-regional level (level III) of the Nomenclature of Territorial Statistical Units) for the whole population, registered unemployment and the gross domestic product.

The results of the Community labour force survey are stored in Eurostat's regional data base and will be published with a regional breakdown in the next Eurostat Yearbook of Regional Statistics, which is due to appear in the first quarter of 1984.

The gross domestic product at market prices in 1981 for each Member State is taken from the Eurostat publication 'National Accounts ESA — Aggregates, 1960 to 1981'.

The statistical indicators at level III are published regularly by the Member States and stored in Eurostat's regional data base, from which they can be supplied on request.

The formula used for calculating the indicator was described in a document accompanying the classification of regions; 'statistical indicators with reference to the European Social Fund, Luxembourg, 11 April 1983'.

The reference indicator was calculated as the arithmetical mean of the unemployment indices (total; young people under 25; duration of more than six months) and the reciprocal of the *per capita* gross domestic product; these indices were themselves calculated by reference to the Community averages.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 842/83

**by Mr Dimitrios Adamou (COM — GR)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(25 July 1983)

Subject: Withdrawal of Greek apricots

At a time when apricot production in the EEC is deficient (it covers only 86 % of the Community's needs) and apricots are a vigorous crop producing yield of exceptional quality for the prefectures of Kornithia and Argolis, tens of thousands of tonnes

were tipped into pits this year with Community 'subsidies'. The curious thing is that for half the sum made available for 'withdrawal' it would have been possible to subsidize the export and sale of Greek apricots both on Community markets and in third countries, as well as canning and pulping them for juice. The EEC officials responsible categorically rejected such a solution and insisted on paying for the apricots to be buried. This attitude provoked the justified suspicion among Greek apricot producers that the Community is deliberating leading the farmers of Korinthia and Argolis into giving up cultivation of the crop, which is becoming unprofitable, and uprooting the trees.

Will the Commission say what steps it proposes to take to ensure that Greek apricot production, which does not exceed 100 thousand tonnes a year in total, is protected and that export, canning and pulping of apricots are subsidized, so that there is no repetition of their being buried?

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

(7 October 1983)

The Commission would first like to remind the Honourable Member that in 1982 there were fixed, for the first time, a basic price and a buying-in price for apricots.

These prices were set so that the withdrawal prices charged by producer groups would be lower than the normal price paid for this product by the processing industry.

For the present marketing year, however, the Greek authorities do forecast that production will be about 120 000 tonnes, appreciably higher than last year, when output was 85 000 tonnes.

The Commission does not envisage adopting any measures enabling apricots withdrawn from the market to be sold for processing. Any such measure would certainly be likely to divert the processing industry from its normal sources and thus itself lead to an increase in withdrawals.

However, in order to help alleviate the problems due to high production during this marketing year, the Commission has fixed the export refund at 12 ECU per 100 kilograms, thus facilitating exports to certain non-Community countries.

It should also be remembered that, under Regulation (EEC) No 37/81 of 1 January 1981 (1), the Greek authorities may, during the transitional

period, continue to grant national aid to producers for apricots for processing.

(¹) OJ No L 3, 1. 1. 1983, p. 1.

all Member States. Moreover, the regular multilateral meetings which the Commission holds with national experts give it the opportunity to check that such is the case.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 850/83

by Ms Joyce Quin (S — GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 September 1983)

Subject: Aid given by the German Länder to German shipyards

Has the Commission investigated the aids to shipbuilding which are given by various of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany to certain German shipyards?

If the Commission has not investigated such aid, why not?

Does the Commission accept that, if all EEC shipyards are supposed to be subject to the terms of the EEC's Fifth Shipbuilding Directive and the rules of competition that it contains, it is unfair if certain aids to shipbuilding are strictly monitored by the Commission and others are not?

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

(4 October 1983)

Like all aid granted by regional authorities in the Member States, aid granted by the Länder of the Federal Republic of Germany is caught by Articles 92 and 93 of the EEC Treaty and must be notified before it is applied. The Commission has been informed that the assistance which the Länder decided to give to shipbuilding at the conference on 21 April 1983 is conditional on the Federal Government granting aid. The Federal Government has not yet adopted its position on this matter.

The Commission believes that the Federal Government will continue to comply with its obligations under Articles 92 and 93 of the EEC Treaty by notifying the Commission of aid plans of the public authorities, including those of the Länder. In this connection, it is closely following the restructuring operations currently planned for large-scale shipbuilding in northern Germany and will not fail to ensure that the Treaty and the provisions of the Fifth Directive are observed. The Commission can assure the Honourable Member that the Fifth Directive is applied in the same way to

WRITTEN QUESTION No 851/83

by Ms Joyce Quin (S — GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 September 1983)

Subject: European Regional Development Fund — 'quota-free' special programmes

There is a requirement under the Regulations governing the ERDF quota-free arrangements that the Commission will publish the 'special programmes' submitted by Member States for the qualifying areas set out in the Regulations.

Will the Commission please indicate in which issues of the *Official Journal of the European Communities* the United Kingdom 'special programmes' for the shipbuilding and steel areas have been published? If they have not been published in the Official Journal, can the Commission please state where they have been published, and where those interested in these programmes may see a copy?

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

(4 October 1983)

The United Kingdom special programmes for the shipbuilding and steel areas have not been published.

The practical application of Article 3 (8) of the first series of ERDF non-quota Regulations has turned out not to be very efficient.

In fact publication in the Official Journal automatically means translation of the programmes into seven languages and publication in any one version only when all seven versions are available. This is why the Commission in its proposals for a second series of non-quota measures has not insisted upon publication of the special programmes in the Official Journal, but has presented a more practical formula.

Anyone interested in these programmes may request a copy from the Commission.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 853/83
by Ms Joyce Quin (S — GB)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(1 September 1983)

Subject: European Regional Development Fund —
 quota-free section

Can the Commission confirm that all small firms in the service sector employing less than 25 people in the United Kingdom are eligible to receive grant aid towards the cost of consultancy studies on management or organizational matters?

Are any types of small firm legally excluded by the relevant sections of Regulation (EEC) No 2617/80 ⁽¹⁾, and if so, which?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 271, 15. 10. 1980, p. 16.

Answer given by Mr Giolitti
on behalf of the Commission

(7 October 1983)

Within the first set of Council Regulations instituting specific Community regional development measures under the quota-free section of the European Regional Development Fund, all small firms located in the zones covered by these Regulations can, in principle, benefit from grant aid towards the cost of consultancy studies on management or organization provided that the relevant criteria for eligibility are fulfilled.

However, in the framework of the special programmes to be carried through for implementation of these measures, Member States concerned can more closely specify the categories of SME's which should benefit from the measures.

In the special measures under Regulation (EEC) No 2617/80 the following criteria have been adopted:

- employment (less than 200 employees in the case of firms in the manufacturing industry and less than 25 employees in the case of other firms),
- independence (branches of large companies are excluded),
- size (turnover must not exceed 30 million ECU).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 856/83
by Mr Karl von Wogau (PPE — D)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(1 September 1983)

Subject: United Kingdom design copyright law

In its answer to Written Questions No 2015/82, No 2016/82 and No 2017/82 ⁽¹⁾, the Commission indicated that United Kingdom legislation which confers copyright protection on designs of functional articles constitutes at least a potential barrier to trade between Member States.

Is the Commission aware that this legislation enables certain manufacturers to maintain *de facto* monopolies in the United Kingdom by preventing imports of competing products from other Member States where they are in free circulation?

What action does the Commission propose to take to put an end to this distortion of competition?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 189, 14. 7. 1983, p. 7.

Answer given by Mr Narjes
on behalf of the Commission

(17 October 1983)

The Commission is aware that United Kingdom copyright law is being used to prevent the marketing there of certain functional objects such as spare parts for machines. As a consequence, imports of such products from other Member States have in some cases been prevented. The Commission is in contact with the United Kingdom authorities and is discussing possible solutions that might be adopted in the context of the United Kingdom's current reconsideration of its law relating to copyright, designs, and performers' protection.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 858/83
by Mr Kenneth Collins (S — GB)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(1 September 1983)

Subject: Influx of heroin

Evidence presented in a recent report by the Society of Civil and Public Servants shows that one of the reasons for heroin being in plentiful supply in the United Kingdom is customs controls becoming ineffective. In order to combat the problem the customs controls must be strengthened, not cut back.

As the Community is responsible for ensuring the adequacy of customs control throughout the Member States, will the Commission therefore take steps to ensure that customs controls in the United Kingdom are restored to an adequate level in order to protect the borders of the United Kingdom and the EEC from the influx of heroin?

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

(20 October 1983)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question No 816/83 by Mr Griffiths (1).

(1) OJ No C 315, 21. 11. 1983, p. 14.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 859/83

by Mr Eisso Woltjer (S — NL)

to the Council of the European Communities

(1 September 1983)

Subject: Boar taint in uncastrated young male pigs

Is the Council aware that, according to current information, each year 1 000 million guilders are wasted on the compulsory castration of young male pigs, pursuant to Directive 64/433/EEC (1), and that this causes unnecessary suffering to the animals?

Is the Council aware that, certainly where the exporting countries are concerned, pigs with a slaughter weight of up to 90 kg are not affected by boar taint (because of modern fast-fattening techniques).

Can the Council indicate when a decision will be taken on a weight limit for the slaughter weight of non-castrated male pigs pursuant to the Directive on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat.

(1) OJ No 121, 29. 7. 1964, p. 2012/64.

Answer

(28 October 1983)

The Council would remind the Honourable Member that Directive 64/433/EEC — on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat —

(particularly the last paragraph of Article 3 thereof) requires the Member States to check that meat intended for intra-Community trade meets the requirements of that Directive, which makes provision — in view of the particular requirements of consumers in some Member States — for meat with boar taint to be excluded from intra-Community trade, and that, despite recent technological developments, including the 'Elise' method, the only guarantees offered to consumers in this respect lie in the castration of male piglets or the fixing of limits on carcase weight.

In this connection the Council would point out that the determination of a maximum weight has, for the moment, come up against differences of opinion on this limit in the technical bodies, in view of the fact that production characteristics vary from one Member State to another.

Nevertheless, the Council is beginning, through Directive 83/90/EEC and particularly Article 5(a) thereof (1), to make its regulations more flexible, and has undertaken to adopt such a limit in time to enable this measure to enter into force on 1 January 1985.

(1) OJ No L 59, 5. 3. 1983.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 863/83

by Mrs Ien van den Heuvel (S — NL)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 September 1983)

Subject: Complaint by two members of the Netherlands emancipation council on the implementation of the Directive on the equal treatment of men and women in matters of social security

Is the Commission prepared to consider this complaint as quickly as possible and in conjunction with the petition by Mrs Kitty Roozemond on behalf of the *Breed Platform Vrouwen voor Economische Zelfstandigheid* (Women's Association for Economic Independence) (Petition No 64/82) which is being considered by the European Parliament?

Is the Commission prepared to point out the connection between the complaint and the petition to the Dutch Government so that its views can be borne in mind when both matters are considered?

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

(13 October 1983)

In accordance with the tasks assigned to it under Article 155, the Commission is currently examining the complaint lodged by Mrs J. H. Krijnen and Mrs J. Van Vaalen who are members of the *Nederlandse Emancipatieraad* and of the Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men.

The Commission has notified the Dutch Government of the complaint and requested any relevant information in order to establish the extent to which the national measures in question have led to a deterioration in the situation and jeopardized the implementation of the aims of Directive 79/7/EEC⁽¹⁾.

The Commission confirms that this question is being dealt with in conjunction with petition No 64/82 by Mrs Kitty Roozmond.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 6, 10. 1. 1979, p. 24.

Could the Commission express intra-Community trade relations by country in terms of 'job equivalent'?

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

(3 October 1983)

In order to convert intra-Community trade relations into 'job equivalent', the following analysis can be made on the basis of the structure of the economy as portrayed given in the input output tables for 1975:

1. it is assumed that the total final demand of a given Member State is represented solely by what it actually exported to other Member States during 1975;
2. using the Leontief statistical model, a calculation is made of the output generated directly and indirectly by the final demand referred to in 1;
3. the ratio between this output figure and the output figure actually observed in 1975 is then calculated;
4. if it is assumed that apparent productivity is the same in export industries and industries serving the domestic market, an estimate can be made for each Member State of the number of persons working directly or indirectly for exports to other Member States by multiplying the ratio in paragraph 3 by total employment in the Member State concerned.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 867/83

by Mr Félix Damette (COM — F)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 September 1983)

Subject: Intra-Community trade relations by country expressed as 'job equivalent'

**Total number of persons employed in 1975 in industries exporting
to other Member States and their percentage in relation to total employment**

Member State	Total number of persons ('000)	Total employment in each country %
Federal Republic of Germany	2 232	8,7
France	1 624	7,6
Italy	1 418	7,1
Netherlands	967	25,6
Belgium	829	21,9
United Kingdom	1 383	5,5
Denmark	267	11,4
Ireland ⁽¹⁾	(210)	(20)

⁽¹⁾ For Ireland the breakdown between exports to the EEC and exports to the rest of the world is based on SOEC estimates.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 868/83**by Mr Félix Damette (COM — F)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(1 September 1983)**Subject:* Application of the alignment rule (Article 60 (2) (b) of the ECSC Treaty)

Can the Commission say:

- whether the so-called rule of alignment on 'the conditions offered by undertakings outside the Community' is applied, and to what extent (the percentage of purchases or transactions carried out at 'aligned' prices),
- how this measure is applied, given that the Commission sets minimum prices in view of the obvious economic recession,
- whether the practice of alignment does not make fixing price scales ineffective?

**Answer given by Mr Davignon
on behalf of the Commission***(30 September 1983)*

The Commission informs the Honourable Member that:

- (i) Article 60 (2) (b) of the ECSC Treaty allows the undertakings to align their quotations on those of undertakings outside the Community, on condition that the transactions are notified to the High Authority, which may, in the event of abuse, restrict or abrogate the right of the undertakings concerned to take advantage of this exception.

The condition which allows this exception to be invoked is that the alignment shall have been necessitated by the actual competition of the undertaking outside the Community (Decision No 30/53, Article 6 (4)⁽¹⁾).

The undertakings are obliged within three days of entering into any transaction in which they align their quotations on those of undertakings outside the Community to make returns thereof to the High Authority (Decision No 23/63 of 11 December 1963)⁽²⁾.

- (ii) Under the arrangements with a certain number of third countries, the undertakings are prohibited from aligning their offers on the

prices quoted by those third countries (Decision No 527/78/ECSC)⁽³⁾. Alignment on offers from third countries is possible only for those products which are not covered by the arrangements agreed with the third countries and for the products which are offered by those third countries which have not concluded arrangements with the Community.

The Commission is not at present fixing minimum prices as provided for under Article 61.

- (iii) Publication of the prices and the terms of sale and the possibility of alignment provided for under Article 60 (2) are two inseparable conditions, since publication of price lists is necessary for alignment to be practised.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No 6, 4. 5. 1953, p. 109.

⁽²⁾ OJ No 187, 24. 12. 1963, p. 2976/63.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 73, 15. 3. 1978.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 870/83**by Mr Félix Damette (COM — F)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(1 September 1983)**Subject:* Pattern of French-Federal German trade

Could the Commission produce a table showing the pattern of French-Federal German trade (since 1975) and distinguishing between:

- consumer goods,
- capital goods,
- primary products,
- intermediate products?

**Answer given by Mr Burke
on behalf of the Commission***(10 October 1983)*

The Honourable Member will find below a table showing the pattern of trade between France and the Federal Republic of Germany. To ensure that the statistics requested by the Honourable Member are as uniform as possible, the period from 1977 to 1982 has been taken.

Pattern of French-German trade*(million ECU)*

	Imports from France into the Federal Republic of Germany					
	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Consumer goods	2 026	2 178	2 349	2 600	2 688	2 814
Capital goods	4 039	4 247	5 204	5 491	6 393	8 039
Intermediate products	2 251	2 469	3 161	3 487	3 594	3 752
Other products	2 048	2 195	2 562	2 964	3 339	3 522
Total products	10 364	11 089	13 276	14 542	16 014	18 127

(million ECU)

	Exports to France from the Federal Republic of Germany					
	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982
Consumer goods	1 794	1 943	2 173	2 350	2 586	2 999
Capital goods	6 227	6 411	7 465	8 988	10 561	13 875
Intermediate products	2 756	3 023	3 665	3 984	4 096	4 620
Other products	1 927	2 270	2 625	3 145	3 406	3 813
Total products	12 704	13 647	15 928	18 467	20 649	25 307

Source: Eurostat

WRITTEN QUESTION No 872/83
by Mr Félix Damette (COM — F)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(1 September 1983)

Subject: Statement of intra-Community agricultural budget balance by Member State

Could the Commission supply me with a detailed statement of the intra-Community agricultural budget balances for each Member State?

Answer given by Mr Tugendhat
on behalf of the Commission
(13 October 1983)

The Commission has repeatedly stated its view⁽¹⁾ that considerations based on budgetary balances give no more than a partial and in any case unsatisfactory picture of reality. This is more so in agriculture than in other areas.

Having made its reservations clear, the Commission is nevertheless sending the Honourable Member and

the Secretariat of Parliament a table of the kind requested.

(1) Notably in its answers to the following Written Questions: No 938/76 by Mr Waltmans (OJ No C 191, 10. 8. 1977, p. 13); No 50/79 by Lord Bessborough (OJ No C 164, 2. 7. 1979, p. 9); No 1260/81 by Mr Seeler and Mr Rogalla (OJ No C 47, 22. 2. 1982, p. 15); No 883/82 by the Honourable Member (OJ No C 327, 13. 12. 1982, p. 4).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 876/83
by Mr Georges Frischmann (COM — F)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(1 September 1983)

Subject: Types of aid given by Member States to basic industries and the energy sector

Could the Commission list the various types of aid or subsidy given by Member States to basic industries and the energy sector (the iron and steel, non-ferrous metals, basic chemicals and refining industries), and state the amount of same?

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

(13 October 1983)

With the exception of industries to which special arrangements apply (such as steel), the basic industries which the Honourable Member lists by way of example may receive regional and general aid in all the Member States (particularly for research and development, environmental protection, etc.), provided that the relevant schemes have been approved by the Commission.

Drawing up a detailed description of these schemes and of the way they are applied to basic industries would involve excessively high administrative costs for the various Member States and the Commission, and so the Commission is unable to provide such information.

Where these industries are to receive specific sectoral aid, Member States are required by Article 93 (3) of the EEC Treaty to notify the Commission of any plans to grant or alter such aid. In recent years, the Commission has had to give rulings on very many plans of this kind.

The Commission is unable, within the framework of an answer to a Written Question, to give the results of each examination for the various basic industries.

The Commission would therefore request the Honourable Member to consult its reports on competition policy, which provide details of the aid measures approved by it up to and including 1982.

The Honourable Member is also asked to refer to the *Bulletin of the European Communities*, which the Commission publishes each month and which regularly contains information on the State aids decisions adopted since the beginning of the year.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 884/83

by Mr Robert Battersby (ED — GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 September 1983)

Subject: Commission staff flexible working hours

Could the Commission state whether it intends to introduce flexible working hours for all staff, and to consider the possibility of permitting staff to accumulate a restricted number of excess hours worked to contribute towards personal leave additional to the annual leave entitlement?

Such a system would be of considerable value to the substantial number of staff who return regularly during the year for weekends and public holidays to their home countries, often spending several hours travelling and often being unable to reserve seats on aircraft.

It would also ensure that the Commission was following the practice in this matter established by other enlightened international organizations and companies.

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

(30 September 1983)

In the light of the results of the pilot schemes referred to in its answer to Written Question No 170/83⁽¹⁾ by the Honourable Member, the Commission will consider whether more flexible working hours should be introduced for all its staff.

The detailed arrangements for any such move would be designed to satisfy both the requirements of the service and the interests of staff.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 177, 4. 7. 1983, p. 29.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 886/83

by Mr Rudolf Wedekind (PPE — D)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 September 1983)

Subject: Community framework programme for science and technology (1984 to 1987)

What are the formalities for applications from university institutes wishing to take part in the research and development programme?

To which Community offices should applications be addressed?

Within what limits is financial support provided?

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

(7 October 1983)

The 1984 to 1987 framework programme put forward by the Commission is intended to serve as a programming, decision-making and financing guide for Community activities in the field of research, development and demonstration; it is not a legal

basis for the granting of funds in support of research through shared-cost contracts. The Council Decisions on specific Community research, development and demonstration activities continue to form the legal basis for measures in support of research.

Where the specific Council Decisions provide for funds in support of research to be allocated by way of shared-costs contracts, the Commission lays down the conditions for the granting of aid for the programme in question, and published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* a call for suitable research proposals, setting out the main conditions. This call gives details of the department from which information can be obtained and to which applications should be sent, and states the amount of financial aid available.

(¹) COM(83) 260 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 887/83

by Mr Rudolf Wedekind (PPE — D)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 September 1983)

Subject: Protectionist advertising in the United Kingdom

What action will the Commission take in connection with the anti-European campaign conducted by a group of 35 British industrial firms and associations whose advertisements call on producers to label their products with the 'Think British' symbol incorporating the Union Jack and urge British consumers to devote £ 3 of their weekly spending to British products instead of thoughtlessly buying foreign goods?

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

(17 October 1983)

In its reply to Written Question No 2097/82 by Mr Clinton(¹), the Commission indicated that the competition rules laid down by the EEC Treaty may, under certain circumstances, be relevant in connection with publicity campaigns aimed at promoting national products, provided such a campaign is the result of restrictive or abusive behaviour by enterprises, having an actual or potential effect on trade between Member States.

Whether application of the competition rules could be called for in the case of the 'Think British' campaign referred to by the Honourable Member, will require a closer examination by the Commission of the exact nature of the alleged activities.

In general, and apart from the strictly legal aspects involved, the Commission very much regrets the initiation of any publicity campaigns at variance with the spirit of the Treaty.

(¹) OJ No C 219, 16. 8. 1983.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 888/83

by Mr Rudolf Wedekind (PPE — D)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(11 September 1983)

Subject: Turning back at the French border of lorries carrying electrical appliances

On 1 July 1983, the French customs authorities turned back at the French border several lorries carrying approximately 600 German freezers. Their refusal to allow the goods to be imported was not based on considerations of quality or safety standards; the sole complaint was that the appliances did not have a certain control marking or a special certificate that Paris has made compulsory as from 1 July.

Does the Commission share the fears of the German Central Association of the Electrotechnical Industry (ZDEI) that France's attitude is becoming increasingly protectionist?

What action will the Commission take to prevent further measures of this type affecting other German products which are particularly competitive?

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

(11 October 1983)

Before the Commission was informed of the affair referred to by the Honourable Member, it had made representations to the French authorities to suspend application of the decree of 10 June 1983, which is the legal basis for the measures criticized.

On 7 July 1983 the Commission initiated Article 169 of the EEC Treaty procedure for infringement of Article 30 of the EEC Treaty. This procedure is now in progress.

The Commission will closely scrutinize, as it has done here, any complaints referred to it about measures causing barriers to trade.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 891/83

**by Mr Horst Seefeld
and Mr Gerhard Schmid (S — D)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(1 September 1983)

Subject: Transport of fresh milk to Italy

At present 57% of fresh milk transported by rail from Bavaria to Italy has to be routed via Chiasso, which is considerably longer than over the Brenner pass.

1. Is it true that this detour is necessary because:
 - (a) the Italian authorities are unable to carry out veterinary/medical inspections at Fortezza at weekends;
 - (b) the railway sidings can only take two trains?
2. If so,

Would it not be possible to carry out the veterinary inspections inside Italy, for example in Bologna, or *at the final destination*?
3. Is the Commission prepared to help resolve this obviously unsatisfactory state of affairs?

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

(11 October 1983)

The Commission was not previously aware of the particular problem mentioned by the Honourable Members although it has recently investigated (and opened an infringement procedure against Italy under Article 169 of the EEC Treaty) a similar problem involving difficulties in the import of certain milk products through another frontier post. It will therefore first be necessary for the Commission to investigate the particular circumstances of this new case.

The Commission's investigation into this matter will include an examination as to whether the health requirements for milk entering Italy are excessive having regard to the provisions of Article 36 of the EEC Treaty.

The Commission will not fail to take any action available to it in order to ensure that the imports mentioned by the Honourable Members are not subjected to measures which are incompatible with Community rules.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 901/83

**by Mrs Renate-Charlotte Rabethge (PPE — D)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(1 September 1983)

Subject: Presentation of total volume of development aid

The individual Community Member States use different methods to calculate their total development aid. For example, in France scholarships for all students from developing countries are entered in the budget under development, whereas in the Federal Republic of Germany this item is charged to educational expenditure.

These amounts, which are small in themselves, reappear in relation to the gross national product, which may vary up to 0,5%. As a result, it is no longer possible to draw a comparison between the Community Member States.

What does the Commission intend to do to bring about an adjustment of the basis for calculation used in the various Member States?

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

(5 October 1983)

All members of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) draw up their official development assistance (ODA) statistics on a harmonized basis in accordance with precise instructions laid down by that committee. Thus all DAC members include in their ODA the cost of scholarships awarded to students from the developing countries, regardless of which budget such expenditure is charged at the domestic level.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 903/83

**by Mrs Vera Squarcialupi (COM — I)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(1 September 1983)

Subject: Consumer protection with regard to meals provided by restaurants, hospitals, canteens and similar mass caterers

Article 1 (2) of Directive 79/112/EEC of 18 December 1978⁽¹⁾ on the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the ultimate consumer states that the Directive may apply also to foodstuffs intended for supply to restaurants,

hospitals, canteens and other similar mass caterers, 'in so far as the Member States shall so decide'.

Can the Commission indicate which Member States have so decided?

(¹) OJ No L 33, 8. 2. 1979, p. 1.

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

(21 October 1983)

The provisions of Council Directive 79/112/EEC of 18 December 1978(¹) on the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the ultimate consumer relating to foodstuffs intended for supply to restaurants, hospitals, canteens and other similar mass caterers have been incorporated into German, Belgian, United Kingdom, Luxembourg and Italian legislation.

Similar provisions are envisaged in France and Greece.

(¹) OJ No L 33, 8. 2. 1979, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 904/83

**by Mrs Vera Squarzialupi (COM — I)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(1 September 1983)

Subject: Appropriate mark to indicate the use of contact lenses

In the event of an accident or indisposition involving a wearer of contact lenses, it may happen that the lenses are left in place for a long period, which can cause serious discomfort and may also damage the eyes.

Does the Commission not agree that it would be useful to introduce for wearers of contact lenses a special uniform mark, easily findable and recognizable by anyone coming to the rescue, and that this mark could be included in a future European health manual?

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

(11 October 1983)

The Commission intends to submit a proposal to the Council concerning the introduction, on a voluntary basis, of a Community emergency health-care card with a view to enabling persons at risk, i.e. those suffering from a serious or chronic illness, to receive

medical treatment in an emergency. Although no provision has been made in the document for a special section on the wearing of contact lenses, the doctors responsible for its issue may mention this fact under the heading 'Other relevant information'.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 915/83

**by Mr Gérard Fuchs (S — F)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(1 September 1983)

Subject: European Development Fund

Can the Commission indicate the volume of appropriations under the first four European Development Funds which have still to be committed (to be paid)?

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

(5 October 1983)

As at 30 June 1983, the volume of appropriations still to be committed or paid under the first four European Development Funds was as follows:

(ECU)

	Still to be committed	Still to be paid
First EDF	(closed)	(closed)
Second EDF	893 401,84	2 871 932,73
Third EDF	17 796 465,83	53 583 106,32
Fourth EDF	154 296 284,97	802 935 752,03
Total	172 986 152,64	859 390 791,08

Out of a total allocation for the first four Funds of 5 372 861,04 ECU, 3,22% remains to be committed and 15,99% to be paid.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 916/83

**by Mrs Marie-Jane Pruvot (L — F)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(1 September 1983)

Subject: Extent of opticians' rights

Could the Commission look for ways of prohibiting opticians from prescribing contact lenses without proper medical supervision — a practice which often seriously endangers the patient?

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

(7 October 1983)

The Commission does not consider it advisable to lay down binding rules regarding the activities of opticians.

It considers that the Member States have at their disposal sufficient means of persuasion to resolve in practice the problem of prescriptions for contact lenses since the social security bodies or health authorities may, if they wish, refuse to reimburse the cost of lenses not prescribed by a doctor.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 918/83

**by Mr Alfred Lomas (S — GB)
to the Council of the European Communities**

(1 September 1983)

Subject: Resumption of food aid to Vietnam

In previous replies to my questions to the Commission and the Council of Ministers⁽¹⁾, requesting the resumption of food aid to Vietnam, I have been given at different times various reasons for not resuming food aid.

One reason was that proper distribution could not be guaranteed. This has been proved false by reports from Oxfam, the UN World Food Programme, and other organizations, who are involved in distribution of food aid to the Vietnamese people, all of whom have stated they are perfectly satisfied with the supervision and that Vietnam is one of the best recipient countries in this matter.

Another reason that has been given was that the EEC would not resume food aid to a country which was occupying another country, i.e. that 'Vietnam was occupying Kampuchea'. Recently, the EEC has agreed to resume aid to Israel, a much richer country in far less need of aid than Vietnam, despite Israel's continued occupation of Lebanon, following the brutal invasion of that country by Israel. Now that that principle has been rejected, will the Council of Ministers give urgent and serious consideration to the resumption of food aid to Vietnam, a country which has suffered so cruelly

from wars and natural disasters and is so desperately in need of such aid?

(¹) Written Question No 1967/81 to the Commission (OJ No C 225, 30. 8. 1982, p. 2); Oral Question No H-534/81 to the Commission (Debates of the European Parliament, No 1-277 (November 1981), p. 195); Oral Question No H-806/81 to the Council (Debates of the European Parliament, No 1-284 (April 1982), p. 177).

Answer

(28 October 1983)

The Council adopted the list of countries and organizations eligible, in 1983, for the food aid referred to in Article 1 of Regulation (EEC) No 1992/83 from among the countries and organizations listed in the Commission proposal, which did not include Vietnam.

The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to the fact that the Community is able to give, and has given, aid of an essentially humanitarian nature to communities in need by channelling it through non-governmental organizations (NGOs), while ensuring that such aid can effectively be distributed to the people for whom it is intended.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 932/83

**by Mr Michael Welsh (ED — GB)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(1 September 1983)

Subject: Greek pharmaceutical imports

The Commission will be aware that for many years successive Greek Governments have held down the prices of pharmaceuticals by artificial means. This has made it particularly difficult for pharmaceutical manufacturers and their agents to operate in the Greek market. It is now alleged that foreign suppliers of pharmaceuticals suffer the following forms of discrimination:

- (a) They have not been allowed to raise the cif price of a product from the level fixed when it was introduced to the market, in some cases as long as 10 years ago.
- (b) They have not been permitted to adjust the exchange rate at which prices are converted into drachmae. Price increases to match exchange rate fluctuations have on occasion taken two years to be approved and even then only 50% of the increase has been granted.

- (c) Notwithstanding the above, the Greek customs have based their valuation on the actual rate of exchange when goods are removed from bond, thus substantially increasing the duty.
- (d) Certain pharmaceuticals were deliberately excluded from the provisions purporting to compensate importers for the 18,3% devaluation in January 1983, thus excluding them from the market.
1. Is the Commission aware of these allegations and can it confirm the existence of such practices?
 2. What steps does the Commission propose to take to ensure that the market for pharmaceutical products operates correctly in all Member States?
 3. Has the Commission drawn the attention of the Greek authorities to the Parliament's resolution on the pharmaceutical industry and in particular those clauses which specifically condemn the Greek authorities' attempt to partition the market in pharmaceuticals?
 4. Is the Commission aware of any provisions in the Accession Treaty which would permit the Greek Government to protect its pharmaceutical industry in this way?
 5. If not will the Commission consider bringing the Greek Government before the Court of Justice as being in breach of Articles 34 and 37 of the Treaty of Rome?

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

(18 October 1983)

The problems referred to by the Honourable Member are the subject of proceedings which the Commission has recently initiated against Greece under Article 169 of the EEC Treaty.

The Commission will do everything to ensure that Community law is respected in this matter.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 950/83

by Ms Ann Clwyd (S — GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 September 1983)

Subject: Court of Justice judgment given on 8 October 1981 in Case 175/80 ⁽¹⁾ (Tither v. European Commission)

The European Court of Justice judgment awarded in favour of Mr Tither, for wrongful dismissal by the

Commission. However, the judgment has not been fully implemented by the Commission. Would the Commission therefore state:

- (a) whether they agree that, in accordance with the judgment, interest should be paid to Mr Tither on arrears of salary payment;
- (b) if agreed, when such payment will be made?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 219, 27. 8. 1980, p. 6.

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

(17 October 1983)

On 5 May 1983 the Commission decided to pay interest on the arrears of remuneration due to Mr Tither. The interest due in respect of the period 9 October 1979 to 18 December 1981 was calculated by reference to his remuneration from September 1979 to December 1981.

The complex calculations were agreed by the three departments concerned and the amount was paid into Mr Tither's account on 6 September 1983.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 957/83

by Mr Andrew Pearce (ED — GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 September 1983)

Subject: Grants from the European Regional Development Fund

Why does it take so long for the Commission to publish in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* information about grants from the European Regional Development Fund — the decisions taken on 20 September 1982 were not published until 1 July 1983?

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

(12 October 1983)

In its annual reports on the management of the ERDF the Commission has described the material and technical difficulty involved in publishing lists of all the investment projects aided by the ERDF in all the Community languages in reasonable time.

Despite these difficulties the delay has recently been reduced. A large number of decisions taken at the

end of 1982 were published in July this year, and the decisions taken in June of this year are expected to be published in October.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 964/83

by Mr Brian Key (S — GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 September 1983)

Subject: Air pollution monitoring

In areas like South Yorkshire there is a high level of air pollution and, bearing in mind the EEC Directive for smoke and sulphur dioxide levels, would the Commission consider financing the establishment of local monitoring stations?

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

(17 October 1983)

Because the air quality Directive for sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates ⁽¹⁾ has been included in United Kingdom legislation, the Commission is unable to intervene with support for the placement of stations within the territory of a Member State.

Essentially the choice or placement of stations to monitor the application of this Directive is the responsibility of the Member State concerned; approaches should, therefore, be made to the competent national authority if there is any indication that levels in a specific location are likely to exceed (or approach) the prescribed limits.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 229, 30. 8. 1980.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 968/83

by Mrs Winifred Ewing (DEP — GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 September 1983)

Subject: Coastal protection

Further to its reply of 1 June 1982 to my Written Question No 237/82 ⁽¹⁾ on the same subject, will the Commission provide additional information on Community expenditure on coastal protection schemes and state whether it has received any grant applications from the United Kingdom Government?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 167, 5. 7. 1982, p. 34.

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

(4 October 1983)

Since the reply to Written Question No 237/82, 28 coastal protection projects in Italy and five in the United Kingdom have received aid from the European Regional Development Fund.

In Italy, 1,86 million ECU has been granted to 28 projects of which 26 were in Campania and Sicily. These investments concern coastal protection as well as marine and harbour works to improve conditions for the development of commercial and tourism activities in the areas concerned.

In the United Kingdom, the five projects have received an ERDF aid of 1,82 million ECU. Three of the projects concern sea defence works in the North West on the coastline of the Irish Sea, a groyne in Allerdale in the North and a contribution to a study concerning a breakwater in Mallaig Harbour in Scotland.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 979/83

by Mr Noel Davern (DEP — IRL)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(1 September 1983)

Subject: Irish Steel

In the *Official Journal of the European Communities* of 25 February, the Commission published a notice that the Irish Government wished to make a £ Irl 89 million grant plus a further £ Irl 25 million as a loan guarantee to Irish Steel Ltd.

The Commission invited interested parties other than Member States to comment on this proposal within 30 days.

In view of the Commission's report on the Irish economy published in Brussels on 16 May, would the Commission indicate whether it intends to allow the Irish Government to go ahead with its financial plans for Irish Steel?

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

(10 October 1983)

Following the initiation of the procedure to which the Honourable Member refers, the Commission gave its final Decision on the aids to Irish Steel (ISL) on 29 June 1983. This Decision ⁽¹⁾ provides in particular that the aids to ISL are not compatible

with the orderly functioning of the common market unless the Irish Government can demonstrate to the Commission that ISL will be financially viable without any additional aid by the end of 1985. In order to allow sufficient time for viability to be demonstrated, the Commission, in accordance with Article 3 of its Decision, informed the Irish Government on 1 August 1983 that it was satisfied that ISL is on target for achieving the viability objective and that it would therefore raise no objection to the provision by the Irish Government of up to £Irl 14 million of guarantees for the period up to 31 January 1984.

(1) OJ No L 227, 19. 8. 1983.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 980/83
by Mr Seán Flanagan (DEP — IRL)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(1 September 1983)

Subject: ERDF aid for fast passenger ferry service to the Aran Islands (Ireland)

There is considerable need for a fast and efficient passenger ferry service to the Aran Islands, which are located off the west coast of Ireland and the periphery of the Community.

If the Irish Government were to apply for aid for such a service from the European Regional Development Fund, would such an application be favourably received and, if so, what level of aid would be available?

Answer given by Mr Giolitti
on behalf of the Commission

(10 October 1983)

The Commission is at present examining the possibility of financing physically mobile assets by the ERDF.

The Commission must, before a decision on ERDF aid can be taken, obtain the opinion of the Fund Committee and, if it is an infrastructure project of 10 million ECU or more, also consult the Regional Policy Committee.

If an application for aid is submitted in respect of a ferry it has to be presented either as a service activity or as an investment in infrastructure.

Investments in service activities will normally obtain an aid of 20% of the investment cost without, however, exceeding 50% of the aid accorded by public authorities under a system of regional aid.

For investments in infrastructure the Fund contribution is 30% of the expenditure incurred by public authorities if the cost of investment is less than 10 million ECU and from 10 to 30% if the cost is above this amount. However, the maximum rate may be 40% for projects which are of particular importance to the development of the region in which they are situated.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1003/83
by Mr James Moorhouse (ED — GB)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(6 September 1983)

Subject: Belgian State aids to Sabena and Sobelair

1. Is it true that the Commission had planned to take proceedings against Belgium for violating the Treaty by granting unauthorized aids to Sabena and Sobelair?
2. Is it true that the Commissioners decided to take no action concerning this matter despite the threat that these unlawful aids pose?
3. Why did the Commissioners decide to take no action in this matter?
4. When will the Commissioners finally act on this matter?

Answer given by Mr Contogeorgis
on behalf of the Commission

(13 October 1983)

The Commission has received a complaint concerning alleged State aids to Sabena and Sobelair.

The Commission has investigated the matter but finds it necessary before taking further steps to reach certain conclusions concerning a common air transport policy including guidelines for the application to air transport of the State aid articles.

Further action on the complaint will therefore be decided when the Commission issues a communication on a common air transport policy later this year.

Assessment in Science and Technology) programme, to which the Council agreed on 28 June 1983.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1013/83
by Mr Willy Vernimmen (S — B)
to the Council of the European Communities
(6 September 1983)

Subject: First framework programme 1984 to 1987

At its meeting of 28 June 1983 the Council of Ministers for Research adopted a resolution containing *inter alia* the first framework programme 1984 to 1987. We welcome the fact that more intensive development cooperation and the improvement of working and living conditions are included among the scientific objectives of the programme. With specific reference to the latter objective, however, we note that mention is made only of improving material working conditions, protection of workers' health and protection of the environment.

The central objective of how to achieve a return to full employment in the medium term is, however, missing. Yet if this matter is not dealt with, the framework programme will be of relevance only to those in employment while leaving the 12 million unemployed in Europe out in the cold.

Can the Council indicate whether extension of the objectives along these lines would be possible?

Answer
(28 October 1983)

The Honourable Member's attention is drawn to the fact that the first framework programme 1984 to 1987 involves specific Community activities in research, development and demonstration.

By its very nature, employment is more in the line of economic and social policies and accordingly comes in for detailed studies under those policies.

The problem of a return to full employment has not been included, therefore, among the programme's priority objectives.

However, the relationship between technology, employment and work is one of the research topics covered by the second FAST (Forecasting and

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1027/83
by Mr Andrew Pearce (ED — GB)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(14 September 1983)

Subject: Food aid

Which charitable organizations or similar bodies in the United Kingdom benefited from Regulation (EEC) No 1497/83 ⁽¹⁾?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 152, 10. 6. 1983, p. 10.

Answer given by Mr Pisani
on behalf of the Commission
(7 October 1983)

Regulation (EEC) No 1497/83 concerns the supply of wheat flour to the World Food Programme, Rome, as food aid for Equatorial Guinea and Gambia. No charitable organization or similar body in the United Kingdom was involved in the implementation of this Regulation.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1041/83
by Mr Andrew Pearce (ED — GB)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(1 September 1983)

Subject: Level of information about the Bank for International Settlements

In the context of its management of the Community's economy, is the Commission satisfied that the level of information about the Bank for International Settlements available to the public is satisfactory?

Answer given by Mr Ortoli
on behalf of the Commission
(4 October 1983)

The following activities of the Bank for International Settlements are directly related to Community affairs:

- the BIS provides the Secretariat for the Committee of Governors of the Central Banks of the Member States of the European Economic Community,
- the BIS provides the Secretariat for the Board of Governors of the European Monetary Cooperation Fund,
- the BIS also provides the Secretariat for sub-committees and groups of experts of these bodies. These include in particular: the Committee of Governors' Alternates; a group specializing in matters relating to foreign exchange markets and intervention policies on these markets; a group commissioned to examine periodically the monetary policies pursued by Member States and their Community-wide coordination,
- the BIS performs the functions of Agent for the European Monetary Cooperation Fund.

In all these functions, the BIS acts on behalf of Community bodies which also decide on the BIS information policy with respect to these matters.

The Commission, which is represented in the Community bodies mentioned above, is informed about the respective BIS activities on a regular basis.

Taking into consideration the account of BIS activities documented in its Annual Reports as well as supplementary information made public by individual Community central banks, the Commission considers the level of information about the Bank for International Settlements available to the public as satisfactory.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1052/83
by Mr Andrew Pearce (ED — GB)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(21 September 1983)

Subject: Import of rum in France

Are the current French national quantitative restrictions on the import of rum contrary to the spirit and letter of arrangements for the import of rum under the Lomé Convention (1)?

(1) OJ No C 181, 7. 4. 1983, p. 1.

Answer given by Mr Pisani
on behalf of the Commission

(11 October 1983)

Article 2 (a) of Protocol 5 on rum annexed to the second ACP-EEC Convention signed at Lomé on 31 October 1979 provides that 'by derogation from Article 2 (1) of the Convention, the Community shall each year fix the quantities which may be imported free of customs duties'.

In fixing this tariff quota, the Council decides each year that Member States shall manage the shares allocated to them in accordance with their own arrangements (1).

As far as the Commission is aware, France, like the other Member States does not apply quantitative restrictions other than those provided for by Protocol 5 on rum and applied by annual Council Regulations.

(1) Article 3 (1) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1624/83 of 14 June 1983 (OJ No L 160, 18. 6. 1983, p. 2).