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(Information)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWER

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2177/86

by Mrs Undine-Uta Bloch von Blottnitz (ARC—D)
to the Commission of the European Communities

*(16 December 1986)**(87/C 295/01)*

Subject: Pesticide pollution of drinking water in the UK

A House of Commons committee of inquiry has found that drinking water in East Anglia is polluted by pesticides. Lindane has been found in concentrations 350 times higher than is allowed under the Community directive on drinking water. Levels of four other toxic pesticides are apparently also far in excess of those permitted.

1. What risks attach to the continued use of this poisoned drinking water?
2. Should young children, pregnant women, breast-feeding mothers or the sick be allowed to drink this water at all?
3. Does the Commission consider the monitoring of drinking water quality in the United Kingdom to be satisfactory?

**Answer given by Mr Clinton Davis
on behalf of the Commission**

(28 July 1987)

The Commission would point out that under Council Directive 80/778/EEC ⁽¹⁾ Member States have to take all steps necessary to ensure that water intended for human consumption at least meets the requirements specified in Annex I to that Directive and ensure that its quality is regularly checked.

The World Health Organization describes a gamma hexachlorocyclohexane (gamma-HCH, i.e. lindane) concentration of 3 µg/l ⁽²⁾ as having no effect on health.

The maximum admissible concentration of 0,1 µg/l in the Directive is a conservative value and has to take account of the fact that other pesticides may be present.

The Honourable Member is also referred to the answer given by the Commission to Written Question No 2096/86 by Mr Ford ⁽³⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 229, 30. 8. 1980, p. 11.⁽²⁾ Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality — Vol. 2 (1984).⁽³⁾ OJ No C 240, 7. 9. 1987.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2661/86

by Mr Kenneth Stewart (S—GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

*(12 February 1987)**(87/C 295/02)*

Subject: Mersey Barrage

Would the Commission state what progress has been made towards the further survey of the Mersey Barrage project?

Will they confirm that permission has been given for work to commence on the feasibility study, and that this will be carried out by Rendal Parkman? Will the Commission say when they received applications for grant aid for the feasibility study from the Department of the Environment and the Mersey Barrage Company?

Would the Commission state their findings on the

- (a) environmental consequences?
- (b) estimated life of the barrage?
- (c) electricity generating costs?

The feasibility study is being undertaken by Rendal Parkman, covering three areas of study

1. engineering/mechanics of the project,
2. environmental effects and leisure aspects
3. social projections etc., jobs, effects upon the area.

Will the Commission keep me informed on the progress of the study?

If the study is successful will the Commission be of a mind to support the final project, as this is estimated to provide 5 000 jobs in a highly depressed area?

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

(23 June 1987)

An application for financial assistance from the European Regional Development Fund towards the cost of a feasibility study related to the Mersey Barrage project is being considered by the Commission. The Commission has indicated that a start on the study by the consultants Rendal Parkman will not prejudice consideration of the current application for aid. The application was received on 22. 8. 1986. No conclusions have yet been reached by the Commission on the points raised in the question although queries on these subject have been put to the UK Authorities and a reply is awaited.

The Commission is interested to learn whether the life expectancy of 120 years for the barrage and of 40 years for the plant and equipment is not over optimistic. The question has also been raised as to whether the income resulting from the sale of electricity may not be sufficient to cover operating costs. There is also concern that the environmental impact part of the study will only cover a partial evaluation of the effects of the barrage and may not fully satisfy Council Directive 85/337/EEC⁽¹⁾.

The Commission will inform the Honourable Member in due course about the outcome of application for financial assistance towards the cost of the study.

However it is unable to say at this stage whether or not ERDF support to the project would be available should the UK Authorities decide to make an application for such assistance.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 175, 5. 7. 1985, p. 40.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2668/86

**by Mr Jaak Vandemeulebroucke (ARC—B)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(12 February 1987)

(87/C 295/03)

Subject: The British reprocessing plant for radioactive waste in Sellafield

Some time ago the Commission asked the British Government for specific information concerning the

incidents which occurred in the British reprocessing plant for radioactive waste in Sellafield and the effects on the inhabitants of the surrounding area.

Has this information been provided and are European Community experts now able to draw conclusions from this affair? If so, what are these conclusions?

**Answer given by Mr Clinton Davis
on behalf of the Commission**

(8 July 1987)

The Honourable Member is referred to the Commission's reply to his Written Question No 1548/86⁽¹⁾.

Additionally, since that answer was prepared, a meeting has been held between the UK Nuclear Installations Inspectorate and Commission officials on the report 'Safety Audit of BNFL Sellafield 1986' (HMSO London, December 1986) at which the Commission was assured by the UK authorities that they are already acting to remedy past deficiencies as a matter of urgency.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 220, 17. 8. 1987.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2692/86

**by Mrs Ludivina Garcia Arias (S—E)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(19 February 1987)

(87/C 295/04)

Subject: Spanish NGO projects

How does the Commission explain the fact that only 0,5 % of budget appropriations set aside for NGOs were allocated to Spanish projects?

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

(13 May 1987)

In 1986, nine projects presented by Spanish NGOs were cofinanced under Article 941 of the budget, at a total cost of some 630 000 ECU (i.e. 1,4 % of the total amount available of 45 million ECU).

During 1986 the Commission made a special effort to inform Spanish organizations of opportunities for NGO-EEC cooperation, notably with regard to cofinancing. This involved visits by teams of officials, the publication of information in Spanish, meetings, and so on. In this way the Commission had established direct contact with a score of

Spanish NGOs by the end of the year. At the institutional level, representatives of Spanish NGOs were invited to the meeting between the NGOs' European Assembly and the Commission in April 1986, and representatives of the Spanish NGOs' Coordinadora regularly attend meetings between the Liaison Committee of European NGOs and the Commission.

These efforts have produced results, as a number of Spanish NGOs presented cofinancing projects during 1986. However, most of them were presented too late in the year for them to be cofinanced in 1986.

As a result of the information and awareness campaigns conducted in 1986, the Commission has already received, in the early part of this year, ten requests for cofinancing from Spanish NGOs involving a total of some 1,2 million ECU. Hence it is certain that cofinancing with Spanish NGOs in 1987 will be appreciably greater than it was in 1986.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2723/86

by Mrs Ludivina Garcia Arias (S—E)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(19 February 1987)

(87/C 295/05)

Subject: Trade between the EEC and Central America

What measures have been taken to date to promote trade between the EEC and Central America?

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

(11 May 1987)

The Community has a budget heading (Article 931) to help promote trade in goods and services in non-associated developing countries in Latin America and Asia (LAA), hence including Central America.

The particular aim of this type of aid is to promote exports from these countries to regional or overseas markets, notably to the EEC, by improving the added value, quality and presentation of local products.

Over the years this form of aid has increased steadily; from 1980 to 1985 Central America received an annual average of some 1 300 000 ECU in aid.

Current aid programmes cover a fairly wide range of activities (institutional aid, training, investment promotion, promotion of agro-industrial exports, promotion of tourism, development of the packaging sector).

The integrated approach adopted after the Council's Decision in April 1986 has meant that greater attention can be paid to the different stages of a project — from improvement of the product right through to marketing, with training and institutional assistance included where necessary. A special effort has been made to finance projects designed to encourage diversification of exported goods and strengthen regional cooperation (ASOEXPO).

In future, any action the Community takes in Central America to develop trade and services will form part of the new approach to cooperation between the Community and Latin America, as described in the Commission's communication to the Council of 2 December 1986.

In addition, the countries of Central America benefit from the Community's scheme under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and made increasing use of it from 1982 to 1985, although they still rank among the minor users of the GSP; they must therefore take greater advantage of the existing possibilities. The Commission can help them in this by organizing seminars to inform producers and exporters. The countries of Central America must, however, make a greater effort to diversify their finished and semi-finished products. As regards agriculture, a substantial improvement in the GSP scheme is under way this year, with the inclusion in the 1987 scheme of raw coffee, the staple export of the countries in question.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2728/86

by Mr Ernest Mühlen (PPE—L)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(19 February 1987)

(87/C 295/06)

Subject: Non-recognition of certificates of apprenticeship and master craftman's diplomas issued in the various Member States of the Community

1. Is the Commission aware of the problems raised by the non-recognition of master craftman's diplomas and certificates of apprenticeship (Gesellenbrief)?

2. What measures does it intend to take to promote the recognition of these certificates and diplomas, on which the free movement of skilled craftsmen largely depends?

3. In particular, is it prepared to make representations to the German authorities with a view to finding a practical solution to the particular case referred to in the attached documents (refusal by the German authorities to recognize the certificate of apprenticeship issued by the Luxembourg authorities to the son of a German employee of the European Parliament)?

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

(15 July 1987)

1. In the broader context of the free movement of workers, the Commission has always accorded the greatest attention to the question of the mutual recognition of vocational qualifications between the Member States.

This is, however, an area in which it has been very difficult to achieve even modest progress for methodological reasons relating to the difficulty of comparing widely different vocational training systems and levels.

2. Recently the Council, by its Decision of 16 July 1985 ⁽¹⁾, empowered the Commission to establish in cooperation with the Member States the comparability of vocational training qualifications between the Member States for skilled workers.

The criteria proposed for this training level structure enabled the inclusion of apprenticeship certificates in the field covered by this Decision. As regards master craftsmans' diplomas, it may be asserted that — apart from certain exceptions to be examined case by case — the same possibility does not exist since these diplomas may be considered to fall under level 3 of the structure. After consulting the Member States, the Commission, in collaboration with the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training in Berlin, has begun technical work in three sectors: the hotel and catering trades, motor vehicle repair and maintenance, and the building trade, for which the results should be available during the second half of the year. Similar work was begun this year relating to the electricity, agricultural and textile and clothing sectors. The Commission intends, in the years to come, to establish the comparability of qualifications over as wide a range as possible of trades and professions, while gradually extending the focus of its activities to the highest levels in the structure referred to.

3. As regards wage and salary earners, the instrument referred to in the preceding paragraph is at present the only one available through which progress may be achieved in this area, national legislative and administrative provisions being still applicable in the restrictive sense until such time as they may be amended.

The Commission does not, therefore, think it appropriate to make representations to the German authorities in the case referred to by the Honourable Member, since it cannot make reference to a rule which has yet to be established.

The Commission is, however, reasonably confident as to the medium- and long-term results of its activities aimed at progressively decompartmentalizing the national labour markets with a view to achieving a new and greater economic and social dimension at European level.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 199, 31. 7. 1985.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2737/86

by Mr Bryan Cassidy (ED—GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(27 February 1987)

(87/C 295/07)

Subject: Discrimination against non-French shareholders of Saint-Gobain

Shareholders of Saint-Gobain have been advised that 'Il est rappelé que les personnes physiques de nationalité française ou résidentes bénéficieront d'une attribution gratuite, à raison d'une action pour dix actions acquises directement de l'Etat à l'occasion de l'Offre Publique de Vente.'

Can the Commission confirm that to disallow free shares for non-French Community nationals (not living in France) is discriminatory, and if so, what steps will the Commission take to end this discrimination?

**Answer given by Lord Cockfield
on behalf of the Commission**

(5 August 1987)

As observed by the Honourable Member, it is correct that in the legal notice published by the French Government in connection with the public offer of shares in Saint-Gobain it is stated that under certain conditions individuals of French nationality or residents will receive one free share for each group of 10 shares directly acquired as a result of the public offer.

In the view of the Commission such a disallowance of free shares for non-French Community nationals indeed raises difficulties with regard to Articles 52 and 221 of the EEC Treaty. The Commission has drawn this to the attention of the French authorities.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2749/86

by Mr Winston Griffiths (S—GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(27 February 1987)

(87/C 295/08)

Subject: Applications for funding under Chapter II, measures to exploit the potential for internally generated development of regions, under Article 15 of the ERDF Regulation

Will the Commission list by country the number of applications it has received under Article 15 of ERDF Regulation (EEC) No 1787/84 ⁽¹⁾?

Can the Commission confirm that the United Kingdom Government has made no application for actual receipt of funds under Article 15?

If so, has the Commission any knowledge of the reason for this failure of the United Kingdom Government to use Article 15 which was particularly designed to encourage locally developed initiatives, especially by small and medium-sized enterprises which the Conservative Government regards as the main promoters of new jobs?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 169, 28. 6. 1984, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2813/86

by Mr James Ford (S—GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(5 March 1987)

(87/C 295/09)

Subject: European Regional Development Fund

Is the Commission aware that the British Government is neither putting forward local authority schemes nor their own proposals to initiate projects under Article 15 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1787/84 ⁽¹⁾? Could the Commission indicate whether the British Government is contravening Community Law? What steps will the Commission be taking to ensure that proposals submitted from local authorities under Article 15 receive funding?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 169, 28. 6. 1984, p. 1.

Joint answer to Written Question Nos 2749/86 and 2813/86

(11 May 1987)

The provisions of Article 15 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 1787/84 ⁽¹⁾ aim at co-financing national measures designed to exploit the potential for internally generated development of regions.

The initiative and responsibility for the presentation of applications for co-financing such measures to the Commission lies with the Member States. The utilization of the possibilities offered by Article 15 by all Member States

has however to date been weak, with three approvals in favour of the United Kingdom representing a total ERDF contribution of 10,5 million ECU; two for Denmark — 6,6 million ECU; four for France — 8,8 million ECU; one for Greece — 1,2 million ECU; one for Ireland — 0,6 million ECU and 1 for the Netherlands — 1,9 million ECU. Although this slow response to the opportunities available does not in itself constitute an infringement of the terms of the regulation, it is nevertheless contrary to its spirit.

Bearing in mind therefore the importance of these measures to the mobilization of local and regional development resources, particularly with regard to job creation, the Commission has insisted that the United Kingdom authorities, as with the authorities of all Member States, utilize Article 15 to the full.

Assurances that this would be the case were recently given by the United Kingdom authorities to the Commissioner responsible for regional policy. The Commission now waits for these assurances to be honoured.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 169, 28. 6. 1984, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2750/86

by Mr Winston Griffiths (S—GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(27 February 1987)

(87/C 295/10)

Subject: Pilot plans for bioethanol research

There are a number of national bioethanol research projects in the Community, now operating and in prospect in Germany and France. Will the Commission provide a list naming the projects, indicating their size in relation to the bioethanol produced?

Will the Commission state the innovations they hope will be achieved in the research proposals they are helping to finance in the field of bioethanol research?

Is the Commission aware that the cost of bioethanol produced on these plants will be higher than the Community market prices for industrial alcohol and probably for most potable alcohol outlets?

Is the Commission able to confirm that the bioethanol produced by the Aheusen-Eversen project in Germany is being disposed of into the industrial alcohol market by means of State aid?

If there is no alternative to State/EEC aid for the disposal of bioethanol arising out of national or Community assisted research and development, does the Commission intend to set up a procedure whereby it is denatured with a hydrocarbon and placed in a fuel outlet so that it does not distort the Community industrial and potable alcohol markets which are more than amply supplied and where prices are highly sensitive to volume?

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

(22 June 1987)

1. The Commission has not been informed systematically of all national bioethanol projects now operating or in prospect in Community Member States. Therefore, the Commission is not in a position to communicate a complete list enumerating these R and D projects to the Honourable Member. However, the Commission received notification of two State aids for bioethanol pilot plants (Aid No 1/87, Ahausen-Eversen, Aid No 136/86 Gross-Münzel) which will have a bioethanol production capacity of 10 000 tonnes/year and 20 000 tonnes/year.

2. The Commission is considering the possibility to provide some support to various pilot plans for bioethanol research in the frame of its non-nuclear energy R and D programme. To this end the Commission published a call for proposals in 1986. Twenty proposals were received from institutions in eight Community Member States. After completion of the current evaluation process the Commission will eventually conclude contracts with some of these proposals. The Commission's eventual support to pilot plants for bioethanol research will, however, remain marginal in comparison with its overall effort on energy from Biomass. The Commission will inform the Honourable Member of the projects which will receive funding.

Eventually this research on bioethanol for which the Commission's support will remain fairly small in comparison with national efforts — will make it possible to improve the main characteristics of bioethanol production, in particular improvement on the following subjects: waste disposal, energy efficiency, cost reduction, possibility to use various classical and innovative agricultural feed stocks, etc.

3. The Commission is aware that the cost of bioethanol produced in pilot plants will not be competitive. The Commission would, however, like to remind the Honourable Member that the quantity of bioethanol produced will anyway be low because the purpose of any pilot plant will not be production but research.

4. The pilot plant at Ahausen-Eversen will produce — if full capacity is used — about 10 000 tonnes/year ethanol. The ethanol will be sold into the market as an additive to gasoline. It may not be introduced into the food market. In general the Commission takes the view that public funding of pilot plants should foster research and innovation in this field and not support the introduction of bioethanol in the market.

5. The Commission agrees that when bioethanol is produced for disposal into gasoline this alcohol should always be denatured. The Commission will shortly receive a comprehensive study on various aspects of the use of bioethanol as a fuel additive.

This study is expected to be finalized in May 1987 and will subsequently be made available to the European Parliament. The Commission reserves its position as to the conclusions to be drawn from this study.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2902/86

**by Mr François Roelants du Vivier (ARC—B)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(18 March 1987)

(87/C 295/11)

Subject: Withdrawal of certain proposals

By letter of 26 January 1987, the Commission informed the European Parliament that it had decided to withdraw certain proposals.

Will the Commission give the exact reasons for withdrawing the following proposals:

- proposal for a Council Directive laying down basic standards for the health protection of workers and the general public against the dangers of microwave radiation (COM(80) 340 final);
- proposal for a Council Directive on health problems relating to residues of antibiotics in fresh meat of Community origin (COM(81) 501 final);
- proposal for a Council Directive on the harmonized application of the International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC) in the European Economic Community (COM(80) 392 final)?

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

(16 July 1987)

The proposals quoted by the Honourable Member have been withdrawn, within the framework of the periodic review, because they are no longer relevant:

- proposal for a Council Directive laying down basic standards for the health protection of workers and the general public against the dangers of microwave radiation (COM(80) 340 final):

This proposal is no longer relevant because of scientific progress, as has been noted by the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work.

- proposal for a Council Directive on health problems relating to residues of antibiotics in fresh meat of Community origin (COM(81) 501 final):

The measures covered by this proposal were implicitly included in proposal COM(85) 192, adopted by the Council on 16 September 1986 (Directive 86/469/EEC, published in *Official Journal of the European Communities* No L 275 of 26 September 1986, page 36).

- proposal for a Council Directive on the harmonized application of the International Convention for Safe Containers (CSC) in the European Economic Community (COM(80) 392 final):

The Convention is in actual fact being applied in a harmonized manner, exactly as proposed in 1980. The proposal is therefore pointless.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2925/86

by Mrs Barbara Simons (S—D)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 March 1987)

(87/C 295/12)

Subject: The Isle of Man as a trans-shipment point for South African goods

According to newspaper reports, the South African Government is negotiating with the Isle of Man on the use of its territory in order to circumvent trade sanctions.

South African goods are to be imported by the Isle of Man, the labels changed, foodstuffs further processed, and then exported to the countries of the EC. The territory's free port is to be divided up into lots which will then be rented by companies representing South Africa.

1. Does the Commission know of these proceedings and can it confirm them?
2. If so, what political steps have been or will be undertaken by the Commission in order to put a stop to any such South African plans?
3. What is the Commission's attitude to the fact that the US anti-apartheid law provides for counter-measures in cases where third countries attempt to profit from USA trade restrictions under this law?

Answer given by Mr De Clercq
on behalf of the Commission

(17 July 1987)

1. The Commission have been informed by the British Government that following these newspaper reports the

Chief Minister of the Isle of Man Government made the following statement denying the allegations:

'In 1985 an approach was made to the then Chairman of the Government's Freeport Authority, Dr Edgar Mann, by the Industrial Development Corporation, a trading company linked to the South African Government. Representatives of the IDC sought information about the Isle of Man and freeport. Their interest was confined solely to the legitimate use of the freeport by the various companies represented by the IDC. The question of sanctions busting was not raised and in fact no form of sanctions was then operated by the United Kingdom. Also freeport regulations are designed to encourage exports to countries outside the EC. So it is inaccurate to say that the Isle of Man was seeking to exploit its special relationship with the European Community. The Isle of Man Freeport Authority has had many preliminary discussions with prospective tenants, and as with many others the initial contact with the IDC did not lead to any positive proposals. There is no continuing contact at any level between the Isle of Man Government and the South African Government. It must be stressed that the Isle of Man Government does not support the policy of apartheid, and will under no circumstances enter into any arrangements which would enable British trade sanctions to be avoided.'

2. Under Article 227 (5) (c) of the EEC Treaty in conjunction with Article 1 of Protocol 3 to the 1972 Act of Accession, Community rules on customs matters and quantitative restrictions apply to the Isle of Man under the same conditions as to the United Kingdom.

The same applies to the ECSC Treaty, under Article 79 (c).

Accordingly, Community legislation imposing restrictions on imports entering the Community is equally valid for the Isle of Man.

3. The Commission has taken note of the United States' Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 and in particular of sections 402 and 403 thereof.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2962/86

by Mrs Johanna Maij-Weggen (PPE—NL)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 March 1987)

(87/C 295/13)

Subject: Non-recognition by the Federal Republic of Germany of a Dutch diploma in physiotherapy

Is the Commission aware that the Federal Republic of Germany does not recognize the Dutch diploma in physiotherapy?

Can the Commission state what the difference in training is between a Dutch physiotherapist and a German 'Krankengymnast'?

Does the Commission consider it reasonable that a Dutch physiotherapist wishing to work in the Federal Republic of Germany should first have to acquire 520 hours' practical experience in a German health centre designated for this purpose and then have to take a German practical examination?

**Answer given by Lord Cockfield
on behalf of the Commission**

(7 July 1987)

The Commission is not aware that the Federal Republic of Germany does not recognize the Dutch diploma in physiotherapy. It is unable to state what the difference in training is between a Dutch physiotherapist and a German 'Krankengymnast'.

It considers in any event that if in the absence of Directives on the mutual recognition of physiotherapy diplomas, the Member States retain the right to fix the minimum level of qualifications necessary to carry on this activity with the aim of guaranteeing the quality of the services provided on their territory, they may not, without failing to meet their obligations under Articles 5 and 52 of the EEC Treaty, require a national of a Member State to acquire qualifications which usually they determine only by reference to diplomas issued under their national education system, although the person concerned has already obtained all or part or those qualifications in another Member State. Consequently, any host Member State regulating this occupation must examine qualifications acquired in another Member State to see whether they correspond to those that it requires.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2975/86

by Mr Florus Wijsenbeek (LDR—NL)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 March 1987)

(87/C 295/14)

Subject: VAT refunds in Spain

Is the Commission aware that VAT can be refunded to foreign tax-payers in Spain only with the aid of a responsible representative resident in Spain?

Is the Commission aware that this condition is contrary to the provisions of the Eighth VAT Directive?

Does the Commission also know that when oil distillates, including diesel oil, are sold by the Spanish State monopoly, the amount of VAT is not shown separately from the selling price and that this also is contrary to the terms of the Eighth VAT Directive?

Does the Commission realize that if invoices are set out in this way no VAT refund can be claimed?

What steps does the Commission intend to take to persuade the Spanish authorities to change these procedures?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3050/86

by Mr Ben Visser (S—NL)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(30 March 1987)

(87/C 295/15)

Subject: Spanish VAT refunds

1. Is it true that the refund of VAT in Spain to taxable undertakings which are not established in that country is only possible through the intervention of a suitable representative established in Spain?

2. Is it also true that, for purchases of diesel oil for lorries, no receipt stating the amount of VAT paid as part of the sale price is given, which means that applications for refunds of Spanish VAT fail to comply with the necessary formalities and cannot therefore be taken into consideration?

3. Are the above practices in accordance with the Eighth Council Directive of 6 December 1979? If not, what measures does the Commission intend to take?

**Joint answer to Written Questions Nos 2975/86 and
3050/86**

(8 July 1987)

The Commission is aware that under the Spanish rules for implementing the value added tax law, the regulation laying down conditions and arrangements for refund of the tax to taxable persons not established in Spain requires such taxable persons, among other things, to appoint a tax representative in Spain.

The Commission has already pointed out to the Spanish authorities that this is not one of the requirements provided for in Directive 79/1072/EEC of 6 December 1979⁽¹⁾. The matter is being dealt with under the infringement procedure laid down in Article 169 of the EEC Treaty.

As foreign taxable persons appear to be finding it difficult to obtain refunds of VAT on fuel supplied in Spain for the purposes of deductible operations, Commission departments

will ask the Spanish authorities for precise information on the matter. The Commission will then take appropriate measures in the light of the information received.

(¹) OJ No L 331, 27. 12. 1979, p. 11.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3008/86

by Mrs Johanna Maij-Weggen (PPE—NL)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(27 March 1987)

(87/C 295/16)

Subject: Commission stance on the quantity of formaldehyde in chipboard

On 14 April 1986 the Commission stated in reply to my Written Question No 2541/85 (¹) on the maximum quantity of formaldehyde in chipboard in the various Member States and the need for harmonization of the various national regulations in this area that it would decide on its stance on the free movement of chipboard and its use in the construction industry in the light of the findings of a Community study on formaldehyde in chipboard, which were expected in the course of 1986.

Could the Commission state whether this study has now been completed, and if so, what were its findings and what steps does the Commission intend to take regarding the harmonization of regulations of formaldehyde in chipboard?

(¹) OJ No C 175, 14. 7. 1986, p. 28.

**Answer given by Lord Cockfield
on behalf of the Commission**

(9 July 1987)

First of all, the Commission would ask the Honourable Member to refer to the answer to Written Question No 2901/86 by Mr Roelants du Vivier (¹) which reviews the progress of the studies it has undertaken on formaldehyde.

The measures envisaged in the light of the results of these studies will in addition have to take account of the classification of formaldehyde among the danger categories in Council Directive 67/548/EEC concerning the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances (²).

As regards chipboard, and in particular its use in the construction industry, the Commission is examining with the trade sectors concerned ways of supplementing the test methods for determination of formaldehyde emission. The Commission would draw the Honourable Member's

attention to the proposal for a Directive relating to construction products which it approved on 19 December 1986 (³).

This proposal for a Directive, which constitutes a specific application of the new approach to the technical harmonization of construction products, provides for the possibility of giving specialized standards institutions, in particular CEN, mandates to prepare the standards required for its implementation.

(¹) OJ No C 270, 8. 10. 1987

(²) OJ No 196, 16. 8. 1967, p. 1.

(³) COM(86) 756 final/3, 17. 2. 1987.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3021/86

by Mr Eusebio Cano Pinto (S—E)

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

(27 March 1987)

(87/C 295/17)

Subject: Naval blockade of Nicaragua

Recent statements by the new American national security adviser, Frank Carlucci, issued on 25 February 1987 report that serious consideration is being given to a naval blockade of Nicaragua to end the flow of Soviet aid to that country. In the light of this, is any political or diplomatic initiative being planned with a view to dissuading the US Government from organizing such a naval blockade of Nicaragua and avoiding the various dire consequences which would result for the political stability of the region and international detente?

Answer

(24 September 1987)

The Twelve remain convinced that the problems in Central America can be resolved only by a political solution coming from the region itself. They have, since its inception, supported the Contradora peace procedure. At the third Ministerial Conference between the European Community and its Member States, the States of Central America and those of the Contadora Group in Guatemala, on 9 and 10 February 1987, the participants yet again reiterated their conviction, in the joint political declaration of the Conference, that it was essential for all countries with links and interests in the region to make a genuine contribution towards creating a favourable climate in which the Contadora objectives could be translated into an agreement which could bring lasting peace and stability to the region.

The abovementioned declaration was brought to the attention of all countries concerned.

Flanders RDP has been received. The Commission is reminding the other Member States of their obligation in this regard and urging them to send in their reports as soon as possible.

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (EEC) No 1787/84 (OJ No L 169, 28. 6. 1984, p. 1).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3059/86
by Mr Jaak Vandemeulebroucke (ARC—B)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(30 March 1987)

(87/C 295/18)

Subject: ERDF statistical surveys

Under the old regulation governing the European Regional Development Fund, Member States are required to submit before 1 October each year a statistical report of the use of ERDF funds during the previous financial year and the results obtained. Certain Member States, however, are failing to respect this requirement.

For example Belgium did not submit a report for 1984 and only an incomplete report for 1983 which caused serious difficulties for the monitoring and assessment of use to which ERDF funds were put. Can the Commission indicate what measures it intends to take to obtain this information and whether it is considering possible sanctions against Member States which persistently fail to report this requirement?

Can the Commission also say what the situation is concerning compliance with Article 2 (3) (b) of the new regulation, under which the Member States are required to send to the Commission, from the end of 1985, a report on the implementation of regional development programmes. Here also it would appear that Belgium is behind-hand with its obligations. What measures does the Commission intend to take in this respect?

Answer given by Mr Pfeiffer
on behalf of the Commission

(6 July 1987)

Statistical information regarding the expenditure of ERDF funds in Member States is available within the Commission department responsible for the disbursement of the Fund.

The obligation for Member States to provide statistical information on the result of all regional measures carried out in their country now stems from the new 1984 Regulation ⁽¹⁾. Those Member States which are not up-to-date in the provision of these figures will be requested to rectify this situation when providing the information due by July 1987.

Three Member States have sent the report on the implementation of the regional development programmes as provided for under Article 2 (3) (b) of the new Regulation. Additionally, in the case of Belgium, the report on the

WRITTEN QUESTION No 9/87
by Mr Dominique Baudis (PPE—F)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(2 April 1987)

(87/C 295/19)

Subject: Effects of the latest monetary realignment on grain sales

The MCA payable on sales of maize from France to Spain has increased from FF 61,15 per tonne to FF 101,916 per tonne as a result of the latest realignment within the European Monetary System. This measure, which came into force on 15 January of this year, applies both to future sales and to sales now proceeding under prior agreements. What is the Commission's position as regard the date of entry into force of changes to MCAs? Does it not believe that duly signed contracts which have yet to be honoured should have been excluded from the scope of these changes? How will it ensure that rights established in this area are respected?

Answer given by Mr Andriessen
on behalf of the Commission

(15 July 1987)

1. Where major adjustments are made to monetary compensatory amounts (MCAs) it is essential that they take effects as quickly as possible in order to avoid speculative trading. Accordingly, the new MCAs arising from the realignment of 12 January 1987 came into force on 15 January 1987.

2. In the past, Regulation (EEC) No 926/80 applied, providing for exemption from an unforeseeable increase in MCAs, following the introduction of a monetary measure, for contracts concluded prior to that measure. The implementation of that Regulation gave rise to a considerable amount of abuse, however, with the result that the Commission, in agreement with the majority of the Member States, had to repeal it. Before doing so, the Commission did everything possible to find an alternative solution to the problems of those concerned that would also safeguard Community interests. A satisfactory solution was not forthcoming, however.

3. Since the rules governing the monetary and agri-monetary arrangements are well known, the adjustment of MCAs at short notice should not undermine the established rights of operators.

The Commission will also take account of the effects of this disaster in connection with the integrated development operation involving the island of Réunion already submitted by the French authorities, implementation of which should help to revitalize the island's economy and agriculture.

(¹) COM(87) 126 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 12/87

by Mr Luc Beyer de Ryke (LDR—B)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(2 April 1987)

(87/C 295/20)

Subject: Cyclone Clotilda on the island of Réunion

A particularly violent cyclone recently struck the island of Réunion. According to meteorological experts, this is the most serious natural disaster to have occurred on the island in 50 years.

What emergency aid has the Commission made available to this disaster area?

Will it release funds to aid in the reconstruction of the island's economic and agricultural activity which has been demonstrated by the cyclone?

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

(26 June 1987)

As soon as it learnt of the number of casualties and the extent of the damage caused by the cyclone 'Clotilda' on the island of Réunion, the Commission, on 13 February, decided to grant emergency aid of 250 000 ECU to help the families of casualties and the victims in most need in the region hit by the cyclone.

In order to ensure that the aid reached the persons concerned as directly as possible it was paid, through the French authorities, to the Prefect of Réunion. The island's elected representatives were informed of this decision by the Commission.

As regards aid for redeveloping economic and agricultural activity on the island the Community's various structural instruments will be able to help.

For agriculture, the Commission has just presented a proposal to extend Directive 81/527/EEC concerning the development of agriculture in the French overseas departments (¹).

Under the ERDF, special attention will be paid to applications for assistance concerning investments that can help in rehabilitating the stricken areas.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 27/87

by Mr Rolf Linkohr (S—D)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(2 April 1987)

(87/C 295/21)

Subject: Procedure for the award of public works contracts (construction of a building to house the Council of Europe's Commission on Human Rights)

1. What is the Commission's reaction to the decision taken by the Ministerial Committee of the Council of Europe not to organize an international competition for architects in connection with the construction of a building to house its Commission on Human Rights?

2. Is this decision compatible with EEC Council Directives 71/305/EEC (¹) of 26 July 1971 (coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts) and 78/669/EEC (²) of 2 August 1978, the aim of which was to give maximum publicity to the award of this type of contract by publishing a general notice to arouse interest amongst building firms in other Member States and provide a series of guarantees that their tenders will be treated in exactly the same way as those submitted by a national of the Member State issuing the invitation to tender?

(¹) OJ No L 185, 16. 8. 1971, p. 15.

(²) OJ No L 225, 16. 8. 1978, p. 41.

**Answer given by Lord Cockfield
on behalf of the Commission**

(8 July 1987)

The Council of Europe is a non-Community international organization which is not one of the authorities awarding contracts referred to in Council Directive 71/305/EEC of 26 July 1971 concerning the coordination of procedures for the award of public works contracts, as amended by Council Directive 78/669/EEC of 2 August 1978. It is therefore not subject to the rules laid down by that Directive which seek to bring about Community-wide competition.

Secondly, the preparation of building plans, that is to say 'design' only, constitutes the provision of a service which is not covered by the abovementioned Directive 71/305/EEC, as provided in Article 1 (a) thereof read together with Article 2 (1) of Council Directive 71/304/EEC of 26 July 1971 concerning the abolition of restrictions on freedom to

provide services in respect of public works contracts and on the award of public works contracts to contractors acting through agencies or branches ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 185, 16. 8. 1971, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 60/87

by Mrs Undine-Uta Bloch von Blottnitz (ARC—D)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(6 April 1987)

(87/C 295/22)

Subject: Regulation of the Loire, France, with Community funds

A consortium of municipal, departmental and regional authorities in France is planning measures to regulate the flow of the Loire. It is already clear from the scale of the planned measures that the ecology of the uniquely beautiful Loire valley will be irreparably destroyed.

The Community is apparently providing a substantial proportion of the funds for the project.

1. How much funding is the Community providing?
2. Did the Commission assess the project's environmental impact before approving the funding?

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

(7 July 1987)

The ERDF has not financed any project to regulate the flow of the Loire. The Commission is not aware of the measures planned by the French authorities to regulate the flow of the river.

If the French authorities were to apply for ERDF aid for investment in projects covered by these measures and situated in areas eligible for Regional Fund assistance, the Commission's assessment of the project would certainly take account of their environmental impact.

In 1979, the European Investment Bank granted a loan of 6 million ECU to finance a dam on the Loire at Villerest, upstream of Roanne (Rhône-Alpes), whose main purpose is to ensure a more regular flow, thus limiting the damage caused by flooding of the Loire. Before financing the project, the Bank commissioned detailed studies of the impact of the dam on the environment and of specific measures to be taken to protect the interests of riverside residents.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 130/87

by Mr Willy Kuijpers (ARC—B)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(9 April 1987)

(87/C 295/23)

Subject: Methods of combating bilharziasis in the developing countries

According to Mr N. Snoeij, a research scientist in Utrecht, use of the product with which the World Health Organization is hoping to combat the parasitic disease bilharziasis — from which 250 million people suffer — is to be discouraged. The product is claimed to control the parasites that cause the disease.

According to Mr Snoeij large-scale use of the product is harmful to the environment (it is an organic tin compound) and the human immune system against this parasitic disease can also be affected.

Can the Commission confirm this and if so, what other measures can be taken against this illness, which accounts for an estimated 2 to 5 million victims every year?

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

(25 June 1987)

The Commission is not aware that the use of molluscides to combat schistosomiasis (bilharzia) may result in serious environmental damage and could harm the body's immune response. The costs incurred in using this particular control strategy however are high, so that its application has been very limited and prevent it from becoming a routine control method in the foreseeable future.

The geographical extent of this disease, and the enormous numbers of people — and cattle — infected are such that there is no single method for either control purposes, or eradication. Control strategies make use of every method currently available.

A treatment has been developed: the drug praziquantel. At the same time, the World Health Organization has lent its support to the development of simple tests to identify sufferers; these kits are being tested under field conditions with a view to treating the worst cases on a priority basis. This approach is also dictated by the prohibitive costs of universal treatment with praziquantel for almost all the developing countries affected by this disease.

Techniques of biotechnology have been satisfactorily used recently and point the way to a vaccine, even though much remains to be done. The teams responsible for the discovery were co-funded by the Science and Technology for Development Programme of the Commission.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 148/87

by Mr George Patterson (ED—GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(13 April 1987)

(87/C 295/24)

Subject: Sales of beef from intervention stocks in 1986

Will the Commission give the sales in 1986 of beef from intervention stocks for each of the Member States in each of the following categories:

- (a) fixed price sales;
- (b) sales for processing/manufacturing;
- (c) sale by tender (boneless beef);
- (d) sale by tender (bone-in beef) for export;
- (e) fixed-price sales for export;
- (f) sales under the free food (beef) scheme?

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

(21 August 1987)

Of the estimated 650 000 tonnes (expressed in product weight) sold from intervention in 1986, please find in the table below the estimated quantities contracted under each item referred to in the Honourable Member's question:

(1 000 tonne product weight)

	Boneless (fixed price)	Process- ing	Boneless (tender)	Bone-in (tender — export)	Fixed price (export)	Free beef (¹)
Belgium	0	3	0	1	0	0
Denmark	2	3	1	2	29	0
Federal Republic of Germany	5	1	1	21	90	0
Spain	0	1	0	0	0	0
France	0	5	0	110	47	0
Ireland	2	15	1	1	31	0
Italy	0	35	0	86	10	0
Netherlands	0	7	2	1	6	0
United Kingdom	3	1	2	0	27	0
	12	71	7	222	240	0

(¹) No free beef scheme in 1986.**WRITTEN QUESTION No 165/87**

by Mr David Morris (S—GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(13 April 1987)

(87/C 295/25)

Subject: Damage to the ozone layer from chlorofluoro carbon and halon pollution caused by chemicals in aerosols and fast food cartons

It has been reported that the EEC prevented cuts in use of chlorofluoro carbon and halon pollutants in aerosols, air conditioning and fast-food cartons being agreed at the

United Nations Environment Programme Conference in February.

Does the Commission agree that recent evidence showing a growing 'hole' in the ozone layer over the Antarctic and the possibility of thinning of the layer over the Arctic and Northern Europe is cause for great concern?

Does the Commission accept that the ozone layer has a vital screening effect against ultra violet rays, that it is generally accepted that the chemicals used in aerosols, air conditioning and fast-food cartons damage this layer as well as increasing the 'greenhouse effect', with consequent changes in sea levels and weather patterns?

Why has the EEC opposed measures to reduce the use of these chemicals?

What reply has the Commission sent to Dr Mostafa Tolba, executive director of the United Nations Environment Programme, who wrote urging a change of policy?

**Answer given by Mr Clinton Davis
on behalf of the Commission**
(13 July 1987)

In recognition of current scientific understanding concerning depletion of the ozone layer, the Community has already implemented a 30% reduction in the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) 11 and 12 in aerosols, and has imposed a production capacity standstill for CFCs 11 and 12 at 1980 levels ⁽¹⁾. The Commission is, together with Member States, currently engaged in negotiations in the United Nations Environment Programme for a CFC protocol to the Vienna Convention for the protection of the ozone layer ⁽²⁾, and Community policy will be revised in the light of the results of these negotiations.

Progress in the negotiations has been good, and the outlines of a possible agreement emerged from the latest session in Geneva in April. This would involve a freeze in the production and imports of CFCs, followed by reductions in both production and consumption. These ideas will be explored further in informal discussions over the next few months and it is hoped that final agreement can be reached in September of this year. The Community has played a prominent part in this progress, and indeed the Commission fully agreed with all the points made by Dr Tolba in his latest letter.

The Commission is of course aware of the holes in the ozone layer which have been observed above the Antarctic and, to a far lesser extent, above the Arctic, during each region's respective springtime.

The Community for some years has supported research on the ozone layer within the framework of the Environmental Protection on Climatology Research Programme 1986/90 and is expected to continue in future. Significant progress is being made in our understanding of the ozone problem.

However, there is no scientific consensus as to the cause of the ozone holes which may or not be chemical in origin. It is therefore impossible at this stage to design regulatory policies which will resolve the problem.

In the meantime it is important to reach early agreement on measures to halt the recent increases in CFC emissions which,

it is generally accepted, would result in more general ozone depletion if allowed to continue.

- ⁽¹⁾ Decision 80/372/EEC (OJ No L 90, 3. 4. 1980, p. 45).
Decision 82/795/EEC (OJ No L 329, 25. 11. 1982, p. 29).
⁽²⁾ COM(86) 602 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 170/87
by Mr John McCartin (PPE—IRL)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(13 April 1987)
(87/C 295/26)

Subject: Measures contributing to the improvement of the border areas of Ireland

Can the Commission confirm that the £ 11,8 million grant that was approved for Northern Ireland on 15 January 1987 was part of the measure contributing to the improvement of the economic and social situation of the border areas of Ireland (Council Regulation (EEC) No 3637/85 ⁽¹⁾) as reported in 'Europe in Northern Ireland' a publication of the Commission's office in Northern Ireland? Will the Commission agree that since Ireland has not yet received a grant for the same measure, they are in fact separate programmes and were not submitted by the Member States jointly?

Will the Commission further confirm that the £ 3,3 million grant approved on the same day for a National Programme of Community Interest (Press Release IP(87)12) in Northern Ireland will cover the same areas of action (encouraging business development and promoting managerial expertise) as those in the specific regional development measure outlined in COM(84) 715 final, page 13?

Will the Commission provide a breakdown of the expenditure for the former quota-free measure (£ 11,8 million) and state when Ireland will receive its grant under the same measure?

- ⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 350, 27. 12. 1985, p. 12.

**Answer given by Mr Pfeiffer
on behalf of the Commission**
(30 June 1987)

Council Regulation (EEC) No 2619/80, as amended by Council Regulation (EEC) No 3637/85, instituting a specific Community Regional development measure contributing to the improvement of the economic and social situation of the border areas of Ireland and Northern Ireland, provides that

the specific measure is to be implemented in the form of a special programme, to be presented to the Commission by each of the Member States concerned.

While discussions have been taking place between the Commission services and the Irish authorities for some time, the special programme for the border areas in Ireland, under Council Regulation (EEC) No 3637/85 has not yet been presented to the Commission. The Irish authorities have recently informed the Commission services that they intend to submit a programme in the near future. This should enable the Commission to examine the programme and, following any further consultations with the Irish authorities which may prove necessary, to take a decision. The Commission announced in January 1987 that it had approved the special programme for the border areas in Northern Ireland, for which European Regional Development Fund aid of 16 million ECU (approximately £ 11,8 million) will be provided. The breakdown of this amount is as follows:

- construction and conversion of tourist accommodation: 18,9%,
- establishment and development of joint services or bodies responsible for tourism promotion: 20%,
- tourism infrastructure: 18,9%,
- communications giving access to tourist areas: 5,3%,
- establishment and development of craft industries: 6,1%,
- market analyses, consultancy, common services: 17,7%,
- promotion of innovation in industry and services: 2,6%,
- better access for small and medium-sized enterprises to risk capital: 5,9%,
- setting up or development of economic promotion agencies: 3,9%.

The £ 3,3 million grant approved by the Commission for the Northern Ireland National Programme of Community Interest, under Article 15 of the ERDF Regulation, will be used to complement, but not duplicate that made available under Council Regulation (EEC) No 3637/85.

The Article 15 programme covers all of Northern Ireland whilst the specific measure excludes the Belfast Urban Area. In addition, the emphasis in the special measure is on the development of tourism, while the Article 15 programme focuses on assistance to small and medium-sized undertakings: for example aid for the establishment and organization of local and regional applied research organization will amount to some £ 1,7 million out of the total of £ 3,3 million.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 204/87
by Mr François Roelants du Vivier (ARC—B)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(15 April 1987)
(87/C 295/27)

Subject: Dkr 12 billion project

The Danish Government has announced a Dkr 12 billion project to combat nitrate and phosphate pollution of water.

Can the Commission give details of this project, particularly with regards to its effects on agricultural activity?

Answer given by Mr Clinton Davis
on behalf of the Commission
(22 June 1987)

The Commission has received details of the action plan for the sea around Denmark (28 October 1987) which are summarized as follows:

1. The local councils must put an end to unlawful discharges from agriculture and industry before 1 May 1987.
2. Municipal waste water treatment capacity will be expanded until 1990 in agreement with the ongoing water quality planning.
3. In accordance with the NPO action plan the discharges of manure from agriculture will be reduced before 1990. The current reduction in consumption of fertilizers in agriculture should be continued in order to reduce losses of nitrogen in run-off from the cultivated areas. An agreement is to be reached with the agricultural sector on a reduction in fertilizer consumption by 100 000 tonnes over a three-year period.
4. Industrial enterprises discharging waste water directly to the sea must have their discharge licenses reviewed and renewed before the end of 1988.
5. The pollution caused by discharges from freshwater and marine fish farming will be restricted.
6. Emissions of nitrogen oxides from power plants and vehicles will be reduced.
7. Initiatives will be taken in Nordic context as well as in the Helsinki and Paris Conventions with the aim of reducing the inputs of pollutants to our seas from the Baltic and the North Sea.

The Commission has been informed that up to now the plan is still under discussion in Parliament and its approval to go ahead has not yet been given.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 209/87

by Mr Ernest Glinne (S—B)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(15 April 1987)

(87/C 295/28)

Subject: Compliance with the EEC Directive on equal employment opportunities

A construction company in the Mouscron region advertised in the newspaper *Le Soir* of 28 February 1987 for 'un ingénieur', i.e. a (male) construction engineer, commercial engineer or architectural engineer.

The advertiser specified that the vacancy arose in connection with diversification projects in connection with a programme backed jointly by the EEC and region of Wallonia.

What action can the Commission take in this specific instance of failure to comply with its Directive in connection with a programme which the Commission itself is supporting?

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

(13 July 1987)

As guardian of the Treaties and secondary legislation, the Commission ensures that existing equal treatment provisions, including Directive 76/207/EEC⁽¹⁾, are applied correctly. This is, moreover, one of the main responsibilities of the Commission as specified in its medium-term action programme (1986 to 1990) on equal opportunities for women.

In this area, the Commission is pursuing a policy whose aim is to achieve a better balance of men and women in employment and improve the position of women on the labour market by, among other things, supporting and promoting positive actions and monitoring the application of Community provisions and the way they are incorporated into national law.

In the specific area of offers of employment the Court of Justice, in its judgment of 21 May 1985 in Case 248/83 (Commission v. Federal Republic of Germany) ruled that '... the Directive (76/207/EEC) imposes no obligation of the Member States to enact general legislation concerning offers of employment, particularly as this question is in turn closely linked to that of the exceptions permitted by Article 2 (2) of the Directive, given that the application of Article 9 (2) in full will have the effect of creating the necessary transparency also as regards offers of employment' (paragraph 43).

In the framework of the points made by the Court of Justice, the Commission endeavours to ensure that such transparency exists.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 39, 14. 2. 1976, p. 40.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 213/87

by Mr Eisso Woltjer (S—NL)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(15 April 1987)

(87/C 295/29)

Subject: Fisheries policy: publication of total allowable catches (TACs) and quotas for 1987

On 18 December 1986, the Council of Fisheries Ministers reached agreement on TACs and quotas for 1987. However, details of this decision were not published officially, i.e. in the Official Journal, until the first week of February 1987. For the first month of the fishing year, therefore, the fishing industry had no knowledge of applicable annual catches and quotas.

1. What view does the Commission take of this procedure?
2. In view of the controversial nature of the quota arrangements, does the Commission consider it acceptable, from an administrative point of view, and responsible for fishermen to be obliged to wait one month, after the start of the fishing year, until notification is given of catches and quotas which are of such importance to them?
3. What action is the Commission considering in order to prevent a recurrence of this?

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

(13 July 1987)

Since the Commission was not responsible for publication of the documents referred to in the question, it does not possess the information that would enable it to answer the question put by the Honourable Member.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 242/87

by Mr Dieter Rogalla (S—D)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(27 April 1987)

(87/C 295/30)

Subject: Settlement of cross-border payment transactions

1. What suggestions have been made by the group of experts appointed by the Commission with respect to the possibility of providing a detailed and unified accounting statement of the proceedings in a cross-border payment transaction?

2. What measures has the Commission taken in order to obtain a greater degree of clarity from the credit institutions with regard to the settlement costs of cross-border payment transactions?

Italy? If agricultural products are covered by the Decision, can the Commission explain how these accidents came to have such serious consequences?

(¹) OJ No L 70, 13. 3. 1984, p. 16.

**Answer given by Lord Cockfield
on behalf of the Commission**

(4 August 1987)

1. At its second meeting on 24 February 1987, the group of government experts appointed by the Commission was still not in a position to come up with proposals on the possibility of introducing a standard, uniform statement for cross-border payment transactions. The purpose of that meeting was to prepare a questionnaire on the practices followed, and rules and regulations applicable, in Member States that would shed light on current shortcomings and to take a closer look at a number of methods adopted by some Member States or institutions.

2. On the basis of the replies to the questionnaire, which will be sent to the competent bank supervisory authorities in Member States, the Commission will decide on the most appropriate measures for ensuring that, in practice Member States require credit institutions to provide customers with better information on the conditions applicable to cross-border payment (or transfer) operations. This should allow the principal to calculate correctly the cost of operations before they are carried out and to check the charges that are made once they have been carried out and that correspond to the form of transfer determined in advance by the principal himself.

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

(24 July 1987)

Under Article 2 of Decision 84/133/EEC (¹), the Community system for the rapid exchange of information on dangers arising from the use of consumer products applies to all products intended for use by consumers.

Two exceptions are specified: (a) products intended exclusively for professional use and (b) products which are the subject of equivalent notification procedures under other Community instruments.

This second category of products was examined by the Commission and the competent authorities of the Member States when detailed procedures for the transmission of information were adopted in July 1985. Under these procedures, only pharmaceutical products coming under Directives 75/319/EEC (²) and 81/851/EEC (³) and animals covered by Directive 82/894/EEC (⁴) were deemed to be covered by equivalent notification procedures and thus excluded from the system.

Foodstuffs, whether or not agricultural, come under Decision 84/133/EEC. However the informal system set up in this sector before the Council Decision was adopted has continued to operate.

As regards the specific case of wine adulterated with methanol, the speed with which information was transmitted enabled the authorities to seize the tainted wine, prevent its blending with other wine and bring the whole affair rapidly under control. The Commission also refers the Honourable Member in this connection to its answers to Written Question Nos 229/86 by Mrs Dury (⁵), 268/86 by Mr Christensen (⁵) and 361/86 by Mrs Van Hemeldonck (⁶).

As regards the cases of trichinosis caused by horsemeat in France in 1985, the Commission was informed, through the Standing Veterinary Committee, of the occurrence of these cases and of the measures taken by the French Government.

The Commission sent a group of experts to France to obtain information on these cases from the authorities.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 274/87

by Mr Louis Eyraud (S—F)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(27 April 1987)

(87/C 295/31)

Subject: Scope of Decision 84/133/EEC introducing a Community system for the rapid exchange of information on dangers arising from the use of consumer products

Are agricultural products covered by Council Decision 84/133/EEC (¹) introducing a Community system for the rapid exchange of information on dangers arising from the use of consumer products? If not, does the Commission intend to propose that the Decision be revised to include them, to prevent scandals such as that of wine adulterated with methanol or the epidemics of trichinosis in France and

The Scientific Veterinary Committee was instructed to study the epidemiology of trichinosis on horses.

The Commission will ultimately adopt appropriate measures, having regard to the opinion of the Scientific Veterinary Committee on this affair.

(¹) OJ No L 70, 13. 3. 1984, p. 16.

(²) OJ No L 147, 9. 6. 1975, p. 13.

(³) OJ No L 317, 6. 11. 1981, p. 1.

(⁴) OJ No L 378, 31. 12. 1982, p. 58.

(⁵) OJ No C 306, 1. 12. 1986.

(⁶) OJ No C 72, 20. 3. 1987.

**Answer given by Lord Cockfield
on behalf of the Commission**

(6 July 1987)

1. As is clear from the Commission's letter to the Honourable Member dated 6 May 1987, the Italian authorities have already been informed of this letter. Their reply will be sent to the Honourable Member direct.

2. It is difficult, in the abstract, to adopt a position on the nature of the proof to be supplied in such situations, since each case must be examined on its merits. Generally speaking, it can be said that, in cases of the type described by the Honourable Member, payment of duties and other taxes is waived where it is duly established that the goods in question were destroyed as a result of unavoidable accident or *force majeure*.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 275/87

by Mr Christopher Jackson (ED—GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(27 April 1987)

(87/C 295/32)

Subject: Imposition of VAT by Italy on goods in transit, destroyed by fire

In May 1983 a lorry from Britain carrying polythene granules to Italy suffered an electrical failure at the rear of the tractor unit which caused a fire that completely destroyed the whole vehicle and its contents. The Italian authorities quote Article 37 of the Customs Consolidation Law which states that 'the presumed debt to the revenue is considered not to be established if the person liable for payment can show that the failure to observe customs constraints is due to the loss or destruction of the goods by unavoidable accident or *force majeure* or events caused by reasonable or negligible fault on the part of a third party or the person liable himself . . .'. The Italian police authorities have certified that the vehicle was destroyed by fire together with its contents. Owners of the vehicle have provided a document stating that the principals and the guarantors of the T2 form (namely the owners of the load and the shipping agents) were in no way responsible for the fire. The Italian authorities, however have not accepted this and have charged Lit 3 145 650 VAT and Lit 67 199 in interest.

My constituents have done all they can to furnish the proof required.

1. Would the Commission be willing to intervene with the Italian authorities to seek a review of this case, full details of which have been supplied to the Commission?
2. Would the Commission give a view on the nature of proof required to 'show that the failure to observe customs constraints is due to the loss or destruction of goods caused by negligible fault . . .'?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 280/87

by Mr Luis Vega y Escandon (PPE—E)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(6 May 1987)

(87/C 295/33)

Subject: Price adjustments in connection with the dumping of potassium permanganate in the European Community

Commission Regulation (EEC) No 2495/86 (¹) imposed a provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of potassium permanganate into the European Community.

Subsequently, the Commission accepted the price agreement proposed by the principal exporters responsible for dumping potassium permanganate. This decision was taken despite the objections raised by the only Community producer — Asturquímica SA of Oviedo in the Asturias region of Spain — which, despite the Commission measures, will shortly be forced to abandon production.

I would therefore ask the Commission:

- whether it is aware of the crisis facing Asturquímica SA;
- why it considered the agreement proposed by Sinochem 'acceptable', when the latter cannot report to the Commission at sufficiently frequent intervals to enable exports to be verified effectively, and on what basis it concludes that it is capable of monitoring the proper implementation of the agreements;
- whether other exporters have fulfilled their obligations to report to the Commission in good time;

— what action it has taken to monitor implementation of the agreements, and whether a decision has been taken to appoint an official specifically responsible for verifying market information and whether the companies concerned have been informed of this?

(¹) OJ No L 217, 5. 8. 1986, p. 12.

**Answer given by Mr De Clercq
on behalf of the Commission**

(9 July 1987)

In 1986, following a complaint by Asturquimica, the Commission initiated an anti-dumping proceeding (¹) concerning imports of potassium permanganate originating in Czechoslovakia, the German Democratic Republic and the People's Republic of China. In the course of this investigation, which involved an examination of the situation of the Community industry, the Commission was able to satisfy itself that Asturquimica experienced difficulties. To the extent that these difficulties were caused by dumped imports, the Commission took the necessary steps to remedy them.

Following the above investigations, the exporters proposed price undertakings which were accepted following the imposition of provisional duty. These price undertakings were considered satisfactory since they would lead to prices that would no longer cause injury to Asturquimica.

As for other such undertakings, the price undertakings for potassium permanganate involve a regular notification of the Commission services on quantities exported and on prices. The deadlines indicated in the undertakings are considered adequate and have been respected by all three suppliers. Furthermore, the three suppliers in question have been asked to provide more detailed information (e.g. invoices) about their sales to the Community during the last months. The above undertakings are thus being monitored by the Commission, as is the case for all similar price undertakings.

(¹) OJ No C 63, 18. 3. 1986.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 288/87

by Mr Willy Vernimmen (S—NL)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(6 May 1987)

(87/C 295/34)

Subject: Aid for local employment projects

Can the Commission say whether Belgium has already applied for aid for small-scale job creation projects (pursuant to Article 15 of the ERDF Regulation)?

If so, what projects are involved?

Can the Commission also indicate how many jobs have been created with the aid of Community funding?

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

(6 July 1987)

The Commission has to date received seven applications from Belgium for financing under Article 15 of the ERDF Council Regulation (EEC) No 1787/84 (¹), in addition to a National Programme of Community Interest (NPCI) which included Article 15 type measures. Of these, the NPCI and two of the applications have been approved by the Commission. The remaining five applications are still being examined and no indication can yet be given as to which are to be approved in the future. Due to the confidential nature of these applications, the Commission is unable to provide further details.

The implementation of measures under Article 15 will act as a catalyst to the creation of new job opportunities. Due to the difficulties involved in identifying all employment induced by this type of initiative, the Commission is unable, at this stage, to give an estimate of the new jobs which will result from these measures.

(¹) OJ No L 169, 28. 6. 1984, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 292/87

by Mr Victor Manuel Arbeloa Muru (S—E)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(6 May 1987)

(87/C 295/35)

Subject: European Social Fund (ESF) aid to the Community of Navarre

How much ESF aid was granted to the Community of Navarre in the financial year 1986? How does this aid break down (if a breakdown is possible)?

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

(17 July 1987)

The following amounts were approved by the European Social Fund in respect of the autonomous region of Navarre (by type of aid):

Vocational training	PTA 263 205 372,12
Employment aids	PTA 181 076 493,69
	PTA 444 281 865,82

These amounts do not include operations to be carried out in the autonomous region of Navarre under national programmes; these latter cannot at the present stage be identified on a regional basis.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 301/87

by Mrs Anne-Marie Lizin (S—B)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(6 May 1987)

(87/C 295/36)

Subject: Scientific networks — resolution of the Council of Europe

The Commission took part in the work of the Council of Europe which led to the resolution on European scientific networks (17 September 1984) adopted by the conference of ministers of the Council of Europe.

What progress has the Commission made to date with its participation in these scientific networks?

Have the networks been established?

In what disciplines do they operate?

In particular, could the Commission say what progress has been made with the scientific network for oceanography?

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

(22 June 1987)

Ever since the resolution on European scientific networks was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 17 September 1984, the Commission, which had actively participated in its preparation, has continued and intensified its efforts to stimulate and support its implementation.

The Commission is thus in a position to inform the Honourable Member of the establishment since 1974 of 40 scientific networks in the Member States of the Community. These European transnational research collaboration networks are financed by the Commission under Council Decision 85/197/EEC of 12 March 1985 adopting a plan to

stimulate European scientific and technical cooperation and interchange ⁽¹⁾. Since 1984 an amount of about 15 million ECU has been set aside for financing them.

These forty scientific networks cover most of the areas of the exact and natural sciences, notably: mathematics and data processing, advanced optics, scientific instrumentation, physics and chemistry, biocommunication, earth sciences and oceanography.

With regard to oceanography, four scientific networks have been set up around the following themes:

- 'Wave modelling: Development of a third generation ocean wave model';
- 'Ocean model comparison for climate variability studies';
- 'Eurocamarge: European programme on the ecosystem of the Mediterranean continental margins';
- 'Oceanic Communities and their influence on the fluxes of material through the deep water column across the sediment-water interface'.

Thirty-six laboratories of all the Member States of the Community which have access to the sea are taking part.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 83, 25. 3. 1985, p. 13.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 305/87

by Mr François Musso (RDE—F)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(6 May 1987)

(87/C 295/37)

Subject: Integrated Mediterranean Programmes

Can the Commission give the European Parliament precise information on the various IMPs adopted to date, the sums involved in each IMP and, in each case, the percentage funded by the EEC; and can it indicate for each of these IMPs the proportion allocated for each of the major categories of the programme (agriculture, tourism, infrastructure etc.)?

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

(30 June 1987)

With respect to the implementation of the IMPs the current situation is as follows:

- one programme contract in respect of the Crete IMP was signed in September 1986;
- seven other programme contracts concerning all the French IMPs will be signed towards mid-July 1987. The seven programmes have already received a favourable opinion from the Advisory Committee on IMPs and will be formally approved by the Commission in the near future.

The Honourable Member will find below a table showing the cost of each IMP and the share financed by the EEC.

In addition, the Commission is examining the Greek IMPs, some of which are at a fairly advanced stage (information technology, Northern Greece, Central Western Greece-Peloponnese). The Italian IMPs are under examination.

(million ECU)

IMP	Total expenditure	EEC financing	
		Subsidies	Loans
Crete	469	240,5	134 ⁽¹⁾
Aquitaine	214 ⁽²⁾	69 ⁽²⁾	30 ⁽³⁾
Languedoc-Roussillon	276 ⁽²⁾	89,5 ⁽²⁾	30 ⁽³⁾
Midi-Pyrénées	257 ⁽²⁾	66 ⁽²⁾	40 ⁽³⁾
Corsica	107	40	15 ⁽³⁾
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	342	70	55 ⁽³⁾
Ardèche	50	12	7,5 ⁽³⁾
Drôme	52	13,5	7,5 ⁽³⁾

⁽¹⁾ Estimated amount over seven years (1986 to 1992).

⁽²⁾ Over three years (1986 to 1988).

⁽³⁾ Estimated amount over three years (1986 to 1988).

It is difficult for the Commission to give precise information as to the exact share allocated to each sector given that some subprogrammes are prepared on a geographical and not purely sectoral basis. In addition, it is not always easy to establish a clear separation between certain sectors in view of their horizontal character.

However, for each IMP adopted the Commission can supply information as to the main sectors:

- Crete IMP: three priority sectors: industry (SMEs and crafts), agricultural and fisheries, infrastructures; and to a lesser extent tourism and inland areas.
- Aquitaine IMP: four priority sectors: SMEs, tourism, agriculture and infrastructure.
- Languedoc-Roussillon: one priority sector: agriculture; to a lesser extent SMEs and new technologies, tourism.
- Midi-Pyrenees: one priority sector: agriculture; two other sectors with slightly less priority: tourism and infrastructures.
- Corsica: three priority sectors: agriculture, tourism and SMEs; and to a lesser extent inland areas.
- Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur: three priority sectors: agriculture and forestry, inland areas and industry, new technologies.
- Ardèche: three priority sectors: agriculture, tourism and crafts industry.
- Drôme: one priority sector: agriculture; to a lesser extent tourism and crafts industry.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 310/87

by Mr James Elles (ED—GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(6 May 1987)

(87/C 295/38)

Subject: Number of officials by grade and nationality

Will the Commission tabulate the number of officials in its employment on 1 April 1987 by grade and nationality?

Does the Commission believe that there is a fair balance maintained between Member States in its departments?

If not, what is being done to cover the imbalances?

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

(16 July 1987)

On 1 April 1987 the breakdown by grade and nationality of the officials employed by the Commission was as follows:

	Belgium	Denmark	Federal Republic of Germany	Greece	Spain	France	Ireland	Italy	Luxembourg	Netherlands	Portugal	United Kingdom
A	367	74	458	140	139	500	94	411	57	140	49	372
LA	172	128	202	116	69	112	14	186	8	93	70	180
B	676	44	259	64	79	287	46	250	72	157	24	161
C	1 440	117	374	110	109	323	84	538	196	112	56	201
D	228	4	11	19	12	32	1	213	43	7	5	8

In accordance with Article 27 of the Staff Regulations, the Commission endeavours to maintain a fair balance in its departments.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 318/87

by Mr Michael Welsh (ED—GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(6 May 1987)

(87/C 295/39)

Subject: Distortion of the market for kraftliner

The Community's box-making industry employs 68 000 people and has an important impact on the final price of processed and manufactured goods and thus the competitiveness of Community industry. Up to 60 % of the cost of making a box is constituted by kraftliner which is traded on a world-wide scale and is subject to substantial fluctuation in price. The Community is only 20 % self-sufficient in this crucial material and less than 2 000 people work for the producers.

1. How does the Commission justify the continuation of Regulation (EEC) No 551/83 which establishes a floor price of \$ 333 per tonne for kraftliner which is far in excess of prevailing market prices?
2. Is the Commission aware that in 1985 the prevailing Community price was \$ 75 lower than the floor and that Scandinavian suppliers were openly failing to respect price undertakings that they had given when the minimum price was established?
3. Would the Commission concede that allegations of a massive evasion of the anti-dumping duty imposed on US suppliers show that the floor price system is unworkable and brings the Community into disrepute?

4. On what grounds does the Commission defend continued protection for the Community manufacturers of kraftliner when that sector is dominated by a single French supplier which already enjoys considerable protection in its home market through the existence of a special French standard?
5. Does the Commission consider that it is justified in using the anti-dumping procedure to insulate a particular industry from the normal operation of market forces particularly when Community industry in general is damaged as a result?
6. Will the Commission propose the cancellation of Regulation (EEC) No 551/83 ⁽¹⁾ following the review announced in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* of 7 May 1986?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 64, 10. 3. 1983, p. 25.

**Answer given by Mr De Clercq
on behalf of the Commission**

(3 July 1987)

1. Regulation (EEC) No 551/83 imposing a variable anti-dumping duty calculated on the basis of a minimum price of US\$ 333 per tonne was adopted by the Council following an anti-dumping proceeding conducted by the Commission in 1982. Current prices of kraftliner on the Community market are considerably in excess of this minimum price. Therefore there is currently no anti-dumping duty collected on imports of kraftliner originating in the United States.
2. The situation in 1985 was analysed in the context of the review, begun on 7 May 1986, of anti-dumping measures

relating to Community imports of kraftliner originating in the United States, the Soviet Union, Austria, Sweden, Finland or Canada. This has now reached its final phase and the Commission is preparing a proposal for a Council Regulation in this connection. The main facts and considerations on which this proposal for a Regulation will be based have been set out to all the parties involved (the exporters in the countries concerned, Community importers and consumers and Community producers). These facts and considerations indicate that all the exporters under investigation dumped products on to the Community market during the period considered and that the export prices were on average less than the prevailing minimum price.

3. National customs administrations are responsible for collecting anti-dumping duties. The Commission was aware of customs investigations into the anti-dumping duties concerning imports of kraftliner from the United States. Substantial evasion of this duty since 1983 would not, in the Commission's view, show that the measures were inadequate, because any party concerned may ask for a review, providing that at least one year has elapsed since the beginning of the investigation, and the first application from the importers in this connection was not forwarded to the Commission until June 1985, resulting some months later in the opening of the proceedings underway at present.

4, 5 and 6. The very object of the proceeding is to determine whether dumping is still taking place, whether it still has a harmful effect on industry in the Community and, taking Community interests into account, whether the measures in force should be amended, rescinded or revoked. As far as assessing Community interests is concerned, the Commission is naturally taking account of the consequences of possible measures for consumers. The Commission has not yet adopted the proposal for a Regulation terminating the proceeding.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 325/87

by Mr Olivier d'Ormesson (DR—F)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(6 May 1987)

(87/C 295/40)

Subject: Extraction of feldspar

Might the Commission not consider granting special aid for the production of feldspar, particularly in the canton of Fenouillet in the Western Pyrenees?

If so, what measures could the Community take in support of this product?

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

(3 July 1987)

The Commission has no powers to grant aid to specific industries such as the production of feldspar. However, there is nothing to prevent Community assistance from the ERDF being granted for investment projects in the industry.

Projects in the département of Pyrénées Orientales are eligible for ERDF aid, since the area is in a region eligible for regional aid from the French Government.

However, the answer to the Honourable Member's question will depend on whether all the conditions of the ERDF Regulation are fulfilled; this can be ascertained on the basis of an application from the competent national authorities, who may be approached by those concerned.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 332/87

by Mrs Vera Squarcialupi (COM—I)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(7 May 1987)

(87/C 295/41)

Subject: EEC — OPEC — OAPEC Seminar on Energy

Can the Commission report on the conclusions reached at the seminar on medium- and long-term energy outlooks organized by the EEC, OPEC and OAPEC in Luxembourg on 17, 18 and 19 March 1987?

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

(8 July 1987)

The seminar on medium and long-term energy prospects, organized by the Commission, OAPEC and OPEC and held in Luxembourg from 17 to 19 March 1987, fully met its organizers' objectives, namely to provide an opportunity for an informal, technical exchange of views on the future in terms of energy.

The Commission, OAPEC and OPEC considered this a very useful type of discussion as it gave all parties a clearer insight into the others' problems. It was concluded that appropriate energy policies could help reduce the risk of abrupt price changes, which are detrimental to producer and consumer countries alike. This proved that constructive exchanges of views between members of organizations whose interests do not necessarily converge are possible.

It was agreed that the three organizations would stay in touch to continue exchanging views and to decide the best form of follow-up to the seminar.

are carried out by individuals or small businesses. The working party of experts from the Member States which it has set up to look into the matter has already held several meetings.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 337/87

by Mr José Alvarez de Eulate Peñaranda (ED—E)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(7 May 1987)

(87/C 295/42)

Subject: Cheque books for private use of the ECU

Another step has been taken in encouraging and promoting the private use of the ECU, following the decision of certain private banks in some Member States to issue cheque books which their clients can use exclusively in ECU, to any amount and made out to any beneficiary.

This advance in the private use of the ECU is to be welcomed, but it raises several questions, particularly in connection with the guarantee covering the handling of these cheques, their possible international use and the obligation on the banks to display publicly the value of the ECU in different currencies on the day when the cheque is cashed.

What is the opinion of the Commission on each of these questions, in accordance with the policy on the private use of the ECU advocated by the Community?

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

(29 July 1987)

As the Honourable Member says, a number of private banks now allow their customers to open current accounts in ECU, with the possibility of using ECU-denominated cheques, and even credit cards. The Commission welcomes such moves, which encourage the use of the ECU for transactions and thus contribute to the development of the ECU market; but it is not for the Commission to regulate the practice.

As to the obligation to display daily values of the ECU in different currencies, the Commission would, of course, be very much in favour of all the Community's banks posting exchange rates — and not only for the ECU.

The Commission would like to see a Community solution to the problem of the transparency of banks' conditions for transactions which involve foreign exchange operations and

WRITTEN QUESTION No 343/87

by Mr Carlos Robles Piquer (ED—E)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(7 May 1987)

(87/C 295/43)

Subject: Summer-time and energy-saving in the Member States

Summer-time was re-established at a time when energy supplies were less abundant than at present. It continues to provide significant reductions in Community energy consumption during the summer period.

Despite the disadvantages which it causes to some sectors — agriculture and others — the retention of summer-time would appear to produce more benefits than disadvantages, thanks to these substantial energy savings.

Could the Commission state what saving in energy consumption in the Member States actually was with the change-over to summer-time in 1986, and also what the estimates are for the current year?

**Answer given by Mr Clinton Davis
on behalf of the Commission**

(23 July 1987)

The Commission agrees with the Honourable Member that the practice of summer-time allows energy savings to be made. It is not aware of any specific studies or estimates made in Member States in recent years on this subject; as such savings are an accepted fact, it has apparently not been considered worthwhile to spend resources on further detailed investigations.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 350/87

by Mr Florus Wijsenbeek (LDR—NL)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(7 May 1987)

(87/C 295/44)

Subject: Recycling car tyres to make asphalt

Is the Commission aware that a process for recycling worn car tyres has been developed in the Netherlands whereby the

ground powder is used for the bitumen course in 'whispering asphalt'?

The advantages of this asphalt are that there is a 50 % noise reduction, the open top course means that less water accumulates and aquaplaning is therefore reduced, and less maintenance is required because of the elasticity.

Considerable experience with this process has already been acquired in Belgium, the Federal Republic and France.

Is the Commission prepared to encourage the introduction of this process, which is of benefit to both the environment and road safety, in other Member States and to bring the technological data to the attention of the relevant authorities in the Member States?

**Answer given by Lord Cockfield
on behalf of the Commission**

(4 September 1987)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to its answer to Written Question No 2709/86 by Mr Boesmans ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 240, 7. 9. 1987

WRITTEN QUESTION No 351/87

by Mrs Ursula Braun-Moser (PPE—D)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(7 May 1987)

(87/C 295/45)

Subject: Standardization of pension application forms within the Community

1. Is the EC Commission aware that persons entitled to claim a pension from a Member State which is not their home country are often faced with the problem that multilingual application forms are not available? Consequently, foreign pension applications are dependent on time-consuming translation procedures, and sworn statements have to be made in foreign languages.

2. Can the Commission take initiatives to do away with the disadvantages (time delays, understanding of the forms) suffered by pension applicants who have worked in a different EC Member State?

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

(13 July 1987)

To facilitate the submission of applications for old-age pensions, Article 36 of Regulation (EEC) No 574/72 ⁽¹⁾

provides that 'the person concerned shall submit a claim to the institution of the place of residence'. This latter institution is responsible for forwarding the claim to the relevant institutions in other Member States in which the worker, whether employee or self-employed, has completed insurance periods, even where the claimant is not subject to the legislation of the Member State of residence.

The Administrative Commission on Social Security for Migrant Workers has adopted standardized model forms ⁽²⁾ obtainable in all the official Community languages, which are so formulated that the different versions fully correspond, enabling every person concerned to receive the form printed in his mother tongue.

Translation problems will, in addition, be alleviated by the automatic transmission of standardized data, which various Member States are planning to introduce.

The Commission will continue to monitor progress in the application of procedures to facilitate and speed up the payment of social security benefits ⁽³⁾ granted by virtue of Community legislation.

⁽¹⁾ Fixing the procedure for implementing Regulation (EEC) No 1408/71; both these instruments were published in OJ No L 230, 22. 8. 1983, and last amended by Regulation (EEC) No 3811/86 (OJ No L 355, 16. 12. 1986).

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 192, 15. 7. 1986.

⁽³⁾ See answer given on 26 February 1987 to Written Question No 2233/86 (OJ No C 124, 11. 5. 1987, p. 39).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 360/87

by Mr Florus Wijsenbeek (LDR—NL)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(7 May 1987)

(87/C 295/46)

Subject: The bribing of customs officials

Is the Commission aware that there is widespread bribery of customs officials at internal frontiers by Community road hauliers seeking to speed up processing and ensure that any irregularities relating to documents or vehicles are ignored?

Would the Commission not agree that such payments not only contravene Community and national legislation, but also hamper the removal of internal frontiers?

Can the Commission conduct an inquiry in order to establish where in the Community such practices take place and report to Parliament?

How does the Commission propose to put an end to such practices?

**Answer given by Lord Cockfield
on behalf of the Commission**
(4 September 1987)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to the reply to the oral question H-133/87 by Mr Cornelissen, which it gave during question time at Parliament's June 1987 part-session ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Debates of the European Parliament No 2-352 (17. 6. 1987).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 361/87
by Mr James Provan (ED—GB)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(7 May 1987)
(87/C 295/47)

Subject: Taiwan

EC-produced beer and wine have recently benefited from improved access to the Taiwan market.

Will the Commission please state why these measures were not extended to spirituous beverages and what it intends to do to remedy the situation?

**Answer given by Mr De Clercq
on behalf of the Commission**
(13 July 1987)

In recent months, access to the Taiwanese market has been improved by significant customs duty reductions and the revision of a number of restrictive regulations. A substantial liberalization of the Taiwanese market for wine, beer and tobacco products was achieved after long and arduous discussions between Taiwan and the USA, and put into effect on 1 January 1987 not only for American products but also for Community products, the Taiwanese being aware that the Community would certainly react if its exports were subject to a discriminatory treatment.

Taiwan has so far not moved likewise for spirituous beverages (such as whisky and brandy) and has merely announced that it will reduce its customs duties for these products from 65 to 50%.

The Commission will follow future developments concerning this question.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 366/87
by Mrs Johanna Maij-Weggen (PPE—NL)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(7 May 1987)
(87/C 295/48)

Subject: Arms supplies to South Africa

According to a report by the US Department of State, six European countries have supplied arms to South Africa in spite of the embargo in this connection.

Can the Commission name the European countries involved?

Can the Commission also indicate which undertakings are involved in each country?

Can the Commission further indicate what products (weapons or similar products) have been supplied by each of the undertakings concerned?

Is it within the Commission's power to penalize the undertakings concerned or request Member States to do so and, if so, has the Commission already acted accordingly or does it propose to do so?

**Answer given by Mr De Clercq
on behalf of the Commission**
(30 July 1987)

The embargo on supplying arms to South Africa, confirmed on 11 September 1985 by Ministers meeting in the context of European Political Cooperation, is outside the Community's field of competence.

The Commission has no means at its disposal for monitoring implementation of the arms embargo.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 380/87
by Mr Willy Kuijpers (ARC—B)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(20 May 1987)
(87/C 295/49)

Subject: European aid for the high-speed railway through Flanders

Preliminary studies are currently being carried out in Belgium for the Paris-Brussels-Cologne/Amsterdam high-speed rail service, which will run through Flanders.

European funds are available for the preliminary study.

1. Has Belgium made use of these funds and, if so, what amount and when?
2. Has the Commission been informed of the results of the study and, if so, when and what information was given?
3. Should European aid for the high-speed rail scheme not be made dependent on full application of the Council Directive of 27 June 1985 (85/337/EEC) ⁽¹⁾ on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 175, 5. 7. 1985, p. 40.

**Answer given by Mr Clinton Davis
on behalf of the Commission**

(13 July 1987)

1. The Commission has not so far received a formal request to finance preparatory studies for a high-speed link between Paris and Cologne.
2. The Commission has not been informed of the outcome of these studies.
3. This question is not applicable for the time being. Needless to say, any contribution from the Community to a project of this kind would take account of the provisions of Directive 85/337/EEC with effect from its applicable date: 3 July 1988. The Commission would also point out that even now any transport infrastructure project receiving Community support is subject to prior environmental impact assessment.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 384/87

by Mr John Marshall (ED—GB)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(20 May 1987)

(87/C 295/50)

Subject: Occupational pension schemes in Member States

In the United Kingdom there has been a substantial growth in the number of people covered by occupational pension schemes. Can the Commission state:

1. How many people are covered by occupational pension schemes in each country?
2. How many pensioners receive occupational pensions in each Community country?
3. The average level of such pensions.

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

(16 July 1987)

At the present time the Commission does not have at its disposal the data needed to reply to the questions raised by the Honourable Member.

The Statistical Office of the European Communities is working on a set of statistics concerning the number of persons protected in various areas of social security and the benefits provided in these areas. However, it is impossible to give a firm date for completion of this work.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 395/87

by Mr Roberto CiccioMessere (NI—I)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(20 May 1987)

(87/C 295/51)

Subject: Direct elections in Portugal

Can the Commission say whether Portugal will meet its obligation to hold direct elections of the Members of the European Parliament by 31 December 1987, as required under Article 28 of the Treaty of Accession to the Community?

What action has the Commission taken to ensure that this obligation will be met?

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

(9 July 1987)

According to information supplied by the Portuguese authorities, Portugal will elect its Members of the European Parliament on 19 July 1987.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 403/87

**by Mr Michael Elliott, Mr Kenneth Collins, Mr James Ford,
Ms Carole Tongue and Mrs Christine Crawley (S—GB), Mrs
Ien van den Heuvel and Mrs Hedy d'Ancona (S—NL) and Mr
Gerhard Schmid (S—D)**

to the Commission of the European Communities

(20 May 1987)

(87/C 295/52)

Subject: AIDS

Deep concern was expressed by the European Parliament in debates on this disease in 1984, with the report by Mr Salzer, and again in March 1986 in oral questions for debate from the Socialist and European Democratic Groups.

Bearing in mind:

1. the continued spread of this disease amongst all sections of the population, not only those initially at greater risk of contracting it;
2. the rapid increase in the rate of spread of the disease, such that millions of victims are predicted in Europe within 10 years, with AIDS becoming a major cause of death;
3. the failure so far to develop any effective treatment or vaccine for this disease, and that in consequence the ultimate death rate for those contracting it is close to 100 %;
4. the widespread disquiet that some important research being carried out at scientific institutions within the European Community is being funded from outside (e. g. the promising research on an AIDS vaccine being conducted at the University of Glasgow is very largely dependent on support from the United States);
5. the anxiety that, in the increasing pressures on governments to prevent the spread of the disease, serious threats to our cherished freedoms and civil liberties may arise, with the appalling prospect of those people confirmed as having the AIDS virus being put into a position somewhat similar to that of the medieval lepers;
6. the very welcome decisions by some local councils and health authorities in the UK that nurses and other public employees cannot refuse to treat or assist AIDS sufferers.

The authors ask the Commission to report urgently on the progress made in implementing the proposals contained in the compromise resolution on AIDS approved by the European Parliament in March 1986. In particular, what further actions does it propose to expedite a coordinated and major international research programme into the development of an effective cure or treatment for this terrible disease?

**Answer given by Mr Narjes
on behalf of the Commission**
(18 September 1987)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Members to its answer to Written Question No 3079/86 by Ms Lehideux ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 277, 15. 10. 1987.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 414/87
by Mr John Marshall (ED—GB)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(20 May 1987)
(87/C 295/53)

Subject: Harmonization of retirement ages

In view of the Commission's stated ambition to harmonize retirement ages throughout the Community, may I receive an assurance that this will not be done to the detriment of UK citizens who, at the moment, retire and are able to draw their State pensions rather earlier than in most other Community countries?

**Answer given by Mr Marin
on behalf of the Commission**
(15 July 1987)

The Commission has not yet adopted a definitive position as regards the content of the Directive which it intends to propose to supplement the implementation of equal treatment in the area of social security.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 424/87
by Mrs Vera Squarcialupi (COM—I)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(20 May 1987)
(87/C 295/54)

Subject: Trichinosis

Can the Commission say how many cases of trichinosis there were in the various countries of the Community in 1985 and 1986 and what species of animals were most affected?

Has the Commission heard of any cases of parasitosis caused by trichinae in man during the same period?

**Answer given by Mr Andriessen
on behalf of the Commission**
(4 September 1987)

The Commission is collecting the information it needs to answer the Honourable Member's questions.

It will inform him of its findings as soon as possible.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 426/87

by Mrs Vera Squarcialupi (COM—I)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(20 May 1987)

(87/C 295/55)

Subject: Exportation of American waste to Campania

In the fourth Community environmental action programme, the Commission expressed its admirable intention of drawing up practical rules for more rational waste management.

Could the Commission therefore give its views on the following situation:

1. The Campania Region produces 1 620 000 tonnes of waste per year,
2. The Campania Region does not yet have a law to regulate the discharge of waste, much of which is illegal and not subject to controls,
3. A commercial agreement is being drawn up between private individuals, whereby every year the USA is to export 500 000 tonnes of waste a year from the States of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut to Campania,
4. This waste, which the promoters of the operation claim is harmless, is supposed to be turned into gas, but there are no installations suitable for doing this in Campania.

Can the Commission also say whether, in view of the economic environmental and energy costs, in addition to the risks involved in the transport of such waste by sea, this operation is compatible with the Community's current policies on waste management and the preventive guidelines for the future laid down in the Single Act?

**Answer given by Mr Clinton Davis
on behalf of the Commission**

(23 July 1987)

The Commission wishes to thank the Honourable Member for her information on the importation of waste, of which it had not been aware.

It is not clear whether these wastes are toxic and hazardous, i. e. whether they are covered by Directive 78/319/EEC on toxic and dangerous waste⁽¹⁾ and Directive 84/631/EEC on the supervision and control within the European Community of the transfrontier shipment of hazardous waste⁽²⁾.

As the Commission has already initiated infringement proceedings against Italy regarding the non-conformity of Italian legislation with Directive 84/631/EEC (as amended and adapted) and for failure to submit the reports on implementation of Directives 78/319/EEC and

75/442/EEC⁽³⁾, it will without delay ask the Italian Government to supply precise information on the matter reported by the Honourable Member.

Information will also be requested on the agreement referred to so that an appraisal of its effects can be made in the light of the fourth environmental action programme⁽⁴⁾ and of the Single Act. The Commission will inform the Honourable Member of the results of these steps as soon as possible.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 84, 31. 3. 1978.⁽²⁾ OJ No L 326, 13. 12. 1984.⁽³⁾ OJ No L 194, 25. 7. 1975.⁽⁴⁾ OJ No C 70, 18. 3. 1987.**WRITTEN QUESTION No 444/87**

by Mr Francesco Compasso (LDR—I)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(27 May 1987)

(87/C 295/56)

Subject: Acute headache — a social malady

What action does the Commission intend to take in view of the rising incidence of disabling headaches, which affect many millions of people, and the resulting direct and indirect cost to society? In particular, will it sponsor a study on the effects of acute headache in society, with a view to stepping up and coordinating efforts to increase our understanding of the prevention and treatment of the condition.

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

(17 July 1987)

Although the Commission does not underestimate the debilitating effect of acute headaches on afflicted individuals, nor the related social impact, it does not at present have the means to initiate studies in this area or undertake action to coordinate work on the treatment and prevention of acute headaches.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 474/87

by Mr Jens-Peter Bonde (ARC—DK)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(27 May 1987)

(87/C 295/57)

Subject: Register of companies dealing with South Africa

Would the Commission publish a register of European companies, together with details of their turnover, which dealt with South Africa in 1986?

**Answer given by Mr De Clercq
on behalf of the Commission**

(4 September 1987)

The Commission does not have the information requested by the Honourable Member.

from Iran, particularly since the adoption of the law refusing them access to university and to public service employment?

In this context do the Twelve envisage applying an interpretation of the concept of 'social group' within the meaning of Article 3 of the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees?

Answer

(24 September 1987)

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 487/87
by Mr Jesus Cabezon Alonso (S—E)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(11 June 1987)

(87/C 295/58)

Subject: Financing from the structural funds in Cantabria (Spain)

What projects will have been financed or cofinanced with funds from the Community budget (ESF, ERDF and EAGGF) in 1986 and 1987, up to the date on which this question is answered, in the Cantabria Autonomous Community (Spain), and what amounts have been involved?

The Honourable Member's question has not been discussed within European political cooperation. Nonetheless, the Twelve have on many occasions pointed to the Member States' duty to give refuge to the persecuted and stressed their desire to comply fully with the Geneva Convention. They also consider that on humanitarian grounds they may allow aliens to stay even if they do not meet the conditions laid down in that Convention. It must however be said that each Member State has to define the status of political refugee in accordance with its national legislation and its commitments under the Treaty.

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

(4 September 1987)

In view of the length of its answer, which includes a number of tables, the Commission is sending it direct to the Honourable Member and to Parliament's Secretariat.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 541/87

**by Mr Konstantinos Stavrou (PPE—GR)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(12 June 1987)

(87/C 295/60)

Subject: Community fisheries inspectors

When it adopted the 1987 budget, the European Parliament created eight temporary B 3/2 posts for Community fisheries inspectors, thus raising the number of these from 13 to 21.

- (a) What has the Commission done about filling these posts?
- (b) What is the current breakdown of such inspectors by nationality?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 499/87

**by Mrs Anne-Marie Lizin (S—B)
to the Foreign Ministers of the Member States of the
European Community meeting in political cooperation**

(11 June 1987)

(87/C 295/59)

Subject: Political refugees: granting this status to women fleeing a country which refuses to recognize their existence

Are the Ministers meeting in political cooperation prepared to grant political refugee status in the 12 to women fleeing

**Answer given by Mr Cardoso e Cunha
on behalf of the Commission**

(11 September 1987)

1. The Commission has allocated two posts of inspector to the 1987 reserve of posts and has initiated the usual procedures for recruiting temporary staff to fill the other six posts.

2. On 26 June 1987 12 posts were filled by staff of the following nationalities:

Belgium: 1,
Denmark: 2,
Federal Republic of Germany: 1,
Spain: 1,
Ireland: 1,
France: 2,
Netherlands: 1,
Portugal: 1,
United Kingdom: 2.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 547/87

by Mr François Roelants du Vivier (ARC—B)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(12 June 1987)
(87/C 295/61)

Subject: Failure of the national authorities to take action over the nitrate content of water

The Commission has initiated proceedings against the authorities in the United Kingdom for failure to take action in the light of numerous complaints concerning violation of the maximum limit of 50 mg of nitrates per litre of water.

Will the Commission state whether it has also received complaints against other Member States?

**Answer given by Mr Clinton Davis
on behalf of the Commission**

(16 July 1987)

Apart from the case of the United Kingdom, the Commission has not received complaints about failure by other Member States to observe the MAC for nitrates fixed by Directive 80/778/EEC⁽¹⁾ on drinking water.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 229, 30. 8. 1980.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 555/87

by Mr Pancrazio De Pasquale (COM—I)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(12 June 1987)
(87/C 295/62)

Subject: EAGGF assistance for the hazelnut processing plant in Lauro (province of Avellino)

Will the Commission indicate the total funds allocated and the arrangements made for payment to establish a hazelnut processing plant in Lauro (province of Avellino)?

Is the Commission aware that this plant, which could make a substantial contribution to the development of the region,

has never been commissioned as a result of disputes over its management?

What steps does the Commission intend to take to ensure that the Community's contribution to the financing of industrial plants is not wasted?

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

(17 July 1987)

The EAGGF Guidance Section made no contribution to the financing of the hazelnut processing plant at Lauro (Province of Avellino).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 564/87

by Mrs Anne-Marie Lizin (S—B)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(12 June 1987)
(87/C 295/63)

Subject: Protection granted by the Member States to Chilean political refugees who opt to return to Chile

Will the Commission state what guarantees, particularly as regards civil and political rights, the various Member States can give to Chilean nationals who opt to go back and who have political refugee status in their country of residence? The Netherlands, Germany, France, Denmark, Italy and Spain are affected by this issue.

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

(22 July 1987)

1. The Commission has no information on this subject.

2. The Honourable Member is requested to address her question direct to the Member States concerned.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 597/87

by Mr Stephen Hughes (S—GB)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(22 June 1987)
(87/C 295/64)

Subject: Member State institutions assisting in soft loan exports

Will the Commission comment on the deal struck between Morgan Grenfell of the UK, Paribas of France and other

financial institutions to guarantee fixed soft-rate financing (below 8%) to the Soviet import organization Techmashimport for the purchase of irrigation equipment from the American Company Valmont Industries Corporation in the USA?

Will the Commission outline any similar deals it is aware of which benefit Community manufacturers and not outside companies?

Will the Commission also comment on the possibility of Community action to assist EEC companies to partake in such advantageous trade relations with the USSR?

**Answer given by Mr De Clercq
on behalf of the Commission**

(30 July 1987)

The transaction referred to by the Honourable Member appears to be an operation carried out by commercial banks without any support from authorities in the Member States. The Commission does not receive any information on such transactions.

EC companies exporting to third countries (including the USSR) can obtain official support, in compliance with the OECD arrangement on export credits, from Member State Governments under the national systems for export credit insurance and export financing. There is no Community scheme offering this kind of support.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 612/87

**by Mrs Anne-Marie Lizin (S—B)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(22 June 1987)

(87/C 295/65)

Subject: Aid to the ACP countries for combating bush fires

In April 1985 the Commission gave the Ivory Coast emergency aid for a scheme to combat bush fires. Benin also suffers seriously from bush fires.

Will the Commission give favourable consideration to a similar scheme in Benin?

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

(16 July 1987)

The Commission is prepared to examine carefully any official applications from ACP countries for bush fire

fighting operations similar to that financed by the Commission in Côte d'Ivoire.

The response to each application will be decided in accordance with the details of each case. The application should be made immediately after each fire. The Community might be able to intervene by financing emergency operations of a humanitarian nature.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 635/87

**by Mr James Ford (S—GB)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(26 June 1987)

(87/C 295/66)

Subject: Gibraltar and overseas territory status

In answer to an Oral Question (H—363/86⁽¹⁾) on 7 October 1986 Lynda Chalker stated that Gibraltar was an overseas territory. Yet in answer to a Written Question (W 2108/86 EN⁽²⁾), 23 February 1987) Mr Natali stated that, under Article 131 of the EEC Treaty, overseas countries and territories are 'non-European'.

Is the Commission claiming that Gibraltar is not European, or was Lynda Chalker wrong in her statement?

Can the Commission please clarify?

⁽¹⁾ Debates of the European Parliament, No 2-343 (October 1986).

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 143, 1. 6. 1987, p. 36.

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

(14 August 1987)

The Commission's answer to Written Question No 2108/86 relates to non-European countries and territories in association with the Community.

It is not for the Commission to interpret answers given by other institutions.

Gibraltar is a European territory to which Community law applies pursuant to Article 227 (4) of the EEC Treaty, the first paragraph of Article 79 of the ECSC Treaty and the second paragraph of Article 198 of the Euratom Treaty, subject to the conditions laid down in Article 28 of the 1973 Act of Accession.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 647/87

by Mr Carlos Robles Piquer (ED—E)

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

(26 June 1987)

(87/C 295/67)

Subject: Meeting of European specialists in constitutional science

The Sixth Congress of Political Science and Constitutional Law recently held in the Spanish city of Albacete and attended by some two hundred university teachers and experts in the field demonstrated how worthwhile such meetings, at the highest academic level, are as a means of crystallizing the constitutional ideals and philosophy underlying the organization and development of any political community.

This prompts the reflection that, at the point now reached in the development of the ideal of a Community Europe, it would be worth finding out what suggestions and relevant conclusions academics and experts in political science and constitutional law from all the Community Member States could contribute to securing progress towards the goal of a European unity which, as we all know, has fallen into a slough of apathy and stagnation.

Has it occurred to the Ministers that it would be worth organizing a meeting similar to that held in Albacete, as a way of hearing the authoritative view which would emerge from a forum attended by the most eminent European specialists in constitutional science?

Answer

(24 September 1987)

The Twelve believe that the Single European Act, which came into force on 1 July 1987, marks a worthwhile step in the process of European integration. In drafting this Act, the Twelve took appropriate account of all ideas on the subject, including those of political scientists and experts in constitutional law.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 668/87

by Mr Peter Price (ED—GB)

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

(26 June 1987)

(87/C 295/68)

Subject: Restrictive measures against South Africa adopted on 10 September 1985

For each of the categories of restrictive measures against South Africa agreed by the Twelve on 10 September 1985,

will the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation list in respect of each Member State:

- (a) the legal instrument by which the measure was imposed;
- (b) the date when the measure became operative;
- (c) the maximum penalty which can be enforced in the event of breach of the measure;
- (d) any exceptions or exemptions allowed in respect either of subcategories of the product or item concerned or of specified legal or actual persons;
- (e) the authority responsible for enforcement?

Answer

(24 September 1987)

All members of the Twelve control the import to and the export from their countries of arms and paramilitary equipment. In most countries no specific legislation was therefore required to implement the embargo agreed on 10 September 1985. The same applies to the ban on new collaboration in the nuclear field and that on the export of sensitive equipment destined for the South African police and armed forces.

The ban on oil exports to South Africa is enforced by legislation, by administrative act or by official guidelines.

The measures took immediate effect or came into force as soon as the necessary legislation had been passed. Enforcement, and the penalties for any breaches of these measures, are the responsibility of the individual governments.

The Twelve believe that the restrictive measures agreed to in 1985 and 1986 are being fully implemented.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 669/87

by Mr Peter Price (ED—GB)

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

(26 June 1987)

(87/C 295/69)

Subject: Restrictive measures against South Africa adopted on 16 September 1986

For each of the categories of restrictive measures against South Africa agreed by the Twelve on 16 September 1986, will the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation list in respect of each Member State:

- (a) the legal instrument by which the measure was imposed;
- (b) the date when the measure became operative;
- (c) the maximum penalty which can be enforced in the event of breach of the measure;
- (d) any exceptions or exemptions allowed in respect either of subcategories of the product or item concerned or of specified legal or actual persons;
- (e) the authority responsible for enforcement?

Answer*(24 September 1987)*

The ban on the import of iron and steel products originating in South Africa was implemented by a decision of representatives of the governments of the Member States of the European Coal and Steel Community on 27 September 1986.

The ban on the import of gold coins originating in South Africa was implemented by Council Regulation (EEC) No 3302/86 adopted on 27 October 1986.

The ban on new investment in South Africa has been implemented in different ways, in different Member States. In some cases new legislation has been introduced, in others administrative restrictions have been applied, in others a voluntary ban has been introduced.

Enforcement, and the penalties applied for breaching these measures, are the responsibility of individual governments.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 670/87**by Mr Peter Price (ED—GB)**

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

*(26 June 1987)**(87/C 295/70)*

Subject: Restrictive measures against South Africa adopted on 27 October 1986

For each of the categories of restrictive measures against South Africa agreed by the Twelve on 27 October 1987, will the Foreign Ministers meeting in political cooperation list in respect of each Member State:

- (a) the legal instrument by which the measure was imposed;
- (b) the date when the measure became operative;
- (c) the maximum penalty which can be enforced in the event of breach of the measure;

- (d) any exceptions or exemptions allowed in respect either of subcategories of the product or item concerned or of specified legal or actual persons;
- (e) the authority responsible for enforcement?

Answer*(24 September 1987)*

The Honourable Member is referred to the answer given to his previous Written Question.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 683/87**by Mr Jaak Vandemeulebroucke (ARC—B)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(29 June 1987)**(87/C 295/71)*

Subject: Subsidies from the European Social Fund

Further to my previous written questions on the same subject, will the Commission indicate what subsidies have been granted to each province of Belgium for 1987?

Will it also provide a list of this year's projects in the Province of Brabant indicating the recipients of the aid and the amount allocated to each project?

**Answer given by Mr Marin
on behalf of the Commission***(4 September 1987)*

The Commission is sending directly to the Honourable Member and to the Secretariat of Parliament the information requested.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 694/87**by Mr Willy Kuijpers (ARC—B)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(29 June 1987)**(87/C 295/72)*

Subject: Customs frauds at the Dutch-Belgian border

In order to arrest a recipient of goods in Eindhoven who was suspected of organizing a 'merry-go-round' system to evade VAT by carrying out (national) border crossings several

times with the same items, the Dutch customs authorities at the Postel border crossing called on the assistance of a driver employed by VIDECOM, a subsidiary of RADELCO in Antwerp. The driver was taking a consignment of goods to the customer in question (who was perpetrating the fraud). After the goods had been delivered and paid for by cheque the recipient in Eindhoven was arrested. The merchandise was, it was later revealed, confiscated and disposed of by public sale.

The cheque, which was paid into the VIDECOM account was not honoured and about 10 days later VIDECOM's account was once more debited.

In the meantime, more than one year after these events, the transport company concerned has still received no payment which means that it has suffered a loss of Bfrs 600 000.

Can the Commission confirm whether such procedures are standard practice and how the transport undertaking concerned can be compensated for its losses?

**Answer given by Lord Cockfield
on behalf of the Commission**

(4 September 1987)

The Commission is inquiring into the facts referred to by the Honourable Member with the Member State concerned. It will inform him of its findings as soon as possible.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 820/87

**by Mr Christopher O'Malley (PPE—IRL)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(10 July 1987)

(87/C 295/73)

Subject: Haulage rates for intervention stocks

Can the Commission say what is the prevailing price paid to French hauliers per 200 km for transport of dry intervention stocks?

**Answer given by Mr Clinton Davis
on behalf of the Commission**

(4 September 1987)

The Commission does not have the information requested by the Honourable Member.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 844/87

by Mrs Vera Squarzialupi (COM—I)

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

(20 July 1987)

(87/C 295/74)

Subject: The situation in Zaire

The situation of political prisoners in Zaire is increasingly difficult and dangerous for the country's political opposition. President Mobuto continues to place under house arrest or imprison political opponents and the leaders of the opposition party, the UDSP (Union for Democracy and Social Progress), and to declare the party illegal, although there have been some attempts to make political opponents join Mobuto's party. Many political prisoners are in a seriously weakened condition. Mr Makanda, an opponent of the regime, recently died in prison as a result of malnutrition (his weight had dropped to 35 kg), ill-treatment and lack of medical care.

Do not the Ministers consider that it is time to propose to the Member States that financial aid to Zaire be halted or other sanctions imposed on the Government of Zaire, instead of merely stating that the Community 'is aware of the situation and is following it very closely'?

Answer

(24 September 1987)

The Twelve do not attempt to make humanitarian assistance to third countries dependent upon their precise constitutional arrangements.

That said, the Twelve do follow individual countries' records in the field of human rights closely and raise individual instances of human rights' abuse where appropriate. They have made clear that they expect third countries to meet internationally accepted standards of behaviour and that the Twelve's policy towards third countries, including on such issues as economic assistance, must take this fact into account.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 883/87

**by Mr Ettore Andenna and Mr Guiseppe Amadei (S—I)
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(23 July 1987)

(87/C 295/75)

Subject: Courtesy flags for pleasure craft

Some estimates put the number of pleasure craft off the Mediterranean coasts of Spain, France and Italy at over 250 000.

Present traditions and regulations require a vessel entering a harbour to hoist the courtesy flag of the country in which the port is situated.

Can the Commission say whether there would be obstacles of any kind to the proposal that the flag of the host country be replaced by the European flag, duly approved by the European Parliament?

If there are obstacles, can the Commission take the necessary steps with the competent authorities of the Member States to have them removed?

If there are no obstacles, what action can the Commission take to encourage this new custom, which would symbolize the common identity of European sailors?

**Answer given by Mr Ripa di Meana
on behalf of the Commission**

(15 September 1987)

The Commission is inquiring into the questions raised by the Honourable Members with the Member States concerned. It will inform them of its findings as soon as possible.

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION IN THE COMMUNITY

1986 Report

This report is the twelfth published version of the annual Report on the Agricultural Situation in the Community. It contains analyses and statistics on the general situation (economic environment and world market), the factors of production, the structures and situation of the markets in the various agricultural products, the obstacles to the common agricultural market, the position of consumers and producers, and the financial aspects. The general prospects and the market outlook for agricultural products are also dealt with.

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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

THE SINGLE ACT:

A new frontier

PROGRAMME OF THE COMMISSION FOR 1987:

Statement by Jacques Delors, President of the Commission, to the European Parliament,
Strasbourg, 18 February 1987

Bulletin of the European Commission. Supplement 1/87

The Single Act: A new frontier for Europe

The signing and forthcoming entry into force of the Single European Act and the accession to the Community of Spain and Portugal (following that of Greece in 1981) have brought with them fundamental changes in the structure of the Community and the obligations of the Member States. The Single European Act improves significantly the institutional system and sets new objectives for the Community, notably the completion of the internal market by 1992 and the strengthening of economic and social cohesion.

If it is to succeed in its new responsibilities, the Community must first complete the reforms undertaken, especially since 1984, with the aim of adapting old policies to new conditions: reform of the common agricultural policy, reform of the structural Funds, and reform of the financing system. Once these reforms have been implemented, the Community will have to be given the resources needed to achieve the objectives of the Single act.

By amending the Treaty of Rome in this way, the Member States have set a new frontier for European integration. They have made a qualitative leap forward which must be turned to good account to equip our economies so that they can meet the challenges from abroad and return to more vigorous, job-creating growth.

For this reason, the Commission feels that it should set out the conditions to be met if this great venture is to succeed. This is the thinking behind the proposals it is laying before the Council and Parliament. They are set in a medium-term context, looking towards 1992, the deadline for completion of the large frontier-free market.

Programme of the Commission for 1987

This Supplement also contains the Commission's programme for 1987, as presented to Parliament by Mr Delors in February 1987.

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