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## Information and Notices

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## I

*(Information)*

## EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

## WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWER

## WRITTEN QUESTION No 685/90

by Mr Neil Blaney (ARC)

to the Commission of the European Communities

*(23 March 1990)**(91/C 259/01)*

*Subject:* Smuggling into Ireland of bacon/pork of eastern European origin presented as being from a Member State

Is the Commission aware of a recent case in which bacon/pork imported into Ireland and purporting to come from Denmark was found to have originated in an eastern European country and to have been covered by false papers?

Has the Commission initiated an investigation, and will it provide the Parliament with full information, in particular about the scale of this sort of infringement of Community rules?

What steps are being taken to prevent this sort of fraud recurring?

**Supplementary answer given by Mr Mac Sharry  
on behalf of the Commission**

*(19 April 1991)*

Further to its answer of 27 April 1990 <sup>(1)</sup> the Commission can now inform the Honourable Member the result of its investigations. At a recent meeting of the EAGGF Irregularities Group, Member States confirmed that they had found no evidence of any loss to the detriment of the Community budget. Nevertheless enquiries will continue to be conducted by the competent authorities in the respective Member States until a satisfactory conclusion is reached. The Commission services will follow these enquiries.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 246, 1. 10. 1990.

## WRITTEN QUESTION No 2092/90

by Mrs Alliot-Marie (RDE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

*(17 September 1990)**(91/C 259/02)*

*Subject:* Measures to offset monetary fluctuations on the European meat market

The falling value of the pound sterling is leading to a 20% drop in the price of sheepmeat. This monetary datum constitutes a serious disadvantage, in particular for hill farmers, whose activities and income are exposed to risk and uncertainty.

What measures will the Commission take to offset the effects of this distortion of competition on the European meat market?

**Answer given by Mr Mac Sharry  
on behalf of the Commission**

*(5 July 1991)*

The weakness of the pound sterling in the first part of 1990 had some effect on the sheepmeat market in Member States importing from the United Kingdom. Sterling has however gained ground in the last few months (+ 8% against the ECU between the end of March and the end of May) and other factors must be sought to explain persisting market depression: increased production in the north and west of the Community, earlier marketing through the spring period, low summer demand because of the weather and poor prices for lamb by-products (skins and offal). Where Continental offer prices for British lamb are concerned, there is a further factor, the impact of the reduced guide level in Great Britain because of the stabilizer and the 25% reduction in 1990 of the variable premium (clawback) under the market organization reform made by the Council in September 1989.

The compensation provided under the new basic Regulation in such a situation is of two types:

- half-yearly advance payment to all sheep and goat producers of the expected amount of the ewe/nanny goat premium to be determined at the end of the marketing year (the first advance for 1990 was adopted on 29 June and the second on 26 September), the annual premium being intended as direct compensation for the fall recorded in market prices;
- private storage aid, awarded by tender, in Member States where prices fall below 70 % of the basic price; tendering procedures have so far been opened every month since the beginning of 1990, albeit to a relatively limited response.

In May 1990 the Council approved, for application from the 1991 marketing year, a specific aid, additional to the premium, of ECU 3 per ewe for farmers in mountain, hill and less-favoured areas, and has now decided to raise this to ECU 5,5 per ewe from the 1992 marketing year.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2377/90**

by Mr Ernest Glinne (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(25 October 1990)

(91/C 259/03)

*Subject:* Military cooperation between Iraq, the Sudan and South Africa

According to generally well informed sources, the Iraqi Government has recently sent to the Sudanese Government chemical weapons and 155 mm G-5 type heavy guns manufactured in South Africa. This artillery is said to have been supplied to Iraq by South Africa during the Iran-Iraq war in exchange for oil. Having acquired the more sophisticated G-6 type guns from an unknown source, Iraq is reported to have then sent the G-5 type guns to the Sudan, where the government has been trying unsuccessfully to subdue the Sudan People's Liberation Army, which is close to capturing the strategic southern town of Juba.

It has been confirmed that the Iraqi and Sudanese Governments signed a military cooperation agreement at the end of July 1990 during the visit to Baghdad of General Feisal Salih, Sudanese Minister of Defence. It has also been confirmed that the Sudan voted against a resolution condemning Iraq during the recent meeting of the Arab League. Furthermore, it is known that the official press agencies and media networks in Baghdad and Khartoum are devoted to the mutual glorification of the current leaders of the two countries.

With this in mind, could the Commission answer the following questions:

1. Can the facts outlined above be confirmed?
2. Should not the military cooperation between Iraq and South Africa be sanctioned in accordance with Security Council Resolution 418 (1977), adopted on 4 November 1977?
3. Should not appropriate precautions and, possibly, other measures be taken in the light of the supply by Baghdad and the possible use by the Khartoum Government of chemical weapons in the civil war in the Southern Sudan?
4. How has Iraq managed to acquire chemical weapons which have already been used by its armed forces against Iranian troops and the Kurdish people?
5. How is Community humanitarian aid being dispatched and organized at present for those affected by the war in the Sudan?

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

(2 May 1991)

1. The Commission has no confirmed information concerning allegations that Iraq has supplied chemical weapons and heavy artillery to Sudan.

With regard to the second paragraph of the question, it should be noted that Sudan's position on Iraq's invasion of Kuwait was set out by Sudan's Head of State, Lt Gen. al-Bashir in a speech to the UN General Assembly last October in which he said that Sudan considered that efforts towards a peaceful solution should be continued within an Arab Muslim framework. He also said that Sudan was determined to comply with and implement the UN Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis and that Sudan considered that the situation constituted a threat to the national security of Arab countries as a direct result of the increased military presence in the region. It should also be noted that Sudan did not vote in favour of the Arab League resolution under which it was decided to send Arab military forces to Saudi Arabia. Sudan has not attended subsequent meetings of the Arab League.

2. Resolution 418 (1977) bans the supply of weapons and all types of related equipment to South Africa. It does not seem at first sight that this resolution prohibits the purchase of such equipment from South Africa, subject to a broad interpretation of point 3 of the resolution.
3. The Commission has no confirmed information concerning allegations that Iraq has supplied chemical weapons to Sudan.



4. The Commission has no precise information on how Iraq has acquired chemical weapons.

5. Community humanitarian assistance to Sudan is primarily being provided through UN specialized agencies (WFP, Unicef, UNHCR) and non-governmental channels, which are responsible for ensuring that the aid reaches the neediest sections of the population.

Sudan's emergency food aid requirements amount to approximately 1,2 million tonnes for 1991. Since the first signs of the famine became apparent the Community has repeatedly urged the Sudanese authorities to acknowledge the gravity of the food situation, make every effort to ease the way for humanitarian relief operations in all areas of the country. At the same time the Commission has made major efforts, within the framework of international aid, to come to the assistance of the Sudanese people affected by the famine and the war. Since the beginning of December last year the Commission has granted a total of 111 635 tonnes of food aid which, added to the 32 216 tonnes promised before the month of December and in the process of delivery brings total Community food aid approved to date for the victims of the famine in Sudan to 143 851 tonnes (worth over ECU 50 million). The Commission has also recently adopted a further series of emergency aid measures mainly involving non-food products, totalling ECU 5,64 million, which will be implemented by NGOs and UN agencies. The Commission is willing to consider the possibility of further humanitarian aid in the light of events.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2384/90**

**by Mrs Mary Banotti (PPE)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(25 October 1990)*

*(91/C 259/04)*

*Subject: Glass recycling — monopoly situations*

Is the Commission aware of any price arrangements or monopoly positions in the glass recycling industry? Do Member States protect their markets of recyclable glass or do they give free access to companies from other Member States?

**Answer given by Sir Leon Brittan  
on behalf of the Commission**

*(18 December 1990)*

The Commission has no information on any price arrangements or monopoly positions in the glass-recycling industry.

Nor is it aware of any measures taken by national authorities to protect the relevant national markets.

The Commission, which closely monitors company behaviour in the glass industry <sup>(1)</sup>, will examine carefully any information that it might receive concerning possible infringements of the Treaty's competition rules in the industry to which the Honourable Member refers.

<sup>(1)</sup> See in particular the Commission Decisions of 28 September 1981 (OJ No L 326, 13. 11. 1981) and 7 December 1988 (OJ No L 33, 4. 2. 1989).

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2392/90**

**by Mr Mihail Papayannakis (GUE)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(25 October 1990)*

*(91/C 259/05)*

*Subject: Destruction of the environment by the Greek Magnesites Company*

The continuous extraction activities of the Greek Magnesites Company which has for 30 years been Poliyiros areas of Khalkidiki has laid to waste vast tracts of land which now resemble a lunar landscape. This company is now attempting to re-route the Poliyiros-Gerakini road in order to expand its activities and extract further magnesite deposits. However, large groups of citizens are expressing the fear that the surrounding area which has been destroyed to date cannot be restored and that the company will inflict further damage on the environment.

Since the extension of the company's magnesite extraction operations has been included with the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes, will the Commission investigate the major environmental impact in this area which attracts large numbers of tourists? What measures does it intend to take to ensure that the company fulfils its major obligation to restore the areas in which the environment has already been destroyed and to prevent any further destruction?

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

*(30 January 1991)*

The Commission has already received a complaint regarding the project in question.

The Commission intends to ask the Greek authorities for more detailed information on the plans to expand magnesite extraction activities.

This type of project is listed in Annex II to Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment <sup>(1)</sup> and is therefore subject to such assessment where Member States consider that the features thereof make this necessary.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 175, 5. 7. 1985.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2452/90**  
by **Mr Marc Reymann (PPE)**  
to the Commission of the European Communities  
(7 November 1990)  
(91/C 259/06)

*Subject:* Functioning of the European Institutions

To what extent does the Commission intend to make a political effort in support of the 'European District' project intended to link up Strasbourg and Kehl?

**Answer given by Mr Delors**  
on behalf of the Commission  
(1 July 1991)

According to Article 216 of the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community, Article 77 of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community and Article 189 of the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community, the seat of the institutions of the Community is to be determined by the Governments of the Member States <sup>(1)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> See the Commission's previous statements, for instance on 19 September 1973 (Report of proceedings at the sitting of Wednesday 19 September 1973, OJ Annex 165, p. 54) and 18 January 1989 (Report of proceedings at the sitting of Wednesday 18 January 1989, OJ Annex 2-373, p. 259).

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2564/90**  
by **Mrs Mary Banotti (PPE)**  
to the Commission of the European Communities  
(16 November 1990)  
(91/C 259/07)

*Subject:* Extending the Community's competence in the tourism sector

Following the informal meeting of Tourism Ministers (29 September 1990) is the Commission drawing up any proposals aimed at creating a fully-fledged Community tourism policy in line with the stated intentions of the Ministers to extend the Community's competence in this area?

**Answer given by Mr Cardoso e Cunha**  
on behalf of the Commission  
(24 July 1991)

At the informal meeting of the Council of Tourism Ministers (29 September 1990) and the formal meeting (29 November 1990) the ministers requested the Commission to develop a pluriannual programme of actions in tourism. The Commission is evaluating the orientations and ways for establishing Community actions in the field of tourism according to the Community competences as defined in the EEC Treaty.

In that context, the Commission is considering tourism from two perspectives: (a) the 'horizontal' approach, where other Community policies may affect tourism and (b) specific actions in tourism.

The horizontal approach will ensure that Community policies in other areas are consistent with tourism concerns, for example in transport, company law or fiscal measures. It will also aim at improving the knowledge about the sector, as defined in the proposal recently adopted by the Council concerning the harmonization of tourism statistics within the Community <sup>(1)</sup>.

Specific actions will promote primarily alternative forms of tourism. A Community action to promote rural tourism has already been adopted <sup>(2)</sup> and the Commission is currently looking at measures which might be taken in other fields.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 358, 21. 12. 1990.

<sup>(2)</sup> COM(90) 438 final.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2595/90**  
by **Mr Gianfranco Amendola (V)**  
to the Commission of the European Communities  
(20 November 1990)  
(91/C 259/08)

*Subject:* Compliance with the Directive on the limitation of noise emissions from subsonic aircraft in Italy

The Commission has brought proceedings against the Belgian State for infringement of Directive 80/51/EEC <sup>(1)</sup> and amendments thereto <sup>(2)</sup> on the limitation of noise emissions from subsonic aircraft.

Can the Commission say:

1. whether it has directly ascertained in Italy that the Directive in question is applied in all airports?
2. whether the exemptions laid down under Italian law are still in effect?

3. whether it is true that Boeing 707 cargo aircraft are in transit at Italian airports, in particular the airport of Fiumicino?

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No L 18, 24. 1. 1980, p. 26.

(<sup>2</sup>) OJ No L 117, 4. 5. 1983, p. 15.

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

(2 May 1991)

In their telex of 13 April 1991, the Italian authorities stated that, according to the enquiries carried out, it is not true that Boeing 707s which are not in conformity with Directives 80/51/EEC and 83/206/EEC take off from Fiumicino and Ciampino airports every week.

The only case where no noise certification was available, according to the Italian authorities, was at Ciampino on 30 October 1990 and related to a Qatari Boeing 707 which had not obtained prior authorization.

The Commission departments concerned would be grateful if the Honourable Member could supply them with any further information on this matter, and, if possible, any facts that could be used as evidence.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2601/90**

by the following Members: Mr Enrique Sapena Granell, Mrs Maria Izquierdo Rojo, Mrs Ludivina García Arias, Mr Juan de la Cámara Martínez, Mr Mateo Sierra Bardají, Mr Javier Sanz Fernández and Mr José Vázquez Fouz (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(20 November 1990)

(91/C 259/09)

*Subject:* Community policy on tourism

With regard to the fact that the Commission's Work Programme for 1990 stresses the integrative role of tourism and its contribution to economic and social development, what steps has the Commission taken to upgrade tourism in areas suffering from regional imbalances?

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

(23 July 1991)

The Community Structural Funds have always, each according to its own rules, contributed to developing tourism.

Since the reform of the Structural Funds in 1989, in preparation for the Single Market, the contributions have been doubled from 1987 to 1993, from approximately 7 billion Ecu to 14 billion Ecu. In the Community Support

Frameworks negotiated within the partnership for the less-favoured regions of the Community covering the objectives 1, 2 and 5 (b) of the reform, more than 2 billion Ecu will be allocated directly to tourism development over the period 1989—1993, most of which derives from the ERDF. This amount represents about 6 % of Community assistance in these regions over the period 1989—1993. In addition, the Structural Funds contribute considerably in these regions to the development of basic infrastructure such as transport, energy, and water supplies which are necessary for the development of tourism in several areas. Moreover, there are the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes where tourism accounts for 13 % of total expenditure. In the framework of the Community Initiatives, the Envireg programme, in contributing to the reduction of pollution of the coastal zones, will have a great impact on the tourism industry in the Mediterranean area (total budget of 500 million Ecu). Also the Resider, Renaval, Interreg and Rechar programmes can contribute to tourism activities.

The Commission has adopted an action plan for rural tourism (<sup>1</sup>), whose objective is to support the growing number of tourism products in rural areas. Their greater utilization will both create new economic activities and give further local employment.

The Community intends to lend its support to measures aimed at exploiting Europe's rural environment with its architectural heritage, local cultures and natural scenery. As a logical alternative to mass tourism, rural tourism meets the requirements of customers interested in environment-friendly tourism, a type of tourism which offers a broad range of new experiences and holidays.

(<sup>1</sup>) COM(90) 438 final.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2617/90**

by Mr Ben Fayot (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(23 November 1990)

(91/C 259/10)

*Subject:* Revision of the ECSC Treaty

With the prospect of the completion of the single market, the ECSC Treaty, which expires in the year 2002, is now under discussion. Will it be brought into line with the new economic and social situation or even abolished before this date?

Since the ECSC Treaty has proved its value in providing an economic and social solution to structural crises in the past, should it not be preserved in order to ensure the

properly organized participation of workers in two essential economic sectors?

What are the Commission's intentions in this respect?

What adjustments does the Commission intend to propose?

**Answer given by Mr Delors  
on behalf of the Commission**  
(8 May 1991)

The Commission's ideas about the future of the ECSC Treaty are contained in a communication addressed to Parliament and the Council<sup>(1)</sup> to which the Honourable Member is referred for an answer to his questions. In the conclusion to this document, the Commission stated that it had decided:

1. to adopt, as its political position, the general option which provides for the ECSC Treaty to expire as scheduled in 2002, taking advantage of the flexibility which that Treaty provides in order to modify its application, as far as possible, to the two industries so that they are phased in to the EEC Treaty in 2002;
2. between now and 2002, to add, when appropriate, to this option the incorporation into the EEC Treaty of certain provisions of the ECSC Treaty, including the maintenance of such financial instruments and social provisions as may be deemed useful or necessary;
3. in the event of the ECSC Treaty being amended before the period preceding its expiry, and independently of points 1 and 2 above, to rescind the provisions relating to prices (Article 60) and to commercial policy (Articles 71-75), on the understanding that these matters will then be covered automatically by the EEC Treaty;
4. in parallel, rapidly to complete the study of the development of the Community's financial instruments with a view to contributing to the setting up of economic and monetary union.

(<sup>1</sup>) SEC(91) 407 final, 15. 3. 1991.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2656/90**  
**by Mr Sérgio Ribeiro**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
(23 November 1990)  
(91/C 259/11)

*Subject:* Visit to Portugal by Commissioner Brittan and the situation in the textile industry

According to the Portuguese media, Commissioner Leon Brittan, on his recent visit to Portugal, informed the

Portuguese Government of the Commission's difficulties in the textiles sector in connection with the dismantling of the Multifibre Arrangement and the Uruguay Round negotiations.

Since Commissioner Brittan is reported to have added that he had not entered into any agreement other than to take account of Portuguese interests in the course of the negotiations:

1. what difficulties is the Commission encountering and what is their origin?
2. does the Commission, and Commissioner Brittan in particular, realize that in this question it is not simply 'Portuguese interests' that are at stake, but those of an industry which is of great importance to the Community?
3. is account being taken of the opinions of the European Parliament, in particular the opinion of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs drawn up by Mr Carlos Carvalhas and contained in the Peijs Report?

**Answer given by Mr Andriessen  
on behalf of the Commission**  
(24 June 1991)

The Community has been faced with a number of difficulties in the Uruguay Round negotiations aimed at bringing textiles within the GATT framework. On the external front, it has encountered resistance from the developing countries throughout the negotiations to its attempts to obtain parallelism between the integration of textiles into GATT and the strengthening of GATT rules and disciplines. The draft agreement — not yet finalized — which emerged from the Brussels Conference in December 1990, however, includes provision for such parallelism. Internally, the Community's position in the negotiations has had to be formulated to take account of the different issues at stake in various branches of the Community industry and in different Community regions, and the varying economic and social implications. Nevertheless, throughout the negotiations a balance has been maintained on a united, consistent stand reflecting the special importance of the textile industry to the Community.

With regard to Sir Leon Brittan's remarks, since he was speaking in Lisbon it is natural that he should have referred to 'Portuguese interests'.

In the multilateral negotiations, however, the Commission firmly upholds the position formulated within the Community institutions, a position wholly consistent with the views expressed by Parliament on this

issue, including those reflected in the Opinion of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs drafted by Mr Carlos Carvalhas, which is incorporated in the resolution forming part of the Peijs Report.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2751/90**

**by Mr Carlos Robles Piquer (PPE)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(10 December 1990)*

*(91/C 259/12)*

*Subject:* Single market provisions

By 31 August 1990, 174 of the provisions making up the programme for the single market whose entry into force is scheduled for 1 January 1993 had been adopted. Another 113 provisions proposed by the Commission were awaiting adoption. They included a number which are of considerable importance, such as the Regulation on the transit of goods, health standards for the marketing of animal and aquaculture products, provisions on the acquisition and possession of arms, on harmonizing the weight and size of motor vehicles and on medicines for human usage, the Regulation and Directive on the free movement of workers, six provisions relating to insurance, a proposal on the transport of persons by road, the statute of the European Company, provisions harmonizing taxes on various alcoholic drinks, and, above all, a proposal relating to the adoption of common levels and rates of VAT.

Can the Commission provide information on the degree to which the abovementioned 174 provisions are now applied in the Member States and indicate what progress towards implementation of the 113 provisions which have not yet been adopted?

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

*(12 March 1991)*

In December 1990 the number of measures adopted by the Council under the internal market programme (White Paper) stood at around 200.

For 140 of these measures (Directives, Regulations, Decisions or recommendations), the deadline for implementation has passed; in 109 cases, Member States had to take steps to transpose them into national law.

The transposition rate varies from country to country, but at least a quarter of the measures have been implemented by all twelve Member States.

The current transposition rate is given below for each Member State:

Belgium:	69,2%
Germany:	79,8%
Denmark:	90,3%
Spain:	73,5%
France:	74%
Greece:	60,2%
Italy:	40,9%
Ireland:	67,3%
Luxembourg:	66,6%
Netherlands:	73%
Portugal:	82%
United Kingdom:	84,4%

In the course of 1991, the transposition period will come to an end for a further 28 Community measures.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2838/90**

**by Mr Andrea Raggio (GUE)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(17 December 1990)*

*(91/C 259/13)*

*Subject:* Regen programme, project for Sardinia and Corsica

The Regen programme includes a project for the transport of natural gas to Sardinia and Corsica.

Can the Commission indicate the estimated cost of these projects, as established at the technical meetings held to date, the funding which can be provided and the anticipated time needed for completion of the project?

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

*(20 June 1991)*

Commission staff are soon to meet the French and Italian authorities for an initial discussion on the technical and financial aspects of this project. The Commission is unable to reply to questions regarding the cost of the work and the time needed for its completion until the project has been received from the two Member States concerned.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2868/90**  
**by Mr Gerardo Fernández-Albor (PPE)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
*(3 January 1991)*  
*(91/C 259/14)*

*Subject:* Community tourist programme for the elderly during the winter season

For obvious reasons, the extensive tourist facilities on the Community's Mediterranean coastline have considerable surplus capacity during the winter season, in spite of the mild and sunny climate normally enjoyed in the south of the Community at this time of year.

For this reason every year some Mediterranean countries such as Spain promote a social programme enabling the elderly to enjoy winter holidays at substantially reduced prices in the tourist areas by the sea which are otherwise deserted at this time.

With the aim of helping these regions of the Community's Mediterranean countries to overcome the winter economic slump and at the same time facilitate winter holidays for elderly Community citizens, does the Commission think the Spanish example could be extended to cover the whole Community by introducing a Community programme on similar lines that will produce this two-fold benefit?

**Answer given by Mr Cardoso e Cunha**  
**on behalf of the Commission**  
*(26 July 1991)*

The Commission is aware of the difficulties caused by the imbalanced use of tourism infrastructure in a number of regions in the Community. This is why support for the development of off-season tourism is an important aspect of the guidelines for Community tourism measures being considered by the Commission in response to the Council's request for a multiannual programme of measures.

The development of off-season tourism would go some way to countering the effects of the bunching of holidays (traffic congestion, environmental problems, unduly seasonal nature of tourism). It is the Commission's view that the development of off-season tourism should involve all types of tourist and not just the elderly, as is the case in Spain.

As part of the abovementioned guidelines, the Commission is considering studying measures to allow new sections of the population, particularly the elderly, to enjoy the benefits of tourism in the belief that this would be both a social measure and a means of increasing the potential demand for tourism.

It is also exploring the possibility of specific measures of benefit to the elderly in a number of areas, tourism included, ahead of any decision to designate 1993 as 'European Year of the Elderly'.

The Spanish programme mentioned by the Honourable Member can, therefore, be looked at from many angles, and the Spanish representative on the Advisory Committee on Tourism will be asked at a forthcoming meeting to provide fuller information.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2941/90**  
**by Mr Mihail Papayannakis (GUE)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
*(16 January 1991)*  
*(91/C 259/15)*

*Subject:* Pollution of the River Aliákmon

The River Aliákmon, which has its source in the prefecture of Kastoriá, and crosses the prefectures of Kastariá, Kozánis and Imathía, flows into the Gulf of Thérmai. The Delta formed by its estuary, together with the estuaries of the River Loudnías and River Axios, provides a major wetland environment for many endangered species of flora and fauna and a large number of migratory birds.

At present all urban and industrial effluent in the locality is discharged into the Aliákmon, together with run-off from agricultural land containing fertilizers and pesticides. The uncontrolled discharge of solid waste from the banks of the Aliákmon and the streams flowing into it pollute both surface water and groundwater. A biological sewage treatment plant has already begun to operate without authorization from the Ministry of Health or the prefecture, despite the fact that secondary treatment is also necessary in view of the quantity and nature of local urban and industrial effluent. In view of its particular importance as a wetland area, the Aliákmon delta is protected under the Ramsar Convention and Directive 79/409/EEC (\*). A scheme for supplying water to the entire area from the Aliákmon has been included in the regional development programme. In view of the above, will the Commission say whether a survey has been carried out to establish the environmental impact of such effluent on the Aliákmon itself, its delta and the Gulf of Thérmai as a whole, and what measures it will take to ensure that Greece complies with Directive 79/409/EEC and the Directives on pollution of ground and surface waters?

Has an environment impact assessment been carried out in respect of the projected scheme for supplying the area with water from the Aliákmon?

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No L 103, 25. 4. 1979, p. 1.

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

(28 June 1991)

The Commission has not been informed of the results of the environmental impact studies concerning the river Aliákmon. Directive 85/337/EEC (<sup>1</sup>) does not oblige the Member States to inform the Commission of the results of impact studies carried out on their territory.

Given that the delta of Aliákmon has been classified by Greece as a special protection area under the terms of Article 4 of Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds, the Commission will examine more closely the problems to which the Honourable Members refers and take the necessary measures to ensure correct application of Community environmental legislation in the area concerned.

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No L 175, 5. 7. 1985.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2951/90**

**by Mr Alman Metten (S)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(11 January 1991)

(91/C 259/16)

*Subject:* Databank on medicinal products

As part of a political compromise on the Directive (89/105/EEC) on the transparency of measures regulating the price of medicinal products (<sup>1</sup>), the Commission has agreed to the setting up of a data bank in accordance with the amendment adopted by the European Parliament (SEC(88) 1154 final).

1. What progress has been made in setting up this data bank, and when will it be fully operational?
2. What parties were involved in the preparatory work for this data bank?
3. What information will the data bank contain?
4. Who will have access to this data bank?
5. Does the Commission consider that this data bank should be limited to the implementation of the Directive on the transparency of measures related to the pricing of medicinal products, or is it prepared to

enter information which is desirable in connection with secondary legislation at European level concerning the pharmaceutical industry?

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No L 40, 11. 2. 1989, p. 8.

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

(25 February 1991)

1. A feasibility study on a European data bank on medicinal products was recently completed by the Institute for the Environment, which is located at the Joint Research Centre in Ispra. The study also involved creating a prototype database.

2. A number of Commission departments and the competent national authorities took part in the work. When the prototype was being developed, certain pharmaceutical firms also provided information on specific products.

3. The data bank will contain all the particulars which the Commission announced to Parliament, i.e. essentially the conditions of use and price.

4. During the pilot phase, the data bank will be accessible only to the Commission departments concerned and to Member States; it will subsequently be opened up for consultations by the general public.

5. The data bank will also reflect the same concerns as the Commission's recent proposals on the rational use of medicines.

It will include the following:

- (a) a summary of the product characteristics;
- (b) type of packaging;
- (c) ex-works and retail prices;
- (d) rate of reimbursement;
- (e) legal status;
- (f) specified daily dose;
- (g) daily cost of treatment.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2958/90**

**by Mr Menelaos Hadjigeorgiou (PPE)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(11 January 1991)

(91/C 259/17)

*Subject:* Pollution of large cities by vehicle exhaust fumes

Most of the air pollution in large cities in the Community is caused by vehicle exhaust fumes. In recent years this has

become a serious public health hazard in Greece, particularly in the two major cities of Athens and Thessaloniki.

Recently the Ministry for the Environment, in accordance with amended Council Directive 70/220/EEC <sup>(1)</sup>, introduced very stringent measures to combat the problem, such as new specifications for fuels, the use of activated charcoal filters known as 'small canisters' and the introduction of electrically-powered cars.

The Community however, has failed to take account of motorcycles in its endeavours to reduce air pollution and these now run the risk of being banned from city centres and at certain times of day, which would cause major problems to those who use them to travel to work.

1. What special measures will the Commission take and what technical assistance will it provide to support the Greek Ministry for the Environment in its endeavours?
2. Will it carry out a study to determine what amount of air pollution is caused by motorcycles and take appropriate measures to prevent air pollution?

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 76, 6. 4. 1970, p. 1.

**Answer given by Mr Ripa di Meana  
on behalf of the Commission  
(5 April 1991)**

1. The consolidated Directive is related only to passenger cars, and not to motor-cycles. Currently there are no specific regulations or standards concerning motor-cycle emissions in the Community.

The only constraints on exhaust emissions of motor-cycles at present are in the form of national legislation. Work is being carried out to produce a Directive concerning these emissions.

2. The Commission has made a study concerning future emissions from vehicles. Although this report is not completed, the first interim report (June 1990) entitled 'Study on the forecast of emissions from motor vehicles in the European Community' is available for reference purposes. The report is based on different future scenarios, which involves making certain assumptions and setting various parameters.

This report addresses itself to all vehicle types, including motor-cycles. All the data are separated between Member States and motor vehicle, and is of a preliminary nature, but can be seen to be indicative of certain trends.

The number of motor-cycles in Greece is increasing in a manner which is consistent with the 'first phase' of

motorization, that is when a state first starts to undergo motorization on a large scale. The motor vehicle market in general is expected to greatly expand in the future in Greece, and under these circumstances an overall decrease in emissions cannot be expected.

With respect to motor-cycles the emissions situation as a whole in Greece can be approximated to % 1985 figures for NO<sub>x</sub>, CO and VOC. The motor-cycle contribution to NO<sub>x</sub> emissions is negligible, and for CO may represent about 2% levels up to the year 2000, compared to around 100% for passenger cars. The motor-cycle VOC emissions are higher in relative terms, but may still be considered quite small.

The Commission realizes that these figures refer to the situation as a whole, and not to the specific situation in the centres of some Greek cities, particularly Athens. Work is being done at the moment, and it is hoped that this will help improve the situation in the future.

A Commission proposal concerning the regulation of air pollution from vehicles with two or three wheels is being prepared and will be submitted to the Council in the course of 1991.

The goal of this project is to set mandatory limits in a Directive concerning exhaust emissions from two and three wheeled vehicles.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2980/90**

**by Mr Arias Cañete (PPE)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(18 January 1991)*

(91/C 259/18)

*Subject:* Trade with Canada in fishery products

In the light of the Comext figures for imports of fishery products into the Community from non-member countries and for fishery products from Canada — in 1988, 84 809 000 kg to a value of 316 524 000 ECU — can the Commission say what fishery products are being imported into the Community from Canada, and in what quantities, and whether these imports are subject to customs duties lower than those normally applicable?

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

*(21 May 1991)*

As the answer to the question includes a considerable volume of statistical information, the Commission will send it directly to the Honourable Member and to the Secretariat General of the Parliament.

The eight digit figures in the listing refer to the Combined Nomenclature, version 1988 <sup>(1)</sup>.



Canadian exports to the Community will usually be subject to the normal duty rates. The only exception would be any Canadian products imported into the Community in the framework of the annual GATT and autonomous tariff quotas.

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No L 256, 7. 9. 1987.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 3002/90**

**by Mr Reimer Böge (PPE)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(18 January 1991)

(91/C 259/19)

*Subject:* Environmentally acceptable lubricating and hydraulic oils

Lubricating and hydraulic oils used today are predominantly petroleum-based. In 1989, lubricants production in the Federal Republic of Germany totalled some 1,2 million tonnes.

Can the Commission say what tonnage of lubricants was produced in the Community in 1989?

Environmentally acceptable, plant-based lubricants and hydraulic fluids have already been brought onto the market in some areas. Does the Commission agree that, wherever technically feasible, the use of environmentally acceptable greases and oils ought to be made mandatory?

Does the Commission agree that, in the medium term, about half of all lubricants could be based on renewable raw materials?

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

(12 April 1991)

On the basis of statistical information available, production of lubricants in oil refineries in 1989 amounted to a total of 6 892 000 tonnes, which was made up as follows:

	( <sup>1</sup> 000 tonnes)
Belgium	4
Denmark	—
Germany	1 458
Greece	164
Spain	361
France	1 825
Ireland	—
Italy	1 295
Luxembourg	1 295
Netherlands	608
Portugal	127
United Kingdom	1 050

It is the case that environmentally acceptable plant-based lubricants and hydraulic fluids have been brought on to the market. This is especially so for the types of equipment where a certain loss of lubricant can be expected when they come into contact with soil or surface waters. This could occur with agricultural machinery, forestry saws, outboard motors, fountain mechanisms, etc.

While the production of lubricants based on renewable raw materials is increasing, specialized literature suggests that it will be many years before it is feasible to produce the quantities needed to replace half of all lubricants. Increasing trend to use the environmentally acceptable, plant-based lubricants in those applications where loss of lubricant cannot be avoided, but does not see, at this time, the solution to make their use mandatory.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 3007/90**

**by Mr Concepció Ferrer (PPE)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(18 January 1991)

(91/C 259/20)

*Subject:* Protection and monitoring measures affecting the textile sector

We have received information that the Commission is to authorize the French Government, to subsidize the American-financed company Allied Signal (Morristown, New Jersey) with a view to the establishment of a factory for the production of industrial fibre in Longwy, Lorraine.

However, the Community rules on this subject, which originally entered into force in July 1977 and were extended for a further two-year period to 19 July 1991 (<sup>1</sup>) would seem to be clear. They stipulate that the Commission will continue to express an unfavourable *a priori* opinion with regard to aid by Member States where this would entail an increase in the production capacity of companies in the synthetic fibre sector, irrespective of the nature, type or purpose thereof.

Can the Commission say why it is authorizing this substantial amount of financial aid by the French Government in such a vulnerable sector as the textile industry and to an American-financed company?

Has the Commission studied the impact not only on production but also on the precarious employment situation of workers in this sector, given that in the medium term this development may result in 2 000 job losses (in particular of French and Spanish workers) as

against 260 new jobs to be created (figures supplied by CIRFS)?

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No C 173, 8. 7. 1989.

**Answer given by Sir Leon Brittan  
on behalf of the Commission**

(25 July 1991)

Longwy is situated in the European development pole area, for which the Commission, by decision of 5 November 1986, gave the go-ahead for investment aids with a maximum rate of 30% net grant equivalent. That decision was in response to the regional problems facing this cross-frontier area as a result of the crisis in the industries covered by the ECSC Treaty. At the time the French Government granted the aid in question, the industrial fibres that were to be produced by the recipient firm were not covered by any rules requiring notification to the Commission of the application of a scheme it had already approved.

For the rest, the fact that the recipient firm is financed by third-country capital is irrelevant when it comes to assessing the compatibility of the aid in the light of Article 92 of the EEC Treaty.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 3020/90  
by Mr Gerardo Fernandez-Albor (PPE)  
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(28 January 1991)

(91/C 259/21)

*Subject:* Relations between the European Community and the World Tourism Organization

As European Tourism Year comes to an end there is a need to consider what conclusions should be drawn from this event, which should serve as a basis for future courses of action in this fundamental area of the economy of a number of Community countries.

One of the aspects which should be seen as a key feature of European Tourism Year is the matter of relations between the European Community as such and tourist organizations and associations throughout the world as a means of exchanging experience and establishing professional contacts within this sector.

Prominent among such bodies is the World Tourism Organization, which has its headquarters in a Community country, Spain, and whose activity affects all the countries.

What relations does the Commission have with this organization? What is its position in relation to it and

what means would it prefer to use to ensure flexible cooperation with it?

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

(1 August 1991)

The Commission has had contacts and cooperation with the World Tourism Organization (WTO) for some time, by exchange of information and by having joint projects. Some areas of cooperation are well developed, while in other areas, exchange of ideas and joint interests have started quite recently.

In the area of tourism statistics, there has been cooperation for some years through Eurostat and regular consultations take place. In other areas, like research, environment, training, consumer protection, rural and cultural tourism, the Commission and the WTO seek to complement each other and exchange information.

In July 1990 a meeting between the Commission and the WTO took place in Madrid. Among the subjects discussed was the cooperation regarding the contributions to develop tourism in the Member States and in under-developed regions, something both institutions are involved in. On 3 October 1990, officials of the Commission and of the WTO met to discuss fields of cooperation and to present each other's action programmes and find new areas of cooperation and exchange.

In addition to regular meetings, the Commission and the WTO have attended each other's conferences and panel discussions, and both attend the steering committee meetings of the European Travel Commission. Cooperation between the Commission and the WTO also takes place through other international organizations as OECD and the United Nations.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 3032/90  
by Mr Ian White (S)  
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(28 January 1991)

(91/C 259/22)

*Subject:* School holidays

Has any consideration been given to standardizing dates of school holidays throughout the Community, and what is the Commission's view on this?

**Answer given by Mr Cardoso e Cunha  
on behalf of the Commission  
(2 July 1991)**

The problem of school holidays is primarily a matter for the Member States and indeed, in some cases, for the regional authorities. Moreover, in view of the impact of school holidays on the length of the tourist season, this problem should now be looked at from a wider angle, namely tourism in general and the staggering of holidays.

The question of a better seasonal and geographical distribution of tourism was tackled in a 1986 Council resolution in which Member States were invited to collaborate with one another so as to coordinate various efforts to achieve this objective.

The consequences of too many tourists being in the same place at certain times of the year are so serious that the Commission has agreed to re-open discussions with the various national and regional authorities involved and with the two sides of the tourist industry with a view to taking stock of the results already achieved and contemplating fresh initiatives.

In this connection, an analysis of the current situation is being carried out. Its findings will be translated into the various languages so as to ensure that they are more widely disseminated.

In implementation of the 1986 resolution, the Commission intends to conduct a survey in the Member States and, at the same time, to look more closely at the conclusions of a conference organized by the Dutch authorities for the autumn of 1991 on the seasonal and geographical distribution of tourism.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 152/91  
by Mr Mihail Papayannakis (GUE)  
to the Commission of the European Communities  
(20 February 1991)  
(91/C 259/23)**

*Subject:* Use of tear gas by the Greek police

During its attack upon school pupils demonstrating in the centre of Athens, the Greek police employed forcible measures including the use of US-manufactured 565 CS tear gas. This contains the CS substance scientifically known as 'ortho-chlorobenzylidenemalononitrile' which causes carcinogenesis in skin tissues and damage to the liver and kidneys and destroys lung tissue.

Does the Commission believe that the use of such substances by police in the Community Member States should be tolerated and, if not, what steps does it intend to take?

**Answer given by Mr Delors  
on behalf of the Commission  
(15 July 1991)**

The issue raised by the Honourable Member is a matter for the national police authorities, i.e. it falls within an area in which the Member State has exclusive competence.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 188/91  
by Mr Florus Wijsenbeek (LDR)  
to the Commission of the European Communities  
(20 February 1991)  
(91/C 259/24)**

*Subject:* Strategic importance of aviation

Has the Commission taken note of the statement by Captain Kok, commander of the Dutch naval units in the Persian Gulf, concerning the inadequacy of military air transport capacity for action outside the EC and the lack of possibilities for requisitioning civil aircraft?

Can the Commission say in this connection what are the implications of this situation for its proposals on the liberalization of Community aviation? Does it not think it should take into account the fact that provision must be made for the use of European airlines for military purposes?

**Answer given by Mr Van Miert  
on behalf of the Commission  
(3 May 1991)**

The Civil Aviation Planning Committee (CAPC) of NATO is the body responsible for the provision of the necessary air lift capacity in times of crisis. NATO Member States have accepted commitments towards NATO to provide the necessary equipment. All the relevant conditions are registered and monitored by the CAPC so that undue delay in the provision of aircraft capacity can be avoided.

The Commission is of the opinion that the liberalization of civil aviation in the Community does not affect the existing arrangements.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 275/91**  
**by Mrs Teresa Domingo Segarra (GUE)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
*(4 March 1991)*  
*(91/C 259/25)*

*Subject:* Use of banned hormones to fatten livestock in Catalonia

Studies by independent veterinary surgeons published in the press have revealed many cases of the use of banned hormones, such as clenbuterol and others, to fatten livestock in Catalonia, with no guarantee that the competent authorities are making adequate efforts to eradicate this practice.

What measures has the Commission taken to ensure that the health of consumers is not endangered by the failure to comply with veterinary regulations or the lack of effective controls by the competent authorities?

**Answer given by Mr Mac Sharry**  
**on behalf of the Commission**  
*(19 April 1991)*

In accordance with Article 5 of Council Directive 86/469/EEC <sup>(1)</sup>, the Commission is carrying out a series of visits in all Member States as part of a general comparative study on the degree of compliance with Community rules on the control of residues of illegal substances in meat in each Member State.

In connection with the study, in February and March the Commission is carrying out an investigation in Spain to check the extent to which illegal substances are used for fattening livestock and to observe the measures applied to prevent their use. The use of beta-agonists, in particular clenbuterol, is one of the priorities of the study.

When the enquiry is completed, the Commission, where appropriate, will take the measures it considers necessary in the light of the information obtained.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 275, 26. 9. 1986.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 277/91**  
**by Mr José Alvarez de Paz (S)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
*(4 March 1991)*  
*(91/C 259/26)*

*Subject:* Harmonization of vocational training in the building sector in the EEC

Recently the European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW or FETBB in French) expressed

the wish to draw up, in collaboration with the European employers and/or contractors in the sector, specific initiatives aimed at the gradual harmonization of vocational training. To this end, it called on the Commission to work on the comparative study (for the building sector) drawn up by Cedefop, i.e.,

1. harmonization and convergence of qualification requirements and wider recognition of training already in existence and developed by employers and workers,
2. the Commission should guarantee that representatives of European employers and workers are involved in permanent structures for dialogue on vocational training in the sector.

Could the Commission comment on these two requests and outline its position and possible measures to be taken in this area.

**Answer given by Miss Papandreou**  
**on behalf of the Commission**  
*(18 April 1991)*

The Commission welcomes the wish expressed by the European Federation of Building and Wood Workers (EFBWW) in collaboration with employers in the sector to produce a study on vocational training.

Under Council Decision 85/368/EEC <sup>(1)</sup>, the Commission has completed work on the comparability of vocational training qualifications for occupations at skilled worker level in this sector.

This work is useful from the point of view of information and does not imply harmonization or convergence of requirements as regards vocational training qualifications. However, it provides a practical basis for dialogue between labour and management on the qualifications they would consider necessary for occupations in the sector concerned and thus promotes agreement on the content of training.

This work does not imply the recognition of diplomas, certificates or other qualifications generally issued by the Member States certifying training appropriate for the exercise of the occupations in question. The recognition of diplomas is necessary only in the case of access to regulated occupations, in other words occupations or occupational activities which, according to legislation, regulations or administrative measures, are subject to the possession of a diploma or specific qualification with reference to the national training system. With respect to the recognition of such diplomas, a considerable body of Community law exists or is under discussion in the Council. The recognition of diplomas is unnecessary outside the regulated occupations.

Labour and management in the construction sector, the EFBWW and the International European Construction Federation recently decided to set up in the framework of the social dialogue a joint group of experts to formulate vocational training initiatives.

If labour and management so desire, the Commission is ready to participate fully in this initiative and give it its full support (as is the case in several other sectors).

The Commission recalls that it has established with the EFBWW and the International European Construction Federation a consultation process on legal instruments drawn up by the Commission in the context of the action programme to implement the Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights of Workers.

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No L 199, 31.7.1985.

#### WRITTEN QUESTION No 296/91

by Mrs Raymonde Dury (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 March 1991)

(91/C 259/27)

*Subject:* Car users' safety programme

According to the Belgian newspaper 'Le Soir' (16 January 1991), the Nissan car manufacturing company is participating in a programme concerned with the safety of car passengers 'carried out in collaboration with the EEC'. Can the Commission confirm this information? If so, which is the programme concerned, and how does it operate?

**Answer given by Mr Van Miert  
on behalf of the Commission**

(31 July 1991)

The Commission has no knowledge of the programme referred to in the Honourable Member's question.

The car manufacturing company concerned is not participating in any programme in the field referred to by the Honourable Member.

#### WRITTEN QUESTION No 322/91

by Mrs Ursula Schleicher (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 March 1991)

(91/C 259/28)

*Subject:* The profession of clinical chemist

The profession of clinical chemist has become established in Germany in recent years. The clinical chemist is a

senior figure in clinical chemistry laboratories. He undertakes many tasks in the fields of clinical diagnosis, resolution of pathochemical processes, promotion of methodical analysis, etc. This profession thus forms part of the wide spectrum of health care professions. Training as a clinical chemist is undertaken by qualified biochemists or chemists after completion of medical studies.

1. Does the profession of clinical chemist exist in this or similar form in other EC Member States? If so, in which?

2. Which EC Directive covers the mutual recognition of this profession:

— Directive 89/48/EEC (<sup>1</sup>) on the recognition of higher-education diplomas or

— the Directive on recognition of diplomas, certificates and other evidence of formal qualification in medicine, and the associated measures to facilitate the effective exercise of the right of establishment and freedom to provide services 75/362/EEC (<sup>2</sup>), 81/1057/EEC (<sup>3</sup>), modified by Directives 82/76/EEC (<sup>4</sup>) and 89/594/EEC (<sup>5</sup>)?

3. Does the Commission consider these existing EC Directives adequate, or would it under certain circumstances consider a Directive to coordinate legal and administrative provisions for the occupation of clinical chemist in the Community Member States?

4. What requirements as to the form and content of training as a clinical chemist would then have to be laid down in the various Member States?

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No L 19, 24. 1. 1989, p. 16.

(<sup>2</sup>) OJ No L 167, 30. 6. 1975, p. 1.

(<sup>3</sup>) OJ No L 385, 31. 12. 1981, p. 25.

(<sup>4</sup>) OJ No L 43, 15. 2. 1982, p. 21.

(<sup>5</sup>) OJ No L 341, 23. 11. 1989, p. 19.

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

(29 July 1991)

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

2. A distinction should be drawn according to whether the professional person concerned is a doctor or not. In the former case, the 'doctors' Directives (75/362/EEC and 75/363/EEC), as amended, apply. Biological chemistry is listed in those Directives as a medical speciality in Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Spain (Articles 6

and 7 of Directive 75/362/EEC, as amended, and Article 5 of Directive 75/363/EEC). Specific forms of training in this field may well be given in other Member States, but these concern skills, not specialities in the proper sense — the qualifications are not granted full recognition by Directive 75/362/EEC, Article 8 of which simply places an obligation on Member States to take them into account.

Where the activity is carried out by non-doctors (for instance, biologists), the 'general system' Directive (89/48/EEC), to which the Honourable Member refers and which came into force on 4 January 1991, is likely to apply.

3 and 4. Directive 89/48/EEC establishes a new Community approach to the recognition of diplomas. The Commission is not planning to put forward specific proposals on the recognition of the activity of clinical chemist.

2. A total of ECU 6 million has been paid by the Community as funding for scientific and technical fishery research support programmes.

Payments made to date in respect of study and training grants amount to approximately ECU 2 600 000 (out of a total disbursement of ECU 3,5 million).

3. The survey of cephalopods (carried out in October 1990) is part of a programme of several scientific surveys organized by Morocco. The findings do not provide a comprehensive picture of the stock situation; they need to be examined in a more general context, with account taken of other factors, in particular conditions, fishing effort and catches.

4. The study centres for grant-holders, financed under the agreement, are located mainly in France, Spain and the United Kingdom, depending on the type of research concerned.

The breakdown by country is as follows:

	No. of grant-holders	Cost (ECU)
Morocco	25	101 796,65
France	33	893 795,05
Spain	125	942 080,01
United Kingdom	6	351 894,78
Belgium	14	413 985,73
Travel in connection with training and study courses under way		17 163,67
<b>Total</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>2 720 715,89</b>

*N.B.:* The return travel costs from Morocco are included in the figures for France and Belgium. For Spain and the United Kingdom, travel costs are separate.

#### WRITTEN QUESTION No 329/91

by Mr Miguel Arias Cañete (PPE)  
to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 March 1991)

(91/C 259/29)

*Subject:* EEC—Morocco Fisheries Agreement

In connection with the Commission's reply to my Written Question No 2470/90<sup>(1)</sup> on the implementation of the EEC—Morocco Fisheries Agreement, can the Commission give further details of:

1. the number of fishing licences issued by each Member State;
2. the payments made to date under the heading of scientific and technical programmes and study grants;
3. the findings of the survey of cephalopods;
4. the relation between the study grants paid and the centres in which the study has taken place?

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 130, 21. 5. 1991, p. 20.

Answer given by Mr Marín  
on behalf of the Commission

(27 May 1991)

1. The number of licences granted to the Member States under the EEC—Morocco Fisheries Agreement varies according to the applications made for each quarter. However, on the basis of an annual overall estimate, the total number of licences issued amounts to 700, of which approximately 650 are granted to the Spanish fleet and the remainder to Portugal (approximately 45) and France.

#### WRITTEN QUESTION No 362/91

by Mr Diego de los Santos López (ARC)  
to the Commission of the European Communities

(7 March 1991)

(91/C 259/30)

*Subject:* Damage to the environment

A Spanish naval training camp and firing range using live rounds in the Sierra del Retin near Barbate (Cadiz), used periodically by the Spanish armed forces and the armed forces of other countries, is partly situated on communal land ('Hazas de la suerte'), originally belonging to the inhabitants of Barbate and compulsorily purchased in July 1981 by the Ministry of Defence. Sierra del Retin, which forms a natural landscape of great environmental

importance, is now being seriously damaged by military manoeuvres involving the firing of live rounds of ammunition. The training camp also disrupts everyday life in nearby towns, constituting a safety risk and sometimes preventing communications between them when it is in use.

Is the Commission aware of the nuisance being caused by this firing range?

Is the siting of this firing range in compliance with Community legislation?

Does the Commission consider firing ranges are to be included in Article 1(4) of Council Directive 85/337/EEC (1)?

Does the Commission consider that firing ranges constitute an exception to the environmental protection objectives embodied in Community legislation and included in the EEC Fourth Environmental Action Programme (1987—1992)?

(1) OJ No L 175, 5. 7. 1985, p. 40.

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

(25 April 1991)

The Commission was not previously aware of the facts referred to by the Honourable Member.

The Commission cannot comment on the matter for lack of detail, particularly regarding the supposed damage to the local environment caused by the military activity. Besides, the Community's environment legislation does not deal with this type of installation.

Article 1(4) of Directive 85/337/EEC stipulates that it does not cover projects serving national defence purposes. Accordingly, if the construction of a firing range serves national defence purposes, the Directive does not apply.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 368/91**

**by Mr Günter Lüttge (S)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(7 March 1991)

(91/C 259/31)

*Subject:* Development of regional airports in the five new German Länder

The problem of congestion afflicting the main central airports indicates a need to develop regional airports in

the five new German Länder. Moreover, investment for this purpose would considerably stimulate the economies of the areas concerned. Talks for this purpose are to be held shortly between the Federal and 'Land' authorities.

Would the Commission be prepared to support the development of regional airports, in Rostock for example?

Would the Commission envisage having preliminary surveys carried out with a view to making the necessary investment decisions?

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

(19 June 1991)

The Commission is aware of the economic and social importance of regional airports.

However, the Regulation adopted by the Council last November allowing for Community financial intervention in support of transport infrastructure projects (Council Regulation (EEC) No 3359/90) (1) is limited to a number of rail and road priorities.

The Commission has not yet been successful in convincing the Council to adopt its proposal allowing the Community to play a more active role in the area of airport infrastructure (2).

In the framework of structural policy the Community's Structural Funds will provide 3 billion Ecus towards the restructuring process in the five new Länder and East Berlin during 1991—1993. In the German plan for structural operations and the Community Support Framework, which was approved on the 13th of March 1991, no special support for investments in regional airports is envisaged.

(1) OJ No L 326, 24. 11. 1990.

(2) OJ No C 34, 10. 2. 1989.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 411/91**

**by Mr John Iversen (GUE)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(11 March 1991)

(91/C 259/32)

*Subject:* Trade in tropical wood

Under agreements concluded within the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), member countries are entitled to levy a tax on, and ban the export of, unprocessed wood. Issue No 349 of 'Europe Environment' states that the European Community and

Japan have, during the GATT negotiations, taken the initiative in requiring Indonesia to lift its ban on the export of unprocessed tropical wood.

Can the Commission state in this connection why the Community is in this way undermining the efforts of individual ITTO member countries to ban exports of tropical wood and can it state what firms in Indonesia it is thereby seeking to help export tropical wood? Lastly, how do the initiatives in this area during the GATT talks relate to the rest of Community policy towards rain forest conservation?

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

*(5 July 1991)*

The Community appreciates the efforts made by all developing countries to promote the sustainable exploitation of natural resources. Its environment policy supports any action or initiative aimed at ensuring greater protection for, and the saving and rational management of, as much tropical forest as possible.

The International Tropical Timber Agreement was negotiated in this spirit. It should be emphasized that the main aims of the Agreement are to provide an effective international forum for cooperation and consultation (ITTO), promote expansion and diversification of the international trade in tropical woods and improve the marketing and distribution of exported woods in such a way as to conserve forest resources. The Commission has already contributed considerably to these aims by getting ITTO to adopt resolutions aimed at putting in place a sustainable form of forest management by the year 2000. Also, Article 30 of the Agreement provides that members must take whatever steps are necessary to achieve these aims.

In view of these provisions, the Commission does not agree with an approach whose aims are to link the objectives of the Tropical Timber Agreement to individual marketing initiatives by member countries.

What is more, it should be noted that, being a strictly national initiative, the measures introduced by Indonesia do not fall within the area over which ITTO has decision-making powers.

The Community's intention was to air its concern in GATT as the restrictive measures in question seem to be entirely commercial and can only be intended to give preferential treatment to national processing enterprises and disadvantage any other potential buyers of the raw material.

Moreover, this policy, combined with the maintaining of tariff barriers that are high in relation to the amount of processing done, could cause reactions that might undermine GATT-inspired trading practices.

The Community considers that any policy relating to trade and the environment should be pursued jointly to ensure a balance between saving the forests and using the wood. It should also be stressed that, in the Uruguay Round consultations, the Community did all it could to ensure that environmental considerations were taken into account in several specific sectors, for instance in the renegotiation of the agreement on technical barriers to trade. The answer to Written Question No 259/91 by Mrs Ernst de La Graete would provide more information in the specifically GATT context <sup>(1)</sup>.

On a more general level, the Commission is having studies undertaken on the legal, technical and economic aspects of the arrangements covering imports of tropical woods.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 199, 29. 7. 1991, p. 15.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 481/91**

**by Mr Karl von Wogau (PPE)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(19 March 1991)*

*(91/C 259/33)*

*Subject:* Aids for maize in connection with cross-border producer associations

Does the Commission realize that members of cross-border producer associations are treated differently, depending on nationality?

The German members of a cross-border maize producer association in Reichstatt in France do not receive the aid in question. The same would appear to apply in the case of French members of German producer associations.

Does the Commission regard this as compatible with the principles behind the common agricultural policy?

**Answer given by Mr Mac Sharry  
on behalf of the Commission**

*(31 May 1991)*

It follows from the very nature of a national aid that it is only applicable to beneficiaries who carry out their economic activities on the territory of the Member State granting the aid. Therefore, if in the case of a producer association straddling a frontier, a Member State grants an aid only to those members of the association which are



active on its territory, this would not in itself, in the view of the Commission, be incompatible with the provisions of the Treaty relating to national aids (Articles 92 to 94), nor with any other provision of Community legislation relating to common agricultural policy.

The situation would be different, however, if operators in a country where a national aid is granted were to be excluded from the benefits of the aid on grounds of, for example, nationality. In this case, while the aid might still be compatible with the competition rules of the Treaty, it would most probably constitute an infringement of other Community legislation, and in particular the legislation relating to non-discrimination within the Community.

However, the Commission is not presently aware of any such discriminatory treatment but is contacting the French and German authorities to establish the facts relating to the situation outlined by the Honourable Member.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 513/91**

**by Mrs Ursula Schleicher and Mr Siegbert Alber (PPE)  
to the Commission of the European Communities**

*26 March 1991)*

*(91/C 259/34)*

*Subject: Trade in human organs*

1. What information does the Commission have on trade in organs in the European Community?
2. Is the trade in organs governed by law in all Member States of the Community? Do the relevant laws differ widely from country to country?
3. Which countries have adopted the approach of registered donors and which a system of 'opting out'?
4. What information does the Commission have regarding the frequent press reports of atrocities in connection with the trade in organs in certain Member States, particularly Italy, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands?

(See, for example, the following reports:

- Süddeutsche Zeitung, 4. 9. 1990: 'Booming trade in parts of the human body in Nigeria'
- Frankfurter Rundschau, 14. 8. 1990: 'Kidneys direct from the hangman'
- Sonntag Aktuell, 10. 12. 1989: 'Stolen kidney?'
- Neue Züricher Zeitung, 19. 10. 1989: 'Trade in children as organ donors'
- Die Welt, 14. 9. 1989: 'Macabre discovery on the Dutch border, investigation into trade in human tissue'.

5. What does the Commission see as the options for establishing an acceptable legal arrangement regulating trade in human organs in the European Community?

**Answer given by Mrs Papandreou  
on behalf of the Commission**

*(6 June 1991)*

In its answers to Written Questions <sup>(1)</sup> as well as Oral Questions <sup>(2)</sup> on the subject, the Commission indicated that it was aware of the current concern and press reports concerning international organ trafficking, but did not possess sufficient corroborative evidence to assess the extent of such practices. The Commission regrets that it has no further information available in relation to these allegations.

With regard to the questions concerning legislation on trade in human organs and on donor consent, the Honourable Members are asked to refer to the answer given by the Commission to Written Question No 2090 by Mr Di Rupo <sup>(3)</sup>. The Commission has no detailed overview available on legislation in Member States.

The Commission maintains close contact with the Council of Europe, which has been dealing extensively with the ethical issues involved in organ transplantations.

<sup>(1)</sup> Nos 622/89 and 12/90 — OJ No C 303, 3. 12. 1990; No 819/89 — OJ No C 125, 21. 5. 1990.

<sup>(2)</sup> Nos H303/89 and H9/90 — debates of the European Parliament Nos 3-381 and 3-385.

<sup>(3)</sup> OJ No C 35, 11. 2. 1991.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 541/91**

**by Mr Helwin Peter (S)  
to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(26 March 1991)*

*(91/C 259/35)*

*Subject: Steel imports from certain third countries in 1991*

Is the Commission prepared to follow the recommendation of the ECSC Consultative Committee of 8 February 1991 and retain unchanged all the elements of the external economic measures adopted for 1990 for the purpose of negotiating agreements on steel imports from certain third countries for 1991 and, in respect of quantities, adhere to the established rule concerning visible consumption trends and classification by product?

If not, in what respect does the Commission intend to deviate from the recommendation of the Consultative Committee and with what justification?

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

(9 July 1991)

Following a proposal by the Commission <sup>(1)</sup>, the Member States gave the latter a mandate to negotiate import arrangements for steel for 1991. Negotiations were begun with a view to defining the arrangements that were to apply to five countries of Central and Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungaria, Poland and Romania) and establishing the consultation procedures to be used in the case of Brazil and South Korea.

The Commission studied with care the recommendations the Consultative Committee issued on 8 February 1991. In practice most of the points of the 1990 arrangements have been retained for 1991, i.e. those on quantity (status quo plus additional tonnage to allow for traditional trade flows between the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former GDR), allocation per Member State, product sub-quotas (slight flexibility on this point) and geographical scope (substituting for the arrangement with Brazil an exchange of practically identical letters).

Whilst it is true that in the past there was a link between the tonnages stipulated in the arrangements and internal consumption, it was decided that in 1991 account should be taken of the gradual liberalization of foreign trade in steel since, in the last three years, the industry has no longer been in crisis and other importers, including the United States, were also going to eliminate the VRAs in March 1992. What is more, the Community has undertaken to help the Central and Eastern European countries make the transition to a market economy.

As the Commission wishes to point out, it is now clear that some of the forecasts made in the Consultative Committee resolution were rather pessimistic. For instance, the downturn in internal consumption in the first quarter of 1991 will be considerably less than 10% and the low dollar rate expected at the time is not materializing. Finally, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe used only 75% of the tonnage set aside for them in the arrangements and their economic situation is such that they will probably be unable to do better this year.

The Commission therefore considers that it has put forward a proposal for steel import arrangements for 1991 that is well in line with external policy and does not prejudice the Community's interests.

<sup>(1)</sup> SEC(90) 2258.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 542/91**

**by Mr John McCartin (PPE)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(26 March 1991)

(91/C 259/36)

*Subject:* Overproduction in the dairy sector

Will the Commission provide information on the amount of milk produced over and above the quota set for each Member State and say whether all Member States are complying with Community regulations and imposing the superlevy on any overproduction?

Can the Commission state which Member States are carrying out this practice of not imposing the superlevy and state how much this is costing the Community budget?

**Answer given by Mr Mac Sharry  
on behalf of the Commission**

(2 July 1991)

The information can be found in the Commission's Annual Report on the Agricultural Situation in the Community <sup>(1)</sup>. With the exception of Italy, all the Member States concerned have collected, at least in part, the levy on quantities exceeding the overall guaranteed quantity. The amount of uncollected levy in Italy amounts to ECU 124 million.

As part of the EAGGF Guarantee Section clearance of accounts, the Commission checks whether Member States have duly fulfilled their obligations and makes the necessary financial corrections for deliveries of milk on which the levy has not been paid.

<sup>(1)</sup> Table 4.20.6.2. on p. T/288 of the 1990 Report.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 547/91**

**by Mr Didier Anger (V)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(26 March 1991)

(91/C 259/37)

*Subject:* Environmental impact of the Structural Funds

The Commission's answer to Written Question No 1962/90 <sup>(1)</sup> states that representatives of national environment authorities may sit on monitoring committees.

How many monitoring committees include environmental experts, and which are these committees?

Can the Commission indicate whether there have been any cases in which funding for a project or programme has been suspended or withdrawn on environmental grounds on the advice of a monitoring committee?

The above answer further states that monitoring committees are able to assess whether major projects comply with Community legislation. Does the Commission accept that even small-scale projects can be environmentally damaging — for example certain aquaculture units — and how are these projects monitored?

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No C 70, 18. 3. 1991, p. 27.

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

(2 July 1991)

The Commission does not currently have any statistics showing the number of Monitoring Committees on which environmental experts sit since, under the rules, their presence is a matter for the national and regional authorities concerned.

Failure to respect Community legislation on environmental matters with regard to projects forming part of programmes has in several cases led to the suspension of Community aid. Examples include the Prodac programme in Portugal and aquaculture projects in the gulf of Amvrakikos under a Greek IMP.

The Commission agrees that certain aquaculture units may affect the quality of the environment.

This applies mainly to open intensive rearing units operating at high density and providing regular and substantial food supplies to the stock.

Commission finance for such projects is monitored carefully through the structural Funds and the financial instruments concerned with the development of aquaculture in the Community. In accordance with the national rules in force, an impact study taking account of the sensitivity of the environment to the type of unit contemplated is carried out for each investment project.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 548/91**

by Mr Mihail Papayannakis (GUE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(26 March 1991)

(91/C 259/38)

*Subject:* Structural Funds and the environment

In its answer to Written Question No 2013/90 (<sup>1</sup>) the Commission states that technical aid may be provided to assist Member States in implementing Community

environmental legislation.

Can the Commission give specific examples of such aid being provided?

Does the Commission intend to provide fresh incentives for Member States to take advantage of this opportunity?

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No C 70, 18. 3. 1991, p. 27.

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

(3 July 1991)

Technical assistance on environmental matters so far provided by the Commission to the Member States in the context of reform of the structural Funds has consisted of horizontal studies on problems relating to environmental protection and regional development, preparatory analyses and environmental impact studies relating to measures for which Community part-financing has been requested and training and publicity measures. For example, studies have been carried out on how to define combined measures for the protection of the environment and economic development in the less-favoured areas of the Community and on the use of waste composting in Mediterranean areas.

One of the measures eligible in the more specific context of the Envireg Community initiative (ECU 500 million for the period 1990—1993) concerns the development of know-how and vocational training relating to measures to clean up pollution in the coastal areas of regions eligible under Objective 1 (plus Objectives 2 and 5(b) in the case of Mediterranean coastal areas) and the management of industrial waste for Objective 1 regions.

The Envireg initiative contains special provision for launching service centres to assist local authorities in selecting and installing plant and equipment, and for the establishment of bodies linking regional authorities to achieve better maintenance of plant and improve environmental management, especially of water resources. The Commission has also set up a network of independent experts from whom those responsible for operational programmes and those in charge of carrying out projects can obtain technical advice prior to the financing of certain investments. The Commission expects this network to contribute to technological improvements and the better organization of maintenance, mainly by encouraging exchanges of experience.

The Guide, which lists all measures likely to be eligible for finance for technical assistance under the reform, constitutes a reminder for the Member States of the assistance on environmental matters available to them. It is up to the authorities responsible for the environment to define their needs for technical assistance and submit them to the Commission.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 563/91****by Mr Ben Visser (S)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(26 March 1991)**(91/C 259/39)*

*Subject:* Failure to comply with regulations on driving and rest periods in the road haulage sector

The Groningen district court has been conducting an experiment on compliance with the law on driving periods in which individual firms are approached in an effort to reduce the number of cases in which driving and rest periods are exceeded. The judicial authorities pay particular attention to firms where a large number of infringements are established. The results of the experiment are encouraging — the number of infringements revealed by spot checks on firms has fallen sharply. In particular, it has emerged that many infringements are caused by very tight scheduling by firms. Action by the judicial authorities has led to more careful planning and has brought economic benefits. The number of accidents and the damage sustained by the firms concerned has also fallen significantly.

The experiment in Groningen has since been repeated in Friesland and Drenthe and district courts in the rest of the Netherlands are expressing a good deal of interest, according to a report in the 'Nieuwsblad Transport' of 7 February 1991.

1. Is the Commission aware of the results of the experiment in Groningen and, if so, can it comment on them?
2. In view of the outcome of the Groningen experiment, does the Commission see any possibility of improving compliance with regulations on driving and rest periods in the Community as a whole?

**Answer given by Mr Van Miert  
on behalf of the Commission**

*(2 July 1991)*

The Commission notes with interest the encouraging initiatives of the Dutch authorities to ensure compliance with Community social legislation in the road transport sector and the commendable results being achieved.

As to the possibilities of extending a similar system throughout the Community, the Honourable Member's attention is drawn to the provisions of Council Directive No 88/599/EEC<sup>(1)</sup> of 23 November 1988, which lays down both qualitative and quantitative checking criteria, and aims at standard checking procedures. Given the diversity of the current organization of the control authorities and legal systems in the Member States, it would be difficult to envisage a standardization of existing practices, but a strict application of the

abovementioned Council Directive should obtain similar successful results.

The problem of driving time and rest periods in road transport — and in particular the checking procedures — is now under discussion in the Joint Committee for Road Transport. They will be informed on the initiatives taken by the Dutch authorities in this field.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 325, 29. 11. 1988.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 610/91****by Mr José Valverde López (PPE)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(15 April 1991)**(91/C 259/40)*

*Subject:* National plan of Community interest concerning the province of Almería (Spain)

With regard to the national plan of Community interest concerning the province of Almería (Spain) referred to in the press and by the regional authorities several times in recent years, can the Commission state what stage has been reached and what the scope, real content, approval date, funding and completion date of this plan are?

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

*(6 June 1991)*

The National Programme of Community Interest (NPCI) for Almería-Levante was submitted by the Spanish authorities in December 1988 and approved by the Commission Decision of 26 October 1989.

The programme will be implemented over four year (1989—1992) and involves investment totalling ECU 384,8 million, of which the ERDF will contribute ECU 180,5 million. The investment is divided into regional and multi-regional (national government investment) sections.

When the Monitoring Committee for the Programme held its second meeting on 11 April 1991 it found that technical problems had caused some delay in the progress of the works. It is nevertheless hoped that the whole programme will be implemented by the date planned.

The Commission is also sending direct to the Honourable Member and to the Secretariat of Parliament a copy of the press release published at the time and a list of the break-down of investment (in pesetas).

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 612/91**

by Mr José Valverde López (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(15 April 1991)

(91/C 259/41)

*Subject:* Information campaign regarding use of permanent paper

A quarter of the books kept in Europe's major libraries are reported to be threatened with self-destruction owing to the quality of the paper used. Most books published in Europe are not printed on permanent paper but on acid paper, unbeknown to the vast majority of consumers, a situation which could be construed as a massive fraud and an abuse of consumers' trust. Does the Commission intend to tackle the need to inform consumers and demand that permanent paper be properly labelled as such?

**Answer given by Mr Van Miert  
on behalf of the Commission**

(14 May 1991)

Research and standardization work is being carried out in various quarters but it is not yet technically feasible to envisage a quality standard for permanent paper.

However, it should be noted that this product is of concern to professionals (publishers, printers) and that the long-term conservation of books is of concern to libraries and other cultural bodies.

If a quality standard does prove feasible, the Commission might examine the possibility of suitable labelling.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 618/91**

by Mr Madron Seligman (ED)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(15 April 1991)

(91/C 259/42)

*Subject:* Introduction of fibre optic networks in the Community

Will the Commission list the Member States which have already put in hand the installation of a fibre optic network for telecommunications?

Will the Commission list for each Member State the number of subscribers served by each national fibre optic network?

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

(13 June 1991)

All Member States have a rapidly growing optical fibre network (mainly trunk and inter-office links). The European share of the fibre world market is 32% (42% USA, 19% Japan/Asia) (Source: KMI and Information Gatekeepers Studies).

The penetration of fibre in the Subscriber Loop (which is the expected mass market) is still limited (see attached table).

The number of subscribers using the Optical Fibre network cannot be quantified. In principle the trunk and inter-office network is shared by the totality of the population in each country.

In the case of subscribers being serviced in the Subscriber Loop, the attached table indicates the current status.

**Fibre in the Subscriber Loop**

Country	Provider	Type	Services	Technology	Number of customers	Start of operation
United Kingdom	BT	FTTK FTTH	POTS/TV	PON	130	1990
Spain	Telefonica	FTTK	POTS	double star (AT & T)	120	1991
		FTTH FTTK	POTS	optical bus (Raynet)	100	1991
France	France Telecom	FTTH	TV	star, analogue	30 000	1985
Germany	DBP TELEKOM	FTTK	POTS/TV	optical bus (Raynet)	400	1990
The Netherlands	Dutch PTT	FTTH	POTS/TV	PON	200	1991

Source: Commission data/RACE, 1990.

Acronyms:

FTTH: Fibre-to-the-Home.

FTTK: Fibre-to-the-Kerb.

POTS: Plain Old Telefon Services.

PON: Passive Optical Network.

BT: British Telecom.

DBP: Deutsche Bundespost.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 627/91**  
**by Mr François-Xavier de Donnea (LDR)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
 (16 April 1991)  
 (91/C 259/43)

*Subject:* Status of officials and other servants of the European Communities

Under Article 21 of the Belgian law of 28 December 1990 on tax and non-tax proposals ('Moniteur Belge' of 29 December 1990), the spouses of officials or other servants of the European Communities are considered, for tax purposes, as living alone.

1. Does the Commission consider that this provision is in accordance with the relevant Community law and, if not, what measures does it intend to take?
2. Was the Commission consulted by the Belgian Government on this matter?

**Answer given by Mr Cardoso e Cunha**  
**on behalf of the Commission**  
 (10 June 1991)

After initial study of the Belgian law of 28 December 1990 concerning *inter alia* married person's tax relief, the Commission has already informed the Belgian Government that it considers that the law in question, on which the Commission was not consulted prior to adoption, appears to be incompatible with the second paragraph of Article 13 of the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the European Communities. The law might therefore constitute an infringement of Community law.

The Commission has asked the Belgian Government for its comments. In the light of these, it will take whatever steps it considers appropriate.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 639/91**  
**by Mr Reimer Böge (PPE)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
 (16 April 1991)  
 (91/C 259/44)

*Subject:* Fisheries policy

Is the Commission in a position to confirm that distance from the market can entail substantial competitive disadvantages for suppliers of fisheries products?

Does the Commission consider that suppliers disadvantaged in this way should receive aid?

**Answer given by Mr Marín**  
**on behalf of the Commission**  
 (8 May 1991)

Long distances from the main consumer markets can entail certain disadvantages for suppliers of fishery products with regard to transport costs.

However, the fall in the relative cost of transport and better returns on fishery products are tending to reduce these disadvantages.

This problem has been taken into account in the price policy under the market organization for fishery products. The regionalized withdrawal prices ensure that producers at great distances from the Community's main centres of consumption have access to the markets under satisfactory conditions.

Furthermore, under its structural policy for the fisheries sector, the Commission, in cooperation with the Member States, is attempting to correct the imbalances which can affect the sector in certain regions due, amongst other things, to their remoteness.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 640/91**  
**by Mr Reimer Böge (PPE)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
 (16 April 1991)  
 (91/C 259/45)

*Subject:* Fisheries policy

Vessels over 20 years old are excluded from aid given by the EC for the modernization of existing fishing vessels and the construction of new ones.

The average age of Baltic sea fishing vessels is 25 years, but they have been constantly modernized and overhauled.

Does the Commission not agree that EC legislation should take into account this aspect, i.e. whether a fishing vessel has been constantly modernized and refitted, and that a new age limit should be set for vessels that have in effect been completely overhauled?

**Answer given by Mr Marín**  
**on behalf of the Commission**  
 (31 May 1991)

Community aid for the modernization of fishing vessels under Council Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86<sup>(1)</sup> is not granted for vessels older than 25 years. The reason is that in general the cost of modernizing fishing vessels in order

to improve their competitiveness and economic viability in relation to new vessels increases with the age of the vessel.

The above Regulation also states that the Member State shall ensure that the cost of modernizing a fishing vessel does not exceed 50% of the value of a new vessel of the same type.

The Commission is accordingly of the opinion that the age of a fishing vessel should not be redefined as a result of the carrying out of modernization works.

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No L 376, 31. 12. 1986.

#### WRITTEN QUESTION No 642/91

by Mr Reimer Böge (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(16 April 1991)

(91/C 259/46)

*Subject:* Fisheries policy

Can the Commission provide comparable data regarding the social insurance conditions of fishermen in the various EC countries, taking into account *inter alia* public aid given to this sector?

Answer given by Miss Papandreou  
on behalf of the Commission

(6 June 1991)

The Commission has comparative data on the general social security schemes in the Member States. These schemes may also cover workers in the fisheries sector. The Commission is not in a position to say which countries have special schemes for fishermen and in which countries they are covered by the general schemes.

Financial data are available for all the social security schemes, including information about State contributions to the financing of social security expenditure in each Member State. However, these data cannot be used to identify public aid for social security schemes for fishermen, if such special schemes exist.

#### WRITTEN QUESTION No 650/91

by Mr Virginio Bettini (V)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(16 April 1991)

(91/C 259/47)

*Subject:* Rise in the temperature of the Po (Italy)

1. Is the Commission aware that research carried out by the Enea (National Authority for Alternative Energy)

between 1986 and 1991 and presented to the Lombardy Region in Milan on 4 March 1991 estimated the increase in the temperature of the water of the Po at 1 °C, an increase caused by the plants installed along the Po for the production of electricity?

2. Is the Commission also aware that the Porto Tolle power station on the Po delta has been discharging water at temperatures of 20-25 °C above the recipient of the river at a rate of 80 m<sup>3</sup>/sec. since 1980, without prior authorization or assessment of the environmental impact?

3. Does the Commission not consider this to be an infringement of Community legislation?

4. What is the Commission's view of the proposal for the further extension of the multi-fuel power station in Sermide, irrespective of the preliminary environmental impact assessment?

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

(7 June 1991)

The effect of thermal discharges on the temperature of receiving waters is covered by Annex I of Council Directive 78/659/EEC (<sup>1</sup>) on the quality of fresh waters needing protection or improvement in order to support fish life. However, the river Po has not been designated as such a water under Article 4 of that Directive.

The Commission is currently working on a proposal for a Directive on ecological water quality, which is intended to cover such cases in the future.

Concerning point 4, as no indications are given as to the calorific power of the Sermide plant, it is not clear whether this project should be submitted to an environmental impact study or not.

Therefore, the Commission would be grateful to the Honourable Member if he could provide more precise details on this question.

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No L 222, 14. 8. 1978.

#### WRITTEN QUESTION No 693/91

by Ms Christine Oddy (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(19 April 1991)

(91/C 259/48)

*Subject:* Cat Island, Bahamas

What aid has the European Community given to Cat Island, Bahamas? What form does that aid take and on what projects has the aid been used?

Has the United States Government raised any objections, either directly or indirectly on such aid being granted to this island?

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

(24 May 1991)

Under the Lomé III National Indicative Programme for the Bahamas, the Commission has funded a ECU 2 million rural energy project on Cat Island. Funding took the form of a special loan (ECU 1 million) and a grant (ECU 1,5 million). The project, now nearing completion, was approved in January 1988 and is co-financed with the Government of the Bahamas/Bahamas Electricity Corporation, who have provided an additional ECU 1,25 million. It comprises the installation and equipping of a power station and the construction of transmission and distribution lines. The EDF funds were used for the purchase of materials and erection of power lines, the civil and building works for the power station and the installation of generating sets and switch-gear.

The Commission is unaware of any objections raised by the United States Government to aid for a project on Cat Island.

Development Fund (55%), ECU 1 728 million from the European Social Fund (26%) and ECU 1 277 million from the EAGGF-Guidance Section (19%).

Since existing structural activities in agriculture will absorb the bulk of the above Community resources (ongoing horizontal measures, IMP commitments and other programmes which have already been adopted) no resources will be left to finance important new activities provided for in the Regional Development Plans, such as measures to protect the environment, to repair damage and for forestry stock breeding, etc.

For instance the Community is contributing only ECU 86 million towards the regional enterprise programme in the Regional Development Plan for Western Greece which will cost a total of ECU 143,1 million and Community funding for sub-programme I concerning agricultural sector measures accounts for a mere ECU 5,5 million out of a total of ECU 11,1 million for a five-year period, which is insufficient for any agricultural development of the region.

Will the Commission say what new measures it intends to take to achieve the original objective of an integrated development of the agricultural regions of Greece, a country where agriculture is particularly in need of support given that it suffers from low productivity and competitiveness and severe structural shortcomings?

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 740/91**

**by Mr Filippos Pierros (PPE)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(23 April 1991)

(91/C 259/49)

*Subject:* Funding of the Greek agricultural sector within the framework of the Regional Development Plans

As part of the reform of the Community's Structural Funds it is planned to double the Funds' resources between 1987 and 1993. However, the EAGGF, Guidance Section funds set aside for structural measures in respect of Greek agriculture have been set at a low level despite the fact that this is a very important sector for the Greek economy, accounting for 27,2% of the workforce.

It therefore seems that the target of doubling EAGGF funds has not been attained and the Greek agricultural sector will lack the resources it needs to undertake structural developments in the five-year period from 1989 to 1993.

Total Community funding under the Community Support Framework for Greece amounts ECU 6 667 million i.e. ECU 3 662 million from the European Regional

**Answer given by Mr Mac Sharry  
on behalf of the Commission**

(13 June 1991)

As part of the reform of the structural Funds, the Council decided that the commitment appropriations for the structural Funds (ERDF, ESF, EAGGF Guidance Section) should double in real terms by 1993. This across-the-board doubling of structural Fund appropriations never implied that each Fund would see a doubling of its particular appropriation.

The global amounts for the three Funds were determined in the course of the partnership negotiations and reflect the priorities established by the Greek Government. The EAGGF Guidance Section's contribution of 19,1% of total Community assistance under the Community Support Framework for Greece is the highest of all the Objective 1 regions.

The Commission would inform the Honourable Member that, while significant amounts are being allocated to ongoing measures, the new Operational Programmes in Greece are receiving quite substantial amounts from the EAGGF. A total of ECU 247 million is allocated for the Agricultural Structures OP (ECU 129,4 million), the



regional MOPs (ECU 67,6 million) and the Apricot and Phylloxera OPs (ECU 50 million).

The amounts allocated by way of the regional MOPs to each of the regions, including Western Greece, which the Honourable Member cites as an example, seem quite small when compared to the needs and they are accordingly required to meet the most important priorities. Nevertheless, the EAGGF contribution by way of other programmes should not be underestimated. For example, the Western Greece-Peloponnese IMP includes ECU 86,6 million from the EAGGF and ECU 38,8 million from budget heading 551 for agricultural measures and rural development.

It should also be noted that the general development measures listed in the various priority headings of the Greek CSF and funded by the ERDF in particular benefit the whole population of the Greek regions, including rural and agricultural areas and, as a result, contribute directly to the economic and social development of the rural world.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 745/91**

**by Mr Maxime Verhagen (PPE)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(23 April 1991)*

*(91/C 259/50)*

*Subject:* Extension of ERDF programmes after 1991

1. Does the Commission agree — in view of the long-term economic development of certain regions within the Community — that a clear statement should be made as soon as possible on any extension of the ERDF programmes after 1991?

2. In this connection, does it not agree that it is time to move from discussing this matter to taking positive action?

3. When will it take the initiative of consulting the Member States on extending until the end of 1993 the EC programmes for the regions covered by Objective 2 of the European Regional Development Fund?

4. Does it expect major changes in definition of Objective 2 zones after 1991?

5. If so, can it make a clear statement on the substance of these changes and their consequences for the regions concerned?

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

*(10 July 1991)*

The Commission decided on 29 April 1991, to extend the current list of areas eligible for Structural Funds Support under Objective 2 for a further two years to the end of 1993.

The Commission hopes that Community Support Frameworks and programmes for the period 1992/93 will be in place by the end of the current year.

The Commission consulted the Advisory Committee on the Development and Conversion of Regions on 15 April 1991. Discussions are also taking place inside regional partnerships.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 746/91**

**by Mr Manfred Wohrer (LDR)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(23 April 1991)*

*(91/C 259/51)*

*Subject:* Free movement of pets in the EC

Pet-owners repeatedly complain that pets which have undergone the veterinary examination required by law, are inoculated and are in possession of an official certificate of health are not permitted to travel freely with their owners throughout the EC. In view of all the efforts being made to improve freedom of travel, it is hard to understand why the United Kingdom still imposes this restriction.

Is the Commission making any attempt to improve this state of affairs?

**Answer given by Mr Mac Sharry  
on behalf of the Commission**

*(12 June 1991)*

The Commission is aware of the problem relating primarily to quarantine restrictions for rabies in the United Kingdom and Ireland. There is a Community financially aided rabies eradication scheme being currently conducted in infected Member States. The objective is to eradicate rabies before 31 December 1992.

After such an eradication, there would be no reason for the maintenance of the current quarantine restrictions.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 794/91**  
**by Mr Jacques Vernier (RDE)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
 (29 April 1991)  
 (91/C 259/52)

*Subject:* Fishery statistics

It appears that no Community statistics exist for the relative share of the different categories of fishing vessels (inshore fishing, high-sea fishing, factory vessels) in total catches (in tonnage and value). Given that these statistics could surely be obtained from national figures and could improve our knowledge of the structure of the fisheries industry, could the Commission:

1. disclose this information, immediately, if this is possible?
2. if this is not possible, instruct the Statistical Office of the European Communities to calculate these figures regularly in its series on agriculture and fisheries?

**Answer given by Mr Marín**  
**on behalf of the Commission**  
 (4 June 1991)

The Commission can confirm that there are no Community statistics on catches by category of fishing vessels.

However, in order to improve statistics in the fisheries sector with particular regard to landings, the Council recently adopted a Regulation on the submission of data on the landings of fishery products in Member States.

The Regulation will apply from 1 January 1992 and will provide an overview of the quantity and value of all fishery products landed in the Community.

As regards the structure of fishery fleets, the Commission is setting up a register of Community fishing vessels containing full information about their characteristics.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 800/91**  
**by Mr James Ford (S)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
 (29 April 1991)  
 (91/C 259/53)

*Subject:* Financial help for churches

Does the Commission know of any funding available within the EC to assist with maintenance and upkeep of church buildings?

**Answer given by Mr Dondelinger**  
**on behalf of the Commission**  
 (14 June 1991)

The Commission's support for historic monuments and sites is channelled through its annual programme 'Support of pilot-projects to preserve the Community's architectural heritage' each year focusing on a specific theme (<sup>1</sup>).

Within this framework, the Commission's financial contribution to selected pilot-projects is strictly confined to works of conservation or restoration.

As the financial resources available are very restricted, (ECU 2,6 million for 26 selected pilot-projects out of 1 138 submitted in 1990) the principle aim of this programme is to increase the general public's awareness of their architectural heritage.

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No C 304, 4. 12. 1990.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 814/91**  
**by Mr Kenneth Collins (S)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
 (3 May 1991)  
 (91/C 259/54)

*Subject:* Generic feed additives

Under Community legislation, compounds intended to be used as feed additives are approved for administration to farm animals. Generic manufacturers can supply such products, on patent expiry, without having to confirm that their product is similar in terms of safety, quality, pharmacokinetics, etc., to the compound which originally obtained registration.

In this situation, how does the Commission ensure that generic feed additives are produced to the same standards and quality as the original compound registered?

**Answer given by Mr Mac Sharry**  
**on behalf of the Commission**  
 (3 July 1991)

In accordance with the terms of Article 21 of Council Directive 70/524/EEC (<sup>1</sup>) concerning additives in animal feedingstuffs, Member States shall take all necessary measures to ensure that during marketing te identification of additives used in animal feedingstuffs shall be officially checked at least by random sampling.

In order to check the conformity of the preparation marketed the control authorities shall have available a monograph of the authorised additive; this monograph, which forms an essential place of the dossier on the additive, indicates the method of manufacture and the criteria for identifying and characterising its preparations, especially its composition and degree of purity, as well as its physico-chemical and biological properties.

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No L 270, 14. 12. 1970.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 837/91**

**by Mr Victor Manuel Arbeloa Muru (S)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(3 May 1991)

(91/C 259/55)

*Subject:* Information about ERDF aid

Are the Member States complying with Regulations 4253/88/EEC (<sup>1</sup>) and 4254/88/EEC (<sup>2</sup>), under which EEC symbols must be used to show that projects have been co-financed out of ERDF funds. What stance does the Commission usually take in the event of failure to comply?

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988, p. 1.

(<sup>2</sup>) OJ No L 374, 31. 12. 1988, p. 15.

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

(8 July 1991)

The Honourable Member is reminded that Article 32 of Regulation (EEC) 4253/88 and Article 12 of Regulation (EEC) 4254/88 have been supplemented by a standard clause on publicity included in all Community support frameworks. To ensure uniform interpretation of these rules, the Commission adopted on 19 December a Notice of the Member States concerning information and publicity relating to assistance from the European Regional Development Fund (<sup>1</sup>).

The notice includes a detailed description of the measures to be taken and the rules for their application. The Monitoring Committees for the CSFs and operational programmes, in which officials of the Commission will participate, are required to ensure correct application of these rules. The Committees were recently constituted. An assessment of the application of these provisions by the Member States will be included in the annual reports

to be submitted by the Commission pursuant to Article 31 of Regulation 4253/88.

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No C 6, 10. 1. 1991.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 872/91**

**by Mr José Torres Couto (S)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(8 May 1991)

(91/C 259/56)

*Subject:* Social protection measures

As part of the action programme for the implementation of the Community Charter of Workers' Fundamental Social Rights, when does the Commission intend to draw up a draft Directive on social protection? Will the objects of these two measures coincide?

**Answer given by Mrs Papandreou  
on behalf of the Commission**

(7 June 1991)

The Commission does not propose to take any action which would have binding force in an area over which the Member States must retain control, that of the organization and financing of their social protection systems.

However, a study of the probable impact of the completion of the single market suggests that a gradual alignment of levels of social protection would be desirable. All the social protection systems in fact face similar problems. In view of that similarity, and in order to promote the alignment of levels of social protection, there was seen to be an argument for producing a paper setting out a number of common objectives to act as a guide for the Member States' policies in the social protection field.

In its action programme for the implementation of the Social Charter, the Commission therefore put forward proposals for a strategy of bringing the policies in question closer together by aligning them on jointly defined objectives. The Commission will shortly be adopting an initiative to that effect in the form of a recommendation.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 920/91**

**by Mrs Cristiana Muscardini (NI)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(15 May 1991)

(91/C 259/57)

*Subject:* Japanese protectionism in the leather sector

Will the Commission exert the pressure required to make the Japanese Government alter its protectionist stance in

the leather sector, bearing in mind that the Japanese 'concessions', i.e. the doubling of the quota for leather subject to less than 20% duty, correspond to just two days' production in Europe? In the event of an unwarranted refusal, will it not resort to US-style economic retaliation?

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1136/91**  
**by Mr Carles Gasòliba i Böhm (LDR)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
*(5 June 1991)*  
*(91/C 259/58)*

*Subject:* Community exports of tanned hides to Japan

Japan imposes 60% customs duties on imports of tanned hides from the European Community and a reduced rate of 20% for limited quantities. The EC on the other hand applies a duty of between 4 and 7% to tanned hides from Japan.

What measures does the Commission intend to adopt to redress the imbalance in this sector within the framework of its normal relations with Japan?

**Joint answer to Written Questions No 920/91 and No 1136/91**  
**given by Mr Andriessen**  
**on behalf of the Commission**  
*(30 July 1991)*

The Commission is fully aware that Japanese tariffs on leather and leather footwear are at a prohibitive level (except for a limited quantity of imports allowed under a tariff quota at lower levels of duty). These tariffs prevent Community companies realizing their full export potential.

The Commission has taken every occasion to insist on improved conditions of access to the Japanese market. At the bilateral level, it is engaged in a process of negotiation, with the aim of obtaining an import regime similar to that of other industrialized countries, after a transitional period during which conditions of access for Community products would be considerably improved. So far, it has obtained certain ameliorations, but without yet arriving at a satisfactory solution. In multilateral negotiations, under the Uruguay Round, the Commission has also raised the

issue of leather and leather footwear and has insisted on solutions that meet the Community's concerns.

Concerning the question of retaliatory measures, the Commission would prefer not to speculate on the feasibility of such measures pending the outcome of the current series of negotiations.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 922/91**  
**by Mrs Cristiana Muscardini (NI)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
*(15 May 1991)*  
*(91/C 259/59)*

*Subject:* Fitness for use of the main SS 20 road through the Valle di Roja

Following the landslide on 9 December 1990, in which two French people were killed, the SS 20 through the Valle di Roja was closed for over a month. Owing to the (makeshift) repair work subsequently carried out, the area was closed to traffic at certain periods for a further 45 days, resulting in substantial losses for the inhabitants of the valley, business activity, and those passing through for tourist or work purposes. Will the Commission therefore examine the plan being put forward by ANAS (Italian National Road Board), involving a total cost of some Lit. 55 billion, to alter the direction of and rebuild the road? Will measures be taken, not least with a view to 1992, to resolve the problems of the fitness for use of the SS 20 — an international highway to all intents and purposes — protect the valley's economy, taking into account the Commission communication C(90) 1562/3 to the Member States concerning border areas, and avert the possible isolation of the localities of Airole, Olivetta, and Fanghetto, for which the SS 20 is an economic lifeline?

**Answer given by Mr Van Miert**  
**on behalf of the Commission**  
*(23 July 1991)*

The Commission has duly noted the information brought to its attention relating to the fitness for use of the main SS 20 road through the Valle di Roja.

However, it wishes to point out to the Honourable Member that it is not competent to comment on the choice of communication routes, which is purely a matter for the national authorities.

Moreover, since the project in question concerns major infrastructure and the cost is considerable (estimated at more than ECU 36 million), it does not fall within the scope of the Community initiative concerning border

areas (Interreg) announced by the Commission in its Communication of 25 July 1990 <sup>(1)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 215, 30. 8. 1990.

horticulture in general and employment in this sector in particular, which provides jobs for 25 % of all agricultural workers?

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 929/91**

by Mr Yvan Blot (DR)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(15 May 1991)

(91/C 259/60)

*Subject:* Lower VAT rate on horticultural and nursery products

The Commission has not thought fit to include horticultural and nursery products — even though they may be classed as agricultural produce — on the list of products that will be subject to the low VAT rate on the post-1993 single market.

Given the vital part they have to play in improving the environment, the quality of life, and public health, does the Commission not believe that horticultural products should be treated as foodstuffs for VAT purposes in order to avoid a damaging distortion of competition in the whole of the sector concerned?

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 985/91**

by Mr Alain Marleix (RDE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(17 May 1991)

(91/C 259/61)

*Subject:* Fixing of VAT rates applicable to ornamental plants

The VAT rate to be applicable to ornamental plants as of 1 January 1993, which is now being drawn up, is situated between 14 % and 19 %. European professional horticulturists represented in Copa-Cogeca unanimously support a reduced VAT rate (4 % to 9 %) called for by the French, Netherlands, Italian, Greek and German Governments and, more generally, by all European horticulturalists and market gardeners.

Studies have clearly shown that a 14 %—19 % VAT rate would result in a drop in demand of about 10 %.

Why did the Commission decide to fix VAT between 14 % and 19 %, given the disastrous consequences for

**Joint answer to Written Questions No 929/91 and**

**No 985/91**

given by Mrs Scrivener  
on behalf of the Commission

(10 July 1991)

The question of the scope of the lower VAT rate to be applied from January 1993 was discussed at the Ecofin Council of 18 March 1991. At this meeting the Council confirmed its view that lower rates of VAT should be applicable optionally to a list of essential products and to goods and services which correspond to social or cultural policy objectives, provided the products concerned are ones for which there is a limited or zero risk of distortion of cross-border competition. Horticultural and similar products do not figure on the list agreed by the Council for the lower rate; they would on that basis all be taxed at the standard rate of VAT after 1992.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 931/91**

by Mr Sérgio Ribeiro (CG)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(15 May 1991)

(91/C 259/62)

*Subject:* Study of the Alqueva dam project

In reply to Written Question No 3072/90 <sup>(1)</sup> on the Alqueva dam project, the Commission (Commissioner B. Millan) stated on 26 March 1991 that it was fully convinced of the importance of the Alqueva dam project for the development of the Alentejo region. However, the project would not be included in the CSF (1989—1993) since the Portuguese authorities did not consider that the project was sufficiently far advanced.

At the same time, however, the Portuguese Prime Minister, on visiting the Alentejo region and the Municipality of Alqueva, stated that the construction of the dam depended on the Commission's decision.

It is to be hoped that this apparent contradiction is resolved by the final sentence of the Commission's reply to the question to the effect that a study must be carried out before a decision can be taken. On what or whom does the launching of this study depend? What form will the study take and when will it be carried out?

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 210, 12. 8. 1991, p. 13.

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

(13 June 1991)

The call for tenders for the comprehensive and integrated study of the works relating to the Alqueva scheme and their impact on the national and regional economy has been published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities*. The deadline for the receipt of tenders was 15 May 1991. The study should permit the Portuguese Government to take a decision on whether to carry out the work.

The Commission expects the study to be finished by the end of 1991. Its total cost should not exceed ECU 800 000, all of which will be met from Community funds.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 937/91**

by Mrs Marijke van Hemeldonck (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(15 May 1991)

(91/C 259/63)

*Subject:* Proposal for a Council Directive on the legal protection of computer programs — the legal basis of Article 2 (3)

The basis for the above proposal for a Directive (COM(90) 509 final<sup>(1)</sup>) is Article 100a of the EEC Treaty. However, Article 2(3) of the proposal for a Directive contains a provision to which Article 100a (2) of the Treaty would appear to apply.

1. Does the Commission consider that Article 100a (2) is applicable to Article 2(3) of this proposal for a Directive?
2. If so, what conclusion does it draw concerning the procedures for adoption of this proposal for a Directive (qualified majority or unanimity)?
3. In general, if a proposal for a Directive contains provisions covered both by Article 100a (1) and Article 100a (2), what voting procedure shall govern its adoption? In such a case, is reference to Article 100a sufficient as a legal basis and should not this legal basis be spelt out in greater detail?

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 320, 20. 12. 1990, p. 22.

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

(5 July 1991)

1. and 2. Article 2(3) of the proposal for a Directive on the legal protection of computer programs (which,

incidentally, was not included in the operative part of Directive 91/250/EEC<sup>(1)</sup> adopted by the Council on 14 May 1991) was concerned with the copyright consequences of a situation where a person created a computer program for another person who has commissioned it.

The Commission fails to see how such a provision could be caught by Article 100a (2) of the EEC Treaty, which covers fiscal provisions and provisions relating to the free movement of persons and to the rights and interests of employed persons.

3. Article 100a was incorporated into the Treaty by the Single European Act to serve as a basis for the adoption of all the harmonization measures necessary for the establishment and functioning of the internal market within the meaning of the second paragraph of Article 8a (viz. an area without internal frontiers), subject to the following:

- the existence of a specific provision in the Treaty which would then constitute the appropriate legal basis for the measures to be adopted;
- the specific exclusion of the matters specified in Article 100a (2), which would be covered either by a specific basis where one existed (e.g. Article 99 in the case of indirect taxation) or by Article 100.

The Commission considers that, in general, an act should have a single legal basis chosen according to objective criteria, in accordance with the case law of the Court of Justice and in the light of the effects of the act on the policy or freedom in question, irrespective of whether two or more objectives are being pursued.

In particular, the presence in an act of provisions which, when taken in isolation, might seem to belong to a different field of competence does not justify the addition of a second legal basis where those provisions cannot be dissociated from the principal elements of the act, to which they are an adjunct.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 122, 17. 5. 1991.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 940/91**

by Mr David Martin (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(15 May 1991)

(91/C 259/64)

*Subject:* Classification of Community Acts

In view of the debate on the classification of Community Acts, can the Commission explain why, in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* (English version):

- the Commission Directive 91/31/EEC <sup>(1)</sup> of 19 December 1990 on multilateral development banks describes itself as a Directive in its title and in Article 3, but as a Regulation in the introductory sentence before Article 1;
- why the Commission Decision 91/25/EEC <sup>(2)</sup> of 18 December 1990 altering the limits of less-favoured areas in the United Kingdom is described as a Decision in its title and in the introductory sentence before Article 1, but as a Regulation in the last recital?

Are there any instances in which the Commission has adopted a Regulation to implement a Council Directive?

How frequently does the Commission adopt a Decision to implement a Council Directive?

Has the Commission ever adopted a Directive to implement a Council Regulation?

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 17, 23. 1. 1991, p. 20.

<sup>(2)</sup> OJ No L 16, 22. 1. 1991, p. 25.

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

(4 July 1991)

The two cases to which the Honourable Member refers were due to publishing errors confined to the English-language edition of the *Official Journal of the European Communities*.

In each case the text sent to the authorities concerned was correct. This is the only authentic version, as notification, not publication, is a condition of applicability in the case of both Decisions and Directives. The Commission has, however, corrected the erroneous texts. The correction to the Directive was published in OJ No L 121 of 16 May 1991 and that to the Decision in OJ No L 112 of 4 May 1991.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 946/91**

by Mr Michael Welsh (ED)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(15 May 1991)

(91/C 259/65)

*Subject:* Creation of small and medium enterprises in the Community

Will the Commission publish the number of small and medium enterprises created in each Member State between 1 January 1980 and 31 December 1989, or give statistics for the last comparative period for which statistics are available?

Will the Commission publish the number of jobs created in each Member State through the establishment of new small and medium enterprises for the period used in the foregoing question?

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

(5 July 1991)

Since 1987 the Commission has been implementing a programme for the collection of statistics on SMEs. The first results were published in 1990, in 'Enterprises in the European Community'. This gives a breakdown of enterprises by employment size class and by sector, in each Member State, and thus enables the contribution of SMEs to sectoral and total employment to be identified. A copy of the publication is being sent directly to the Honourable Member and to the Secretariat of Parliament.

The document refers to 1986. The variation in the stock of enterprises in 1986, as compared with a previous year (1983 or 1980) is also shown (Table 3, Chapters 4 to 16). By the end of 1991, the figures for 1988 will be available and will be published by the Commission.

This variable — the variation in the stock of enterprises between two dates — is not, however, the same thing as the number of SMEs or the number of jobs created.

The Commission is taking this into account in its statistical work.

This is the context, among other things, for the plan to harmonize the registers of businesses which already exist in the different Member States.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 971/91**

by Mr Carlos Robles Piquer (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(17 May 1991)

(91/C 259/66)

*Subject:* Delays in the payment of Community farm subsidies

Many of the small farms in the Spanish provinces of Almería, Granada and Málaga — most of the managed by young farmers — have still not received the subsidies owed to them both by the European Community and the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture for conversion to different crops.

In view of the fact that these delays date back two years the farmers concerned are in an extremely difficult situation, having sought bridging loans which are now falling due and which amount to almost 10 million pesetas, 65 % of which corresponded to unpaid subsidies.

Can the Commission set out the reasons for this abnormal situation, which is doing too much harm to the farmers in question, and what measures can it propose to rectify their critical situation as rapidly as possible?

**Answer given by Mr Mac Sharry  
on behalf of the Commission**

(2 July 1991)

The Commission has no knowledge of any obligation to pay a conversion subsidy to Spanish farmers.

Two years ago there was in fact no legal basis that would have permitted such aid to be granted. It is true that Article 1c of Regulation (EEC) No 797/85<sup>(1)</sup> makes provision for the granting of aid from the EAGGF Guidance Section for conversion of production but as yet the Council has neither adopted a list of products conversion towards which may be approved nor the conditions and procedures for granting the aid.

On the regional policy side the Commission in December 1990 approved two operational programmes for Andalusia on:

- (a) rationalization of input use in agriculture, and
- (b) improvement of agricultural structures.

A very limited amount of conversion of production may have been authorized under these programmes but their date of approval is too recent for any delay in payment to farmers to have arisen.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 93, 30. 3. 1985.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 980/91**

**by Mr Hugh McMahon (S)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(17 May 1991)

(91/C 259/67)

*Subject:* Uclaff report

Can the Commission inform the House what action it proposed to take on the recent Uclaff Report, particularly

as the United Kingdom showed to have the highest incidence of agricultural fraud of the twelve Member States?

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

(3 July 1991)

The full range of action proposed by the Commission to step up the fight against fraud is set out in the 45-point programme approved by the Madrid European Council in June 1989, which is given in an annex to the report to which the Honourable Member refers.

The Commission regards the high number of cases of fraud and irregularities notified by the United Kingdom as a sign of how effective the action to strengthen controls has been there and as a good example of the readiness that there is to participate in the joint information system. However, it is always careful not to interpret the number of cases notified as a reflection of the level of fraud in any individual Member State.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 992/91**

**by Mr Christopher Jackson (ED)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(17 May 1991)

(91/C 259/68)

*Subject:* Drinking water quality

Will the Commission state whether or not the addition of aluminium sulphate to drinking water supplies is allowed under the EC drinking water Directive, and, if so, who is responsible for regulating the safe amount of such chemicals being added to water supplies?

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

(13 June 1991)

Directive 80/778/EEC<sup>(1)</sup>, relating to the quality of water intended for human consumption, gives in its Annex I, Maximum Admissible Concentrations (MACs) for Aluminium (0,2 mg/l) and Sulphates (250 mg/l) in drinking water.

Under Articles 7 and 8 of that Directive, Member States must ensure that the MACs in Annex I are not exceeded,



and that residues of substances used in the preparation of drinking water do not remain in higher concentrations than the MACs in Annex I.

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No L 229, 30. 8. 1990.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 998/91**

**by Mr Ben Fayot (S)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(17 May 1991)

(91/C 259/69)

*Subject:* Refusal by the Italian customs authorities to recognize a Community document

Having been invited to participate in a major philatelic exhibition in Pergola (Italy) on 13 and 14 April 1991 a delegation from the Luxembourg Federation of Philatelic Societies decided to represent the Grand Duchy officially by showing five stamp collections.

On the advice of the Luxembourg customs authorities, the stamp collections were accompanied by a Community movement carnet (No 004811 issued on 11 April 1991 by the Luxembourg Customs Office) after being sealed at the customs office. The total value of the collections was Flux 500.000.

The delegation was prevented from crossing the Chiasso-Como border by the Italian customs authorities who claimed that the Community movement carnet was unacceptable and rejected any alternative solutions for the collections to be taken across. As a result, the delegation was forced to return to Luxembourg without participating in the exhibition.

Can the Commission explain this strange behaviour by the Italian customs authorities and ensure that, in future, the established principles of freedom of movement are duly respected?

**Answer given by Mrs Scrivener  
on behalf of the Commission**

(6 June 1991)

The Commission was not aware of the events described by the Honourable Member.

A joint examination of the matter is now being carried out by the Commission and the relevant national authorities.

The Commission will inform the Honourable Member of the findings of the examination.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1017/91**

**by Mr Pol Marck (PPE)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(22 May 1991)

(91/C 259/70)

*Subject:* Bread prices

To what extent are bread prices in the Member States influenced by the price of flour?

What respective percentages of the price of bread are accounted for by the cost of flour, wage costs, energy costs, etc.?

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

(5 July 1991)

Combined data for the EC Member States is not disaggregated enough to make reliable estimates of the proportionate inputs — and thus the effect of input price changes — into the production of bread.

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**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1025/91**

**by Mr Aymeri de Montesquiou Fezensac (LDR)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(22 May 1991)

(91/C 259/71)

*Subject:* Monopolistic practices in the meteorological sector

There is in Europe a market in meteorological products and services which are sold in several Community countries (France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands) by private-law companies.

In France the National Meteorological Office, a public body, has a virtual monopoly in this area on the French market. It uses its power under its constitution to restrict or prohibit the movement of meteorological products and services and to place limits on the development of public or private undertakings acting in this sector both in France and abroad.

Since the French National Meteorological Office receives State aid and is intended to provide public services, its activities in a competitive market weaken the position of national undertakings particularly as regards exports.

Can the Commission examine whether, in this context, the activities of the National Meteorological Office are of a type to distort competition, and if so, state how it intends to remedy this situation?

**Answer given by Sir Leon Brittan  
on behalf of the Commission**

(17 July 1991)

The Commission does not at present have all the information needed to deal with the various aspects of the question. It is seeking particulars from the French authorities in order to supplement its information in this matter and will inform the Honourable Member as soon as possible of its appraisal of the activities of the French National Meteorological Office in the light of the competition rules of the EEC Treaty.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1027/91**

**by Mr Jean-Pierre Raffarin (LDR)  
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(22 May 1991)

(91/C 259/72)

*Subject:* Community Support Frameworks for fisheries and aquaculture products

In approving the Community Support Frameworks for improving the processing and marketing of fisheries and aquaculture products in the Member States, the Commission did not provide for these frameworks to cover the territory of the former GDR, which will be dealt with in a separate decision.

The Community Support Frameworks set out the development priorities on which Community aid will be concentrated.

Does not the Commission fear that, when it comes to consider the former GDR, it will have to rethink the priorities it has already set?

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

(9 July 1991)

On 13 March the Commission approved the Community Support Framework referred to in Article 2 of Council Regulation (EEC) No 3575/90<sup>(1)</sup> concerning the activities of the Structural Funds in the territory of the former German Democratic Republic, which covers the processing and marketing of fishery and agriculture products. The measures seek to achieve a fundamental

restructuring of the former State-controlled fisheries industry and ensure subsequently its smooth assimilation into the common fisheries policy.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No L 353, 17. 12. 1990.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1029/91**

**by Mr Jean-Pierre Raffarin (LDR)  
to the Commission of the European Communities**

(22 May 1991)

(91/C 259/73)

*Subject:* Aid to rural tourism

The Commission's plan for aid to rural tourism provides for support for specific projects.

In the field of rural tourism it aims to support pilot schemes to help create, develop and promote new 'products' in the tourist sector.

Could the Commission specify in what form this support will be provided to these pilot schemes?

Will priority be given to rural areas in difficulty in granting this support to specific projects, and will it be granted to them on preferential terms?

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

(24 July 1991)

In April 1991 the Commission presented to the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee a proposal for a Council Decision on a Community action plan to assist tourism (1992—1994) — COM(91) 97 final — comprising *inter alia*, measures to assist rural tourism. Pending adoption of this action plan, it is planning to carry out preparatory pilot projects in a number of fields, including rural tourism.

In this connection, the Commission recently published in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* a call for proposals with a view to the co-financing (up to a maximum of 40% of the cost) of innovative projects in rural and cultural tourism<sup>(1)</sup>.

Through such pilot projects, it wishes to encourage diversification of the supply of European tourist products in rural areas.

As stated in the call for proposals, it will provide no direct support for marketing tourist products for investment in tourist infrastructure.

The Commission would draw attention to the fact that, given the limited budgetary resources earmarked for pilot projects in the field of tourism in 1991, only a few projects will be selected and priority will be given to projects of an exemplary nature and to transnational or European projects, i.e. projects submitted by regions in different Member States and designed to facilitate the creation of information networks, exchanges of experience and European cooperation.

Given that this call for proposals covers the entire Community, it is not aimed primarily at rural areas facing difficulties, nor will priority be given to such areas. As regards rural areas falling within the scope of Objectives 1 and 5b of the reform of the structural Funds, specific measures to assist rural tourism are provided for and implemented under the different operational programmes or other forms of intervention.

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No C 128, 18. 5. 1991.

#### WRITTEN QUESTION No 1033/91

by Mr Ioannis Stamoulis, Mr Paraskevas Avgerinos, Mr Christos Papoutsis, Mr Konstantinos Tsimas, Mr Dionysios Livanos, Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos, Mr Dimitrios Pagoropoulos and Mr Georgios Romeos (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(22 May 1991)

(91/C 259/74)

*Subject:* Impact of the Gulf War on the economies and particularly the tourist sector in the Member States of the Community

The Community has already agreed to grant economic aid to third countries which are likely to suffer as a result of the Gulf War (Egypt, Turkey and Jordan).

However, Member States of the Community have also suffered very heavy losses in many economic sectors, and notably in the tourist sector (hotel businesses, coastal and cruise line operators, airlines, etc.).

Those Mediterranean countries such as Greece which are closest to the theatre of war will suffer particularly heavily during this year's tourist season and many tourist undertakings are expected to go bankrupt, resulting in widespread unemployment.

Will the Commission say whether it intends to introduce measures similar to those already taken in respect of third countries to offset the damage suffered by Community Member States?

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

(2 August 1991)

As the Commission has already indicated in its answer to Written Question No 597/91 by Sir James Scott-Hopkins (<sup>1</sup>), while the outlook for the Community economy in 1991 is less buoyant than that envisaged in the Commission's November 1990 forecasts, it would be wrong to attribute this deterioration solely to the effects of the crisis in the Gulf. Indeed, it now appears that the direct effect of the hostilities has been rather small. Much more important causes are the policy measures implemented to correct macro-economic imbalances in some Member States and weak growth outside the Community, especially in North America and in the countries of central and eastern Europe.

The revision of the growth forecast for the Community as a whole to 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>% in 1991 from the 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>% anticipated last November, derives essentially from a very large revision for the United Kingdom where output is now expected to decline by 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>% this year. The growth forecasts for the other countries have been only modestly revised which suggests that the end of hostilities, and the expectation of lower oil prices, have largely compensated for any negative effects the outbreak of the war in the Gulf may have had. In 1992, the growth rate for the Community is expected to recover to about 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>%.

As far as the travel and tourism industry is concerned, the most recent evidence suggests a certain return to normal. Indeed, the Community may actually benefit from a possible unwillingness of holiday-makers to travel to some extra-Community destinations which had become very popular over the last number of years.

While this does not mean that all areas will recoup entirely, in the course of the year, the losses suffered during January and February, the Commission considers that the situation does not justify any special measures of the type decided in favour of Egypt, Jordan and Turkey, especially in view of the fact that, on 26 March 1991, the Commission adopted an action plan to assist tourism, which aims to promote, in the medium term, the modernization, training and effective diversification of the European tourism product. One of the actions envisaged in this plan, which may have immediate effects, is the development of a promotional campaign in third

countries for Europe as a tourist destination. Effects in this direction may yield positive results which will benefit all Community countries.

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No C 214, 16. 8. 1991.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1037/91**  
**by Mrs Dagmar Roth-Behrendt (S)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
 (22 May 1991)  
 (91/C 259/75)

*Subject:* European Community structural funds and the protection of the natural biological environment

The protection of the environment is an integral part of Community policy, covered by Article 130r of the EEC Treaty and the three Structural Funds must comply with the requirements stated in the new Articles 130r, 130s and 130t;

However, in a worrying number of instances, Member States have complained that the Structural Funds are being used for projects which are destructive to the environment (for example the Gulf of Amvrakikos and Prespes projects in Greece, eucalyptus planting in Portugal, bears in the Pyrenees, hydro-electric barrages in Spain, the development of turfmoors and re-forestation in Ireland).

1. Is DG XI currently sufficiently apprised of the details of those programmes financed under the Structural Funds? Does the DG give its opinion of these programmes taking into account *inter alia* the enforcement of current Community law? Is the DG's opinion taken into consideration in the implementation of these programmes and is regular monitoring carried out?
2. Does the Commission intend to strengthen significantly the financial and human resources of DG XI to ensure that the DG is fully capable of carrying out the important role of monitoring of the Structural Funds, as well as taking steps to improve coordination across the DGs?
3. Is the Commission prepared to look closely at the ways of involving NGOs institutionally, both at a regional and national level, in the formulation and the monitoring of the programmes and projects?
4. Is the Commission willing to guarantee a greater level of accessibility and availability of information, particularly *vis-à-vis* regional and national programmes and projects which are likely to be given Structural Fund support and will the Commission guarantee this before requests are submitted?

5. Does the Commission intend to penalize those Member States whose projects breach Community laws concerning the environment, by blocking the Community funds destined for these programmes?

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

(5 June 1991)

The Honourable Member is requested to refer to the joint answer by the Commission to Written Questions Nos 1962/90 and 2013/90 by Mr Monnier-Besombes and others (<sup>1</sup>).

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No C 70, 18. 3. 1991.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1064/91**  
**by Mr Alman Metten (S)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
 (29 May 1991)  
 (91/C 259/76)

*Subject:* Lack of competition in respect of professional services and mortgage interest rate adjustments

1. Is the Commission aware of the total lack of price competition in respect of many professional services as a result of price-fixing agreements?
2. Is it aware that, since costly notarial deeds are required by law, in the Netherlands competition in respect of mortgage interest-rate adjustments is effectively ruled out, as a result of which the gap between the effective yield on mortgages and on government loans is steadily reaching unprecedented levels?  
 ('De Woonconsument' (consumer magazine) 91/3 p. 11).
3. Does it not consider that this effective elimination of competition between issuers at the expense of the consumer will raise doubts about the benefits of '1992'? Does it intend to propose measures to remove these obstacles to effective competition?

**Answer given by Sir Leon Brittan**  
**on behalf of the Commission**

(31 July 1991)

1. The Commission is aware of the fact that several Dutch associations of liberal professions advise their members on tariffs or lay down fixed tariffs.

For instance, real estate agents, affiliated to the Nederlandse Vereniging van Makelaars (Dutch association of real estate agents) charge fixed, sometimes

percentage based, tariffs whereas the Nederlandse Orde van Advocaten (Dutch bar association) advises its members on hourly tariffs to charge clients.

2. - The Commission has noted the contents of the article under the heading 'Geen concurrentie bij renteherziening hypotheek' (absence of competition by the adjustment of interest on mortgages) in the periodical called 'De woonconsument' of March 1991 of the association Vereniging Eigen Huis (National Association of house owners).

3. According to the Commission restrictions on trade may have a negative effect on the realization of the common market. Consequently these restrictions have to be avoided or abolished in as far as possible.

The bases of the problems in regard to re-negotiation of mortgage loans, as pointed out in the article published in the aforementioned periodical, are the tariffs for the preparation, issue and registration of mortgages certificates.

Under Dutch law, notaries and registry offices respectively have the exclusive right to perform these tasks relating to mortgage registration and certification.

According to the information at disposal at present, the registry office must be regarded as an external service of the Ministerie van Volkshuisvesting, Ruimtelijke Ordening en Milieuhygiene (Ministry of public housing and environment).

In consequence it is not an undertaking in the sense of Article 85 and 86 of the EEC Treaty.

A variety of tariffs of notaries, amongst which the tariff for the preparation of mortgage certificates, are fixed by the Nederlandse Notariele Broederschap (Dutch association of notaries). Such fixed tariffs restrict competition between notaires. According to the aforementioned article in 'De Woonconsument', this restriction would, albeit indirectly, result in a restriction or elimination of competition between mortgages.

The effects of these restrictions seem, however, mainly limited to the national territory of the Netherlands. Taking this into consideration as well as the fact that the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs intends (as stated in the letter of May 6, 1991 of Secretary of State Mrs Y. van Rooy to the President of the 'Tweede kamer der Staten-Generaal' (national parliament)), to take action in the near future against horizontal price arrangements generally, the Commission has reached the conclusion that there is not sufficient Community interest to justify closer examination of this issue at this stage.

#### WRITTEN QUESTION No 1103/91

by Mr Rafael Calvo Ortega (LDR)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(5 June 1991)

(91/C 259/77)

*Subject:* EIB and regional development

In its information bulletin of February 1991 the EIB states that, over the last year, loans for regional development have risen to Ecu 7 400 million, a considerable amount, which reflects the effectiveness of this financial institution. Since further details would be useful for the purposes of understanding and publicizing this information, can the Commission say what projects, services and investment schemes are considered by the EIB as promoting regional development?

Answer given by Mr Christophersen  
on behalf of the Commission

(30 July 1991)

The annual report of the European Investment Bank sets out in detail the financing made available in the form of individual loans, broken down by Community objective, and in the form of global loan allocations. Copies of the annual report, which is made public on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Board of Governors at the beginning of June, are sent regularly to all MEPs immediately on publication.

According to the report recently published, for 1990, total EIB lending in the Community was Ecu 12 700 million, of which Ecu 7 400 million was for regional development, i.e. investment projects located in less-favoured regions. Some Ecu 6 600 million (close on nine tenths of financing for regional development) went to regions targeted for support under the Community's structural Funds: Ecu 3 400 million for projects in Objective 1 regions; Ecu 2 900 million for projects in Objectives 2 and 5b regions; and Ecu 330 million for projects tying in with various other specific Community support measures (mainly the Integrated Mediterranean Programmes). Over half of total funding in the less-favoured regions went to infrastructure projects (Ecu 4 160 million), in particular telecommunications and transport projects. Funding made available for industry, services and agriculture amounted to Ecu 2 485 million, of which half for small and medium-sized enterprises.

The breakdown by major sector of the figure of Ecu 7 400 million is as follows:

	million Ecus	Individual loans	Global loan allocations	
		million Ecus	million Ecus	number
Energy	794,8	747,6	47,2	34
Transport	1 685,2	1 489,0	196,2	124
Telecommunications	1 574,9	1 574,9	—	—
Water, sewerage	719,4	628,2	91,2	154
Other infrastructure	180,1	97,6	82,6	55
Industry, agriculture	2 169,3	1 170,9	998,4	3 640
Services	315,7	25,3	290,5	1 194
Total	7 439,4	5 733,5	1 706,1	5 201

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1124/91**  
**by Mr Filippos Pierros (PPE)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
*(5 June 1991)*  
*(91/C 259/78)*

*Subject:* Community funding to cope with urban problems in third world countries

The serious problems facing the major cities in third-world countries are well known. The standard of living is falling, the most elementary public services are lacking and extreme poverty is rife. These problems will be aggravated by the rapid rise in population.

The World Bank recently announced its intention of launching major development programmes to provide funding and technical aid to tackle these problems. Does the Commission intend to recommend similar measures to improve housing, develop the land, redevelop poor neighbourhoods and create new jobs?

**Answer given by Mr Marin**  
**on behalf of the Commission**  
*(31 July 1991)*

The Commission is well aware of the problems posed in the Third World by rapid urbanization and the resulting deterioration in living conditions in the major cities.

In view of the priorities established by agreement with the recipient countries, the Commission is not at the moment planning any large-scale urban development programmes.

It has nonetheless in the past backed such operations where countries have made this a priority.

The improvement of living conditions and job creation in the countryside remain the chief priorities. However, in line with current policy the Commission is taking account of the social dimension of structural adjustment through policies of job creation and support for vulnerable sectors of the population, whether in the cities or the countryside.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1137/91**  
**by Mr Stephen Hughes (S)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
*(5 June 1991)*  
*(91/C 259/79)*

*Subject:* Interreg initiative

Could the Commission provide a listing of those areas within the United Kingdom which have applied for funding within the Interreg initiative?

Have any of those regions which have applied yet been successful in their bids?

**Answer given by Mr Millan**  
**on behalf of the Commission**  
*(9 July 1991)*

The areas in the United Kingdom which have applied for funding under the Interreg initiative are Kent and Northern Ireland (excluding the city of Belfast).

The Commission is currently considering the applications concerning these areas and hopes to approve programmes shortly.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1138/91****by Mr Stephen Hughes (S)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(5 June 1991)**(91/C 259/80)*

*Subject:* Social and economic studies of a regional character in the United Kingdom

Socio-economic studies of a regional nature are financed under Item 5480 of the general budget.

Could the Commission state which studies commissioned in the past (or currently being commissioned) are concerned with the socio-economic development prospects of regions within the United Kingdom?

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

*(10 July 1991)*

The socio-economic studies of a regional nature which were financed under budget line 5480 (now line 2-6020) only rarely cover regional development issues within a single Community Member State. The aim of the Commission's regional study programme is to provide a comparative analysis of the situation and development of all Community regions, with a special emphasis on regions eligible for aid under the objectives 1, 2 and 5b of the Structural Funds.

A selection of studies financed under budget line 5480 which address various issues related to the socio-economic development prospects of the United Kingdom regions is given below:

1. Monographies of the Community regions (forthcoming) (various languages).
2. Issue papers on the textile and clothing sector in various Community regions (includes a paper on the United Kingdom regions) (1991) (various languages).
3. Patterns of regional migration within the Community during the 1990's (1991) (EN).
4. Human capital and related infrastructure endowments: investment requirements in problem regions (1991) (EN) and feasibility study (1989) (EN).
5. Comparative study on the financing of enterprises in assisted regions (1990) (EN).
6. Regional consequences of completing the internal market for financial services (1990) (EN).

7. Long-term regional demographic developments up to the beginning of the next century and job requirements (1990) (EN).
8. Identification and delineation of the Community's coal mining areas (1989) (EN).
9. The socio-economic consequences of the completion of the internal market for the traditional industrial regions of the European Community (1989) (EN).
10. Study on the regional consequences of the opening-up of the public procurement markets (1989) (FR).

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1140/91****by Mr Stephen Hughes (S)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(5 June 1991)**(91/C 259/81)*

*Subject:* Development aid

In the Commission's reply to Written Question 1106/90 <sup>(1)</sup> on 15 November 1990, it was stated that the Commission is studying the practice of tying bilateral development aid with a view to ensuring that the EEC Treaty is respected.

Can the Commission elaborate on the type of study now taking place in relation to this important issue?

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 98, 15. 4. 1991, p. 11.

**Answer given by Sir Leon Brittan  
on behalf of the Commission**

*(26 July 1991)*

The present analytical and preparatory work carried out by the Commission in this area is based on an inventory of all types of export aid granted by the Member States. Although this inventory is not yet completed, due to partly insufficient replies by some Member States, it can nevertheless not be excluded that tied development aid can distort or threaten to distort competition and affect trade in the EC.

Since Article 92 of the Treaty can be applicable to this type of export aid, a major objective of the study being undertaken is therefore to find ways to eliminate possible negative effects of such aids on competition and trade in the EC. In addressing this question, the Commission will take due account of the different policy objectives pursued in this field and currently considers, as indicated already in its reply to Written Question No 1106/90 by

Mr Jackson, that a solution is best sought through the progressive harmonization of export aid programmes and the untying of national development aid *vis-à-vis* all other Community countries.

With a view to improving assistance in the VAT field and to extending it to excise duties, the Commission has put forward a proposal for a Regulation<sup>(1)</sup> which is modelled, in some respects, on the Council of Europe/OECD Convention.

<sup>(1)</sup> OJ No C 187, 27. 7. 1990.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1173/91**

**by Mrs Raymonde Dury (S)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(5 June 1991)

(91/C 259/82)

*Subject:* Council of Europe convention on administrative cooperation in the field of taxation

The Council of Europe and the OECD have jointly submitted for signature and ratification a convention on mutual administrative assistance in the field of taxation. This is designed to help in the fight against tax crime, which is increasingly being organized on an international basis. Is the Community taking account of the framework of this convention in defining and implementing its own strategy in this area?

**Answer given by Mrs Scrivener  
on behalf of the Commission**

(19 July 1991)

The Convention drawn up jointly by the Council of Europe and the OECD is very wide in scope. It covers practically all taxes and provides for administrative assistance comprising the exchange of information, the recovery of tax claims and the service of documents. In practice, however, its scope is likely to be limited considerably since many reservations may be made by each State.

The Convention has so far been ratified by only three countries and is not yet therefore in force. None of the Member States has ratified it and only one of them has signed it. Moreover, a number of Member States have indicated that they do not intend to become party to the Convention.

The measures provided for in the Convention are partly covered by Community legislation, which was likely to be affected by the Convention. As the Council refused to authorize the Commission to negotiate the Community's participation in the Convention, it has been necessary to include in it a clause (Article 27(2)) to the effect that the Convention applies to relations between Member States and third countries but not to relations between Member States, which are covered by Community legislation alone.

Community assistance currently covers the exchange of information relating to direct taxes and VAT and the enforced recovery of VAT claims.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1187/91**

**by Mr Llewellyn Smith (S)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(5 June 1991)

(91/C 259/83)

*Subject:* Euro food safety statistics

What Euro food safety statistics are available for the period 1980—1990?

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

(22 July 1991)

The Commission does not compile special statistics on strategic stocks of agricultural products.

However, it keeps strict account of intervention stocks for all the products covered by the intervention system.

It also draws up each year supply balance sheets for the principal farm products, which show the stocks held at the beginning and end of the year (or, failing that, the change in stocks) and the self-supply rate.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1203/91**

**by Mr Antoni Gutiérrez Díaz (GUE)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

(11 June 1991)

(91/C 259/84)

*Subject:* Compatibility with the common market of certain aid granted by the Government of Catalonia

According to a number of Commission notices to the Member States issued pursuant to Article 93(2) of the EEC Treaty and published in OJ Nos. C 32 of 7 February



1991 and C 74 of 20 March 1991, letters of formal notice have been sent to the Spanish Government requesting its comments on the compatibility of certain State aids with the common market.

What is the state of progress on the infringement procedures which have been initiated?

**Answer given by Sir Leon Brittan  
on behalf of the Commission**

*(17 July 1991)*

The proceedings to which the Honourable Member refers were initiated pursuant to Article 93(2) of the EEC Treaty and do not constitute infringement proceedings. Nevertheless, it is true that the aid granted by the Autonomous Government of Catalonia was not notified in advance to the Commission at the planning stage, as required by Article 93(3), and consequently infringes Community law.

The Commission has given the Spanish Government, the other Member States and other interested parties notice to submit their observations in connection with the above proceedings and is now examining whether the aid in question is compatible with the common market. It will shortly take its final decisions in the matter.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1239/91**

**by Mrs Christine Crawley (S)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(11 June 1991)*

*(91/C 259/85)*

*Subject: Curative hypnotherapy*

Members of The Association of Qualified Curative Hypnotherapists, which monitors the work of hypnotherapists, are concerned that legislation being brought forward by the Commission may curtail their freedom to practice, perhaps by requiring that they may only carry out their curative hypnotherapy while a medically qualified practitioner is present, or in other ways. Would the Commission outline what plans they have, if any?

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

*(30 July 1991)*

The activities of hypnotherapists are not coordinated at Community level. Each Member State is therefore free to regulate them on its territory as it sees fit. A Member State

is thus entitled, on its territory, to restrict hypnotherapy to doctors alone or to permit it to be practised by other qualified persons acting on their own responsibility or in consultation with a doctor.

The Commission has no intention of putting forward specific proposals in this field. The Honourable Member's fear that those Member States permitting qualified persons other than doctors to practise hypnotherapy freely might be compelled by Community law to amend their national legislation is therefore unfounded.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1245/91**

**by Mr Vincenzo Bettiza (S), Mr Roberto Barzanti, Mr Giorgio Rossetti (GUE), Mr Florus Wijsenbeek, Mr Jean Defraigne and Mr Jas Gawronski (LDR)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(11 June 1991)*

*(91/C 259/86)*

*Subject: Coding of television broadcasts in Europe by RAI*

For more than a year now, a large number of RAI satellite television broadcasts have been encoded and, as a result, can no longer be received by the hundreds of thousands of Italians living and working in European countries, in particular Belgium, Luxembourg and France or the many citizens of other nationalities wishing to watch Italian television. This measure affects both cable television and dish aerials. According to RAI, certain programmes were encoded as a result of a controversial interpretation of the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works.

1. Does the Commission not consider that the decision by RAI infringes the letter and spirit of Council Directive 89/552/EEC (\*) of 3 October 1989 on the coordination of certain provisions laid down by law, regulation or administrative action in the Member States concerning the pursuit of television broadcasting activities?
2. Does the Commission not consider that the restrictions imposed by RAI also infringe the EEC Treaty in so far as the latter calls for freedom of movement for all services without exception (for reasons connected with their cultural content or any other factors) and without restriction in respect of nationals of Member States who are established in a state of the Community other than that for which the services are intended?
3. Why is it that none of the numerous other public television networks broadcasting by satellite for direct

or cable reception in Europe have encoded any of their broadcasts?

4. What steps will the Commission take to remedy this serious discrimination against numerous European citizens, for whom television constitutes an essential link with their country of origin and a vehicle for cultural enrichment and promotion of the language?

(<sup>1</sup>) OJ No L 298, 17. 10. 1989, p. 23.

**Answer given by Mr Bangemann  
on behalf of the Commission**  
(30 July 1991)

From the information contained in the question it appears that unresolved copyright questions may form the main obstacle to the direct reception and retransmission by cable of RAI-TV in an uncoded form in certain parts of the European Community.

1. The 'Television without Frontiers' Directive (<sup>1</sup>) ensures freedom of reception and obliges Member States not to restrict retransmission of television broadcasts from other Member States for reasons which fall within the fields coordinated by this directive. Falling short from the Commission's proposal, this directive does not contain any coordination in the copyright field.
2. & 3. The European Court of Justice has recognized in its judgment of 18 March 1980 (<sup>2</sup>) that the freedom to provide a service within the Community may under certain circumstances be restricted for reasons of copyright. Insofar as the encryption of the RAI-TV programmes is justified on the grounds of copyright it does not fall foul of provisions on the free movement of services.
4. The Commission has made numerous efforts to encourage and facilitate the free circulation of television programmes throughout the Community. The adoption of the 'Television without Frontiers' Directive has been a first step in the creation of a European audiovisual area.

The Commission has declared its intention to address the question of copyright and neighbouring rights in the broadcasting field in its communication on audiovisual policy of 21 February 1990 (<sup>3</sup>).

In November 1990 the Commission submitted to the professionals a discussion paper on copyright questions concerning cable and satellite broadcasts. One of the main objectives of the new Commission initiative is to facilitate the acquisition of rights for satellite broadcasts to the benefit of all parties concerned: broadcasters, right-owners and viewers. After having consulted the

interested parties in February this year, the Commission has adopted a proposal for a Directive of the Council on 17 July 1991.

(<sup>1</sup>) Council Directive 89/552/EEG of 3. 10. 1989 — OJ No L 298, 17. 10. 1989.

(<sup>2</sup>) Coditel, case 62/79, ECR, P. 881.

(<sup>3</sup>) COM(90) 78 final.

#### WRITTEN QUESTION No 1248/91

**by Mr Giuseppe Mottola (PPE)**  
**to the Commission of the European Communities**  
(11 June 1991)  
(91/C 259/87)

*Subject:* Sale of a state farm owned by the Naples Institute of Eastern Studies in Battipaglia (Salerno)

The Naples Institute of Eastern Studies owns a farm of over 750 hectares in Battipaglia (Salerno), which is now up for sale. This is a property of extremely great value in a rural farming area. Use of the land for non-agricultural purposes would have an adverse effect on the surrounding area, environment and landscape. Sale of the land will open the door to the possibility of private speculation.

1. Why is the institute selling the farm and is this being done in accordance with correct procedures? If not, can the Commission take steps to avoid the farm falling prey to private speculation?
2. Have the Ministry of Scientific and Technological Research, the regional or provincial authorities or other public bodies put in a bid for the farm with a view to setting up a 'research centre' in the agro-industrial and agri-food sectors for experimentation with and the promotion and marketing of typical agricultural products?
3. Have Community rules in respect of the defence and protection of the rural environment been respected?
4. Does the Commission not consider it urgently necessary to send officials to ensure that correct procedures are being followed in the sale of the land?

**Answer given by Mr Mac Sharry  
on behalf of the Commission**  
(26 July 1991)

The Commission does not consider that it has responsibility for any of the points raised in the question.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1268/91****by Mr Yves Verwaerde (LDR)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(14 June 1991)**(91/C 259/88)**Subject:* Adjustment of State monopolies of a commercial character

In the context of the completion of the single European market, what measures will the Commission be taking during the next few months to adjust the Member States' monopolies of a commercial character as referred to in Article 37(1) of the EEC Treaty?

**Answer given by Sir Leon Brittan  
on behalf of the Commission***(24 July 1991)*

The Commission would first point out that establishment of the single European market does not in itself entail any particular obligations for Member States operating monopolies of a commercial character.

Nevertheless, the Commission has the task of ensuring that Member States fulfil the obligations incumbent upon them under Article 37 (1).

Consequently, it has decided to initiate proceedings against a number of Member States that retain exclusive rights in respect of the importation and exportation of electricity and gas that are incompatible with the provisions of the Treaty. It has noted that intra-Community trade in these products is expanding significantly, albeit solely between the present holders of the exclusive rights. It reserves the right to request the adoption of additional measures concerning other exclusive or special rights if such measures prove necessary to ensure the free movement of electricity and gas within the single European market under conditions of undistorted competition.

threatens to distort competition by favouring certain undertakings or the production of certain goods.

The case law handed down by the Court of Justice has repeatedly established that, in the case of acquisition of shares by a Member State, payments to a private undertaking under conditions which would be unacceptable to a private investor operating under normal market conditions shall be regarded as State aid incompatible with the Community's competition policy.

The Italian Court of Auditors, which was instructed to give a ruling on the legitimacy of the entire transaction, stated in its final judgment that the fixing by the ENI of the price of each of the Montedison shares at Lit. 1 650, which is out of all proportion to their average quoted value, had been determined by the objective of acquiring public control of the Italian chemical industry and not by a neutral and objective assessment of the market.

Does the Commission not consider it necessary to exercise its own powers of investigation and control in this area under Article 92 of the EEC Treaty?

**Answer given by Sir Leon Brittan  
on behalf of the Commission***(17 July 1991)*

Although the Commission had knowledge that the joint-venture Enimont had been dissolved, before the question, the Commission was not aware of the existence of the ruling of the Italian Audit Court questioning the validity of the price fixed for the buying by the ENI (Ente Nazionale Idrocarburi) of the participation of Montedison.

Further to the question, the Commission has requested the Italian Authorities to send it all relevant information to assess this case in relation with the provisions on State aids of Articles 92 and 93 of the EEC Treaty.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1297/91****by Mr Enrico Falqui (V)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(14 June 1991)**(91/C 259/89)**Subject:* Conformity with Article 92 of the EEC Treaty of the acquisition by the ENI State-owned energy corporation of Montedison shares in the Enimont joint venture

Article 92 of the EEC Treaty prohibits aid granted by a Member State in any form whatsoever which distorts or

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1299/91****by Mr Ian White (S)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(14 June 1991)**(91/C 259/90)**Subject:* Frontier checks

Issue No 1 dated April 1991 of 'On track for Europe' published by British Rail suggests that 'new international trains promised to become mobile frontiers with

immigration officials checking passports on board as the Paris and Brussels trains speed towards London'. The same publication says 'there will be a checkpoint at Ashford as immigration officials consider they will not have enough time to carry out all necessary checks before arrival'.

Does the Commission accept that these proposals are legal?

If the Commission accepts that these proposals are legal, will it please state its legal authority for such a statement?

If the Commission does not accept that these checks are legal, will it please state specific legal reasons?

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

*(30 July 1991)*

For the Community to be a genuine internal market and for that market to function in the same way as a domestic market, physical frontiers must be abolished. There must be no controls at internal frontiers, just as there are no checks on goods and individuals at borders between regions within a national market.

The obligation to achieve this result permits no margin of discretion: in the Community all controls introduced under Community legislation and all other checks which Member States carry out at internal frontiers must be abolished, whatever their form or justification.

Article 8a of the Treaty stipulates that this result must be achieved by 31 December 1992 at the latest.

**WRITTEN QUESTION No 1683/91**

**by Mr Yves Verwaerde (LDR)**

**to the Commission of the European Communities**

*(6 August 1991)*

*(91/C 259/91)*

*Subject: Access to the grid systems by third parties*

In its communication to the Council of 29 September 1989 (COM(89) 336 final) the Commission announced the installation of a consultation procedure to examine in depth whether access to the grid systems by third parties should be organized and, if so, under which conditions.

This consultation procedure was initiated through two consultative committees, but dealt only with those factors to be taken into account in the event of a decision to open up the grid systems.

Can the Commission say how it now plans to pursue the consultation procedure as regards whether or not access to the grid systems by third parties is justified?

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

*(21 August 1991)*

The Honourable Member is referred to the Commission's written answer to his Oral Question H-699/91 during question time at Parliament's July 1991 part-session <sup>(1)</sup>.

<sup>(1)</sup> Debates of the European Parliament No 3-407 (July 1991).