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I

(Information)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

WRITTEN QUESTIONS WITH ANSWER

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2999/90

by Mr Pedro Canavarro (ARC)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 January 1991)

(92/C 162/01)

Subject: Implementation of Community law

For Europe to become a reality rather than just existing on paper, what measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure that Member States incorporate the obligations they have entered into at Community level into their national legislation, since there seems to be a shortfall in this area, taking account of the 1993 objective?

How does the Commission intend to ensure more widespread acquaintance with Community law, particularly in the professions most concerned, such as members of parliament, lawyers, magistrates, civil servants, interest groups and so on?

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

(31 March 1992)

The Commission would refer the Honourable Member to the reports it sends to Parliament each year on the monitoring of the application of Community law ⁽¹⁾ and to its periodical reports on progress in completing the internal market.

These reports show that despite the difficulties to which the Honourable Member refers, a great deal of progress has been achieved.

The Commission would point out that it has taken the following measures to encourage the Member States to transpose into their national legislation the obligations they have accepted at Community level:

- promoting the awareness of national political circles, in particular for the implementation of the White Paper on the completion of the internal market;

- regular contacts between Commission departments and national civil services. These can take the form of meetings, informal contacts, exchanges of officials, etc. They have produced concrete results so far and should go on proving effective;
- in applying the procedure laid down in Article 169 of the EEC Treaty, the Commission has put special stress on the implementation of Directives by the Member States. Since July 1990, it has been sending letters of formal notice without delay whenever Member States have failed to notify it of the national measures taken to implement directives which are due for implementation (over 600 cases since the procedure started).

More generally, and with a view to the inter-Governmental Conference on Political Union, the Commission made a number of suggestions to help resolve the specific problem of failure to comply promptly with Court judgments ⁽²⁾.

In order to ensure more widespread knowledge of Community law, the Commission is also involved in a number of activities in addition to the action taken by Member States:

- the Jean Monnet university chairs;
- the Erasmus programme;
- contacts with professional associations;
- Commission seminars and conferences for practising lawyers;
- contributions to the organization of postgraduate courses and establishment of associations of European lawyers to promote closer cooperation between lawyers and courts in Europe and exchanges of lawyers.

⁽¹⁾ COM(91) 321 final.

⁽²⁾ Bulletin of the EC, Supplement 2/91, pp. 150 *et seq.*

WRITTEN QUESTION No 434/91**by Mr Carlos Robles Piquer (PPE)****to European Political Cooperation***(11 March 1991)**(92/C 162/02)*

Subject: Study of the repercussions of the Gulf conflict for future political cooperation

There will be a variety of lessons to be learnt from the war in the Persian Gulf, including one of some significance for the European Community in that the conflict will have served to test the extent of political cohesion and prospects for a common external and defence policy for the Member States in the near future.

It would therefore be appropriate for EPC to promote a specific study — by impartial, eminent political figures — with a view to assessing how all the factors militating in favour of a common approach on external and defence policy for the Member States have operated in the light of the conflict.

Does EPC believe that such a move would be useful and that steps should be taken to put it in hand providing a framework for all those involved in the European cause to discuss the approach to be taken after these testing times are over?

Answer

(26 May 1992)

The Community and its Member States took careful note of the lessons to be learnt from their involvement in the Gulf Crisis when elaborating proposals for a common foreign and security policy in the context of the Treaty on European Union, signed at Maastricht on 7 February 1992 and due to come into effect on 1 January 1993. The Union sets as one of its objectives 'to assert its identity on the international scene, in particular through the implementation of a common foreign and security policy which shall include the eventual framing of a common defence policy which might in time lead to a common defence policy'. Member States have undertaken to support the Union's external and security policy actively and unreservedly in a spirit of loyalty and mutual solidarity and to refrain from any action which is contrary to the interests of the Union or likely to impair its effectiveness as a cohesive force in international relations. In addition, Member States have undertaken to inform and consult one another within the Council on any matter of foreign and security policy of general interest, in order to ensure that their combined influence is exerted as effectively as possible by means of concerted and convergent action.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 877/91**by Mr José Torres Couto (S)****to European Political Cooperation***(8 May 1991)**(92/C 162/03)*

Subject: Internal situation in Iraq

In view of the massacres perpetrated by Saddam Hussein's army against Shiite and Kurdish resistance movements in southern and northern Iraq, have the Foreign Ministers meeting in European Political Cooperation taken any measures to prevail upon the UN and international community to oblige the Iraqi dictator to cease his barbaric actions and at last respect the human rights of the long-suffering Iraqi people which is politically opposed to him? If so, what measures have they taken?

Answer

(26 May 1992)

The Community and its Member States remain very deeply concerned about the plight of the Shiites and the Kurds in Iraq. The situation of the Kurds in particular has been aggravated by continued military action and economic blockades conducted by the Iraqi authorities, combined with harsh winter conditions. The Community and its Member States have repeatedly called upon Iraq to cease such operations and other repressive measures.

The Community and its Member States fully support the United Nations Inter-Agency Programme for the region, and significant cash and in-kind contributions have been made, both at Community and national levels. The UN Agencies involved have a clear understanding of the humanitarian situation in the field, and the UN Guard Force of 500 men has played an important role in ensuring the safety of the population and of UN personnel. The Community and its Member States consider that the most effective way to help the Kurds and the Shiites is by acting in close cooperation with the UN effort.

The Community and its Member States have also repeatedly called on the Iraqi authorities to comply fully with the provisions of Security Council Resolution 688, which demands an end to the repression of Iraqi civilians, and to cooperate with the humanitarian relief programme of the United Nations. The Community and its Member States have also underlined the importance they attach to the full respect of human rights of all Iraqi citizens.

The Iraqi regime carries responsibility for the deterioration in the humanitarian situation in the region.

In this respect, the Community and its Member States continue to stress the need for an early and effective implementation of Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712, which would contribute to improving the living conditions of the civilian population in all of the country. The Community and its Member States hope the resumption of talks in Vienna between the UN and Iraq reflects a greater willingness on the part of this country to cooperate in the implementation of Resolutions 706 and 712.

The Community and its Member States, through the EPC framework, have kept these issues under constant review and remain open to further actions in this area.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1018/91

by Mr Pol Marck (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(22 May 1991)

(92/C 162/04)

Subject: Restrictions imposed by the French authorities

Belgian farmers complain that the Prefect of the Nord Department has prohibited the use of foreign mixed manure.

A number of Belgian mixed or stock-breeding farms, i.e. non-intensive holdings, with land on each side of the border, have suffered as a result.

Does the Commission consider that such a prohibition is compatible with equal treatment of undertakings?

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

(10 March 1992)

The Commission considers, in the absence at present of specific Community rules on the transfer and use within the Community of mixed manure, that where this product may represent a serious threat, for example to the health of livestock or to water quality Member States may impose restrictions, under the conditions laid down in Article 36 of the EEC Treaty. Such restrictions are permissible only if they do not discriminate against a product coming from another Member State and do not have the effect of creating unjustified or disproportionate barriers to Community trade.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1044/91

by Mr David Morris (S)

to European Political Cooperation

(22 May 1991)

(92/C 162/05)

Subject: Human rights in Myanmar

The 'State Law and Order Restoration Council' (SLORC), which now governs the country of Myanmar (formerly known as Burma), has been responsible for administering a 'Reign of Terror' in that country. It uses harassment, mass jailings, torture and murder in its attempts to prevent democratic opposition from the people of Myanmar.

What action are the Foreign Ministers meeting in EPC taking to seek to secure the release of 'Prisoners of Conscience' like Daw Aung, San Suu Kyi, U Aung Lwin, Bawk Law, U Chit Thaug, Ba Thaw, Tin U, Ma Theingi, U Nu, San Lin, Kye Maung and Oo Tha Tun in Myanmar?

What action are the Ministers taking to require the SLORC to accept the decision of the people of Myanmar in the May 1990 elections, where 80% of the electorate voted for the National League for Democracy?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1593/91

by Mrs Winifred Ewing (ARC)

to European Political Cooperation

(24 July 1991)

(92/C 162/06)

Subject: Human rights abuses in Burma

What actions are the Foreign Ministers meeting in Political Cooperation taking to condemn the continuing abuse of human rights in Burma and the failure by that country to transfer power to members of Parliament who were democratically elected in 1990?

Joint answer

to Written Questions Nos 1044/91 and 1593/91

(26 May 1992)

The Community and its Member States welcomed the outcome of the elections in Burma on 27 May 1990, which clearly demonstrated the wish of the Burmese people for a

democratic, multi-party system. At that time they called on the military rulers to respect the result, to transfer power without delay to a government designated by the newly elected parliament and to release political leaders in detention immediately.

Since then, the Community and its Member States have repeatedly made clear in *démarches* and statements their profound concern at the failure of the Burmese authorities to respond positively and to initiate a democratic process. The Community and its Member States have also condemned the numerous shortcomings in respect of internationally accepted rules of conduct and of human rights, the continuing harassment, detention and house arrest of opposition leaders, and the refusal to free political prisoners.

The Commission and its Member States are likewise appalled that the Burmese authorities continue to spend large amounts of their country's meagre resources on arms. Consequently on 29 July 1991 Foreign Ministers of the EC announced an arms embargo from Community countries to Burma. They also called on the rest of the international community to show similar restraint and to desist from all arms sales.

In their Declaration on Human Rights adopted at the Luxembourg European Council in June 1991 the Community and its Member States expressed the view that it is the legitimate and permanent duty of the world community and of all States acting individually or collectively to promote and safeguard human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the world.

They will consequently continue their efforts to urge the Burmese military government to introduce democracy in Burma and respect the mandate given by the people on 27 May 1990.

In this context, the Community and its Member States have welcomed the award of the Nobel Peace Prize 1991 to the leader of the Burmese opposition, Mrs Aung San Suu Kyi. On that occasion, they expressed the hope that the award would lead the Burmese military finally to recognize the isolation it has brought upon its country and the aversion felt by the international community for its outrageous policy of keeping the victor of the May 1990 general elections under continuous house arrest.

The Community and its Member States recall the approval, during the 48th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights, of a resolution on the situation in Burma, which expresses international concern at the seriousness of the Human Rights situation in the country.

On 20 March, the Community and its Member States issued a statement expressing their concern at the repression of national minorities in Burma including the persecution of Muslim Rohingyas which has caused about 170 to 180 000 refugees to flee into Bangladesh.

The refugees' suffering has appalled the international community. The Community and its Member States

stressed their concern at the threat to regional stability caused by the Burmese actions.

The Community and its Member States confirm their readiness to re-establish constructive relations, including a resumption of their programme of development assistance, with a Burma which is democratic and which respects human rights.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1166/91

by Mr Mihail Papayannakis (GUE)

to European Political Cooperation

(5 June 1991)

(92/C 162/07)

Subject: Kurdish refugees

It is currently proving extremely difficult to ensure that aid intended for Kurdish refugees concentrated in certain areas is reaching its intended recipients, one reason being the many intermediaries involved. In any case, this can only be a provisional solution. A more long-term solution would be to help them return to their homelands which were, however, razed between 1980 and 1982 by the Government of Iraq and subsequently mined, which would make any return extremely dangerous, as evidenced by eye-witnesses.

1. Is European Political Cooperation envisaging the possibility of requesting the governments concerned to provide safe passage to ensure that international aid can be channelled directly to the areas where the Kurdish refugees are concentrated without the need for intermediaries?
2. Can it request the Iraqi Government for a map indicating the location of the mines planted in the Kurdish homelands and will it consider sending specialized bomb disposal teams from the Member States to help secure the safe return of the Kurds?

Answer

(26 May 1992)

The Community and its Member States remain very deeply concerned about the plight of Kurdish refugees in Iraq. The situation of the Kurds has been aggravated by continued military action and economic blockades

conducted by the Iraqi authorities, combined with harsh winter conditions. The Community and its Member States have repeatedly called upon Iraq to cease such operations and other repressive measures and to respect the human rights of all Iraqi citizens.

The Community and its Member States consider that the UN have a major role to play in the protection of the Kurdish population in Iraq. For their part, they have cooperated with the UN Secretary General in contributing to a swift and effective response to the problem of refugees. They also launched the proposal for the establishment of security zones under UN supervision in northern Iraq, which has been successfully implemented. The UN guard force of 500 men has played an important role in ensuring the safety of the Kurdish refugees.

The Community and its Member States have also participated actively and substantially to the international humanitarian effort aimed at securing protection for the refugees. They have fully supported the United Nations Inter-Agency Programme for the region, and significant cash and in-kind contributions have been made, both at Community and national levels.

The Community and its Member States have also repeatedly called on the Iraqi authorities to comply fully with the provisions of Security Council Resolution 688, which demands an end to the repression of Iraqi civilians, and to cooperate with the humanitarian relief programme of the United Nations.

The Iraqi regime carries responsibility for the deterioration in the humanitarian situation in the region. In this respect, the Community and its Member States continue to stress the need for an early and effective implementation of Security Council Resolutions 706 and 712, which would contribute to improving the living conditions of the civilian population in the whole country. The Community and its Member States hope that the resumption of talks in Vienna between the UN and Iraq reflects a greater willingness on the part of this country to cooperate in the implementation of Resolutions 706 and 712.

The Community and its Member States, through the EPC framework, have kept these issues under constant review and remain open to further actions in this area to permit the safe return of the Kurdish refugees to their homelands.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1301/91

by Mr Paul Larñoye, Mrs Solange Fernex, Mr Herman Verbeek and Mr Friedrich-Wilhelm Graefe zu Baringdorf
(V)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(14 June 1991)

(92/C 162/08)

Subject: Beef cattle production in the EC

Can the Commission provide answers to the following questions regarding certain statistics in the area of beef cattle production?

1. How many beef cattle (for meat production only) existed 10 years ago in each of the present Member States of the European Community? What are the current figures?
2. What is the total amount of cereal grains fed to beef cattle per animal and per EC Member State?
3. What percentage of the EC's cereal production is used for beef cattle feed?
4. How much cereal is imported into the EC (by country) for beef cattle feed? Where do the imports come from?
5. What quantity of which pesticides and fertilizers are applied annually to all the crops produced in Europe for the feeding of beef cattle?
6. How much energy is consumed annually in the EC for the different levels of beef production?
7. How much water is used annually in the EC for the production of beef (drinking water for the cattle, water for the growing of the feed crops, etc.)?
8. How much NO₂ (methane) and CO₂ (carbon dioxide) is released in the EC annually by beef cattle themselves and the processing of beef products?
9. How much beef meat is imported annually into the Member States of the EC? What is the origin of these imports?

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

(14 February 1992)

1. Between 1980 and 1990 the Community's cattle population (beef and dairy) fell by 5,7%. For dairy cows the fall was 16,6%, owing mainly to the introduction of milk quotas. For other (largely beef) cattle there was a drop of only 1% over the period.

Trend of cattle numbers

	December 1980			December 1990		
	Total	Dairy cows	Other	Total	Dairy cows	Other
Germany	20 665	5 469	15 196	19 513	4 770	14 743
France	23 605	7 120	16 485	21 500	5 271	16 229
Italy	8 836	3 013	5 823	8 235	2 495	5 740
Netherlands	5 010	2 356	2 654	4 830	1 863	2 967
Belgium	2 896	977	1 919	3 161	834	2 327
Luxembourg	220	69	151	215	58	157
United Kingdom	13 062	3 296	9 766	11 846	2 890	8 956
Ireland	5 826	1 449	4 377	6 029	1 387	4 642
Denmark	2 921	1 066	1 855	2 241	769	1 472
Greece	881	242	639	687	235	452
Spain	4 495	1 801	2 694	5 001	1 575	3 426
Portugal	1 340 (*)	340 (*)	1 000 (*)	1 340	537	803
Total	89 757	27 197	62 560	84 597	22 684	61 913
EUR 12				-5 160	-4 513	-647
Trend from 1980 to 1990				-5,7%	-16,6%	-1,0%

(*) Estimate.

2, 3 and 4. Consumption of cereals by beef cattle

Building on the work of national administrations and professionals operating in the field the Commission continues to work towards a system for monitoring feed use by category of animal, if possible in each Member State. What at first sight appears a simple task is in fact extremely difficult owing to its technical complexity and the lack in most Member States of an administrative structure that can provide the necessary data. For example, national authorities often do not distinguish between feed inputs to the beef and dairy cattle sectors. This means that an up-to-date feed balance cannot be compiled for resources (in particular for the coarse fodder trend).

Once a system has been set up the Commission will have an indicator allowing it to assess consumption of all animal feed by broad category of animal.

At the present time an estimate can be made on the following assumptions:

- the concentrates fed to all cattle in the Community (milk and beef) account for 25% of their total feed demand;

- the breakdown of total cereal consumption by broad livestock category in the Community corresponds to that of total concentrate demand.

It can be estimated that cereal consumption by all cattle is roughly 30% of total livestock consumption of cereals (reckoned at 79 million tonnes in 1989/90), i.e. some 24 million tonnes or 15% of Community cereal production.

Annual cereal imports from third countries for livestock feeding in the Community are estimated at 2 to 3 million tonnes.

5, 6, 7 and 8. The Commission must inform the Honourable Members that it has no access to the detailed information required to answer this type of question.

9. Beef imports, chiefly under special arrangements with third countries involving part or full suspension of the levy and/or customs duties increased through the eighties from 400 000 to 500 000 tonnes, i.e. by 2,5% a year on average.

The quantities imported each year by each Member State and the tonnages imported from each separate country

are shown in two tables that the Commission is sending direct to the Honourable Members and to Parliament's Secretariat.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1303/91

by Mr Henry McCubbin (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 June 1991)

(92/C 162/09)

Subject: EC loans to companies

With regard to the £73,8 million loan that was awarded to TESCO Company Limited in the United Kingdom and to the fact that the chairman of that company awarded himself a £1 million wage increase, could the Commission please state if it means-tests the directors of companies who are in receipt of grants and loans from Europe to ensure that they actually need them?

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

(25 March 1992)

The objective of ECSC conversion loans under Article 56 of the Treaty is to revitalize the areas affected by the reduction of activity and of employment in the coal and steel industries and improve the employment possibilities for those who have been made redundant by restructuring and for the disappearance of those industries.

Loan beneficiaries have a contractual obligation to complete a capital investment project and create and maintain permanent jobs. ECSC would not therefore grant a loan to a company which it considered would be unable to fulfil these obligations.

A part of the appraisal of a potential loan beneficiary involves a financial analysis of the company including an evaluation of its ability to carry out the capital expenditure necessary to complete the project and repay the ECSC loan. The financial needs of the investment project are assessed by the Commission on the basis of the proposed financing plan.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1319/91

by Mr Karel Pinxten (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 June 1991)

(92/C 162/10)

Subject: Netherlands banking sector — special annual levy on accounts of non-residents employed in the Netherlands

1. A number of Dutch banks impose a special annual levy on accounts of non-residents employed in the Netherlands. Is this compatible with Community law, and in particular:

- Article 7 of the EEC Treaty,
- Article 48 of the EEC Treaty,
- Commission Decision 89/512/EEC of 19 July 1989 (1), and
- the general principle of freedom of movement for persons, services, goods and capital?

If so, can the amount of this special levy be fixed totally arbitrarily by individual banks?

2. The justification given for such a practice is the requirement imposed by the Nederlands Bank NV (Central Bank) that all transactions affecting a non-resident account must be reported to it. Is this compatible with the principles of Community law?

3. Is such a system generally established in the twelve Member States?

(1) OJ No L 253, 30. 8. 1989, p. 1.

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

(24 January 1992)

1. From the information available to the Commission, it appears that a certain number of Dutch banks levy an annual fee for the opening and management of non-resident accounts.

This does not, however, appear to be in conflict with Article 48 of the EEC Treaty, given that this Article refers to discrimination on grounds of nationality, while the levy in question is based on a distinction between residents and non-residents; even Dutch citizens living abroad and opening an account in the Netherlands may, by the banks in question, be charged the annual levy. As regards Article 7 of the EEC Treaty the same argument applies. Of course, discriminations on grounds of nationality can also be found in cases where a measure, while formally

applying without distinction to own and foreign nationals, in practice operates to the detriment mainly of foreigners. However, a less favourable treatment, not flowing from decisions of public authorities but from commercial practices of private firms, can only in certain circumstances be regarded as infringing Article 7 of the EEC Treaty.

Commission Decision 89/512/EEC of 19 July 1989 referred to in the Honourable Member's question concerns certain interbank agreements. As far as the Commission is aware, the annual levy charged by some banks on non-resident accounts is not the subject of such an agreement. As the Dutch banks seem to be fixing levies for non-resident accounts freely, it will be possible for a customer to compare the offers of different banks and possibly find credit institutions which, instead of an annual levy, may charge specific commissions for international operations.

In any case, the general principles of freedom of movement for persons, services, goods and capital do not seem to be restricted by measures for which the Dutch Government could be held responsible.

Nevertheless, the Commission, in the context of its present work on further integration of payment systems, is looking into the question whether or not the present distinction between resident and non-resident accounts in most Member States could be adapted in a way which would take better account of the dimension of the internal market.

2. The main reason for the distinction between resident and non-resident accounts seems to be notification requirements imposed for non-resident accounts. These notifications do not seem to conflict with Community law, given the provisions in Article 4 of Directive 88/361/EEC of 24 June 1988 ⁽¹⁾. However, here again the Commission is presently studying whether notification procedures can be adapted in such a way as not to hamper cross-border payments.

3. Notification requirements of this kind do exist in most Member States; according to the information available to the Commission, such notifications are, however, not required in the United Kingdom.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 178, 8. 7. 1988.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1425/91

by Mr Mihail Papayannakis (GUE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(12 July 1991)

(92/C 162/11)

Subject: Hunting of migratory birds on the island of Chios

Chios, an island in the North Eastern Aegean, is one of the main points of passage for migratory birds en route from North Eastern Europe to Africa. A report published by the World Wildlife Fund states that approximately 8

million birds of 60 different species are killed every year on Chios and that the population of these birds has fallen by between 30 and 90% between 1962 and 1990.

The methods used to hunt the birds (nets, limed twigs, etc.) are illegal and unlawful hunting extends to the neighbouring island of Psara and Andipsara, the inhabitants of which frequently complain about poachers camping on their islands.

Given that the hunting of protected species and the illegal methods used are violation of Greek and Community law (Berne convention ratified by Greece by Law 1335 of 14 March 1983 (Directive 79/409/EEC), Presidential Decree 66 of January 1981 on the protection of natural flora and wildlife), will the Commission say if it will make representations to the Greek authorities to control the trade in and the illegal hunting and stuffing of birds more effectively and to destroy illegal traps and in general to secure compliance with Directive 79/409/EEC ⁽¹⁾ and, if possible, help establish a system of protection on the island to ensure the survival of species such as Eleonora's falcon (*Falco eleonarae*), Bonelli's eagle (*Hieratus fasciatus*), the Roller (*Coracias garrulus*), all species of heron, and other migratory birds?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 103, 25. 4. 1979, p. 1.

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

(1 April 1992)

The Greek authorities, particularly the Ministry of Agriculture, are well aware of the problem raised by the Honourable Member and have already requested the regional authorities to take the measures necessary to ensure full application of the Community legislation on the islands of Chios, Psara and Antipsara.

As regards the establishment of a system to protect Chios and the species concerned, the Commission proposes to examine, with the Greek authorities, the possibility of assistance in this field.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1602/91

by Mrs Cristiana Muscardini (NI)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 July 1991)

(92/C 162/12)

Subject: International transport of animals

The recent strike (April 1991) by Italian customs officials caused more than 3 000 lorries to be blocked at the borders. Given that no fewer than 96 horses were packed into three double-container lorries and, in particular, that these horses had undergone a 40-day crossing from South America, what action does the Commission intend to take against the many infringements of Community law represented by the transport of these animals?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1673/91by **Mr Louis Lauga (RDE)**to the **Commission of the European Communities**

(6 August 1991)

(92/C 162/13)

Subject: Respect for legislation on international transport of live animals

During the strike by Italian customs officers, when 3 000 trucks were held up on the eastern side of the border and 500 on the western side, there was seen to be some difficulty in enforcing legislation on international transport of live animals.

Such violations infringe the European Convention.

In addition, it was possible to see the terrible conditions of sea crossings from South America when, in order to overcome transport difficulties, animals were unloaded from ships in French ports before continuing by road to Italy.

Is the Commission aware of these facts? Does it plan to ask importing and exporting countries to respect international conventions and does it plan to demand that the essential controls are put in place?

Joint answer to Written Questions Nos 1602/91 and 1673/91
given by **Mr Mac Sharry**
on behalf of the Commission
(13 March 1992)

The Commission is fully aware of the animal welfare problems caused by the strikes of Italian customs officers.

The rules currently applicable are being improved through the legislative provisions on Community harmonization in this area adopted in 1990 and 1991⁽¹⁾, particularly as regards the following:

- The current requirement for checks at frontiers between the Member States of the Community is abolished and replaced by checks at the point of dispatch and destination; random checks may also be carried out during transport, as long as they do not become systematic.
- Checks on animals originating in third countries are to be made at the Community's external frontiers. However, in this case the checks must be carried out at inspection posts having the necessary facilities for the care, feeding and watering of the animals; these posts must also be situated and designed in such a way as to give priority to checks on animals over all other goods transported.
- Commission experts may carry out on-the-spot checks in collaboration with the competent authorities of the Member States in so far as they prove necessary for the harmonized application of Community rules.
- Before 1 July 1992, the Commission will send the Council a report prepared on the basis of the

analytical work of the Veterinary Science Committee, possibly accompanied by proposals on fixing a maximum journey time for certain types of animal.

- Lastly, Community legislation includes specific animal welfare measures in the case of strikes or in other unforeseen circumstances likely to delay their transport, for example at ports, marshalling yards, etc., where delays can occur (see, in this regard, Article 7.1 of Directive 91/628/EEC).

The abovementioned measures, which must be incorporated into national law by the Member States before 1 July 1992 at the latest (1 January 1993 for Directive 91/628/EEC), take account of Parliament's proposal contained in the resolution on the welfare of livestock⁽²⁾.

Pending the Member States's incorporation into national law of the new Community legislation mentioned above, the Commission, in its role as guardian of the EEC Treaty, will take the necessary measures to ensure that the Member States observe the provisions of the Community legislation currently applicable⁽³⁾ which lay down in particular that the Member States should ensure that the necessary measures are taken to prevent or to reduce to a minimum any suffering by animals, especially in the case of strikes or any case of *force majeure* impeding observance of the Community provisions normally applicable. To this end, the Commission has initiated the procedure laid down in Article 169 of the EEC Treaty against Italy both in respect of suffering caused to animals as a result of the strikes by customs officers and frontier veterinary officials and as a result of the closure of customs and veterinary offices at weekends, the animals being therefore unable to receive the attention required under Community rules to avoid undue suffering on their part.

⁽¹⁾ Council Directive 90/425/EEC of 26 June 1990 concerning veterinary and zootechnical checks applicable in intra-Community trade in certain live animals and products with a view to the completion of the internal market (OJ No L 224, 18. 8. 1990). Council Directive 90/426/EEC of 26 June 1990 on animal health conditions governing the movement and import from third countries of equidae (OJ No L 224, 18. 8. 1990). Council Directive 91/496/EEC of 15 July 1991 laying down the principles governing the organization of veterinary checks on animals entering the Community from third countries and amending Directives 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC and 90/675/EEC (OJ No L 268, 24. 9. 1991). Council Directive 91/628/EEC of 19 November 1991 on the protection of animals during transport and amending Directives 90/425/EEC and 91/496/EEC (OJ No L 340, 11. 12. 1991).

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 229, 9. 9. 1985 and OJ No C 76, 23. 3. 1987.

⁽³⁾ Council Directive 77/489/EEC of 18 July 1977 on the protection of animals during international transport (OJ No L 200, 8. 8. 1977). Council Directive 81/389/EEC of 12 May 1981 establishing measures necessary for the implementation of Directive 77/489/EEC on the protection of animals during international transport (OJ No L 150, 6. 6. 1981).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1822/91

by Mr Stephen Hughes (S)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(1 September 1991)
(92/C 162/14)

Subject: Current funding level of the Western Know-How Fund

Could the Commission provide information on the current funding level of the Western Know-How Fund through the European Tempus programme?

**Answer given by Mrs Papandreou
on behalf of the Commission**
(10 March 1992)

The Western Know-How Fund is a fund established by the United Kingdom Government to support the development of democratic practices and the free market in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe by financing projects designed to provide technical expertise and advice in a wide range of areas. As such, it is a bilateral initiative and is independent of any Community action in this area.

The Tempus scheme, on the other hand, forms part of the Community's assistance to these countries, that is, the Phare programme. Tempus is concerned with one specific area: the development of the higher education systems of Central and Eastern Europe. It was successfully launched last year with a budget — drawn down from the overall Phare-envelope — of ECU 25 million in 1990 for three eligible countries with an expected ECU 70 million for 1991 covering six eligible countries. Although Tempus is primarily a Community programme, it is open to the involvement of institutions from any of the G-24 countries participating in the provision of coordinated Western assistance to Central and Eastern Europe.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1869/91

by Mrs Johanna Grund (NI)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(1 September 1991)
(92/C 162/15)

Subject: Rehabilitation centres for drug addicts and people dependent on drugs

Can the Commission state how many people are currently dependent on, or addicted to, drugs on a permanent basis in the 12 Member States of the EC, bearing in mind those not included in the official national statistics?

Where are the centres of the drug trade and drug abuse in the European Community and how many rehabilitation centres are available for addicts? To what extent are these centres funded by the Member States or by the Community? Are there any organizations at Community level engaged on a permanent basis in the exchange of information regarding treatment and know-how and the allocation of financial resources to promote long-term rehabilitation?

**Answer given by Mrs Papandreou
on behalf of the Commission**
(6 March 1992)

There are no general figures nor comparable data regarding the exact number of drug users currently in the European Community.

However, on 8 November 1990, the Commission presented a report⁽¹⁾ to the Council on national programmes for drug demand reduction in the European Community, including chapters on statistics and epidemiology. Treatment and rehabilitation were also part of the report.

As a follow-up to this first report, the Commission is preparing a second, which will also present activities undertaken at Community level in the field of drug demand reduction.

⁽¹⁾ COM(90) 527.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1909/91

by the following Members: Willy De Clercq (LDR),
Konstantinos Stavrou (PPE), Eusebio Cano Pinto (S) and
James Moorhouse (ED)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(2 September 1991)
(92/C 162/16)

Subject: Report on the EEC's trade policy within the framework of the mechanism for reviewing the trade policy of the GATT contracting parties

1. What conclusions is the Commission thinking of drawing from the criticism levelled at the European Community's trade policy in the report by the GATT Secretary-General?

2. Is the Commission willing in future to forward to the European Parliament its report on the EEC's trade policy within the framework of the mechanism for reviewing the trade policy of the GATT contracting parties at the same time as it sends it to the GATT Secretary-General and to ask Parliament for its opinion?

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

(3 March 1992)

1. The Honourable Members' question refers solely to the GATT Secretary-General's report whereas the GATT trade policy review mechanism is based on two reports, the second being drawn up by the contracting party under review.

In the Commission's opinion, the importance of the GATT document should not be over-estimated because, on the one hand, it is a background document which provides a useful basis for discussion and, on the other hand, it has to be read in conjunction with the report presented by the Commission on behalf of the European Communities.

The collective position of the GATT as such on the Community's trade policy is therefore given, following a general debate, by the GATT Council. The conclusions of this debate are definitely less critical and more balanced than the original GATT report with regard to the Community's trade policy.

On this basis, the Commission considers that the first application of the trade review policy mechanism to the Community (April 1991) was a satisfactory exercise, which provided the Community with an opportunity to explain its policies in detail and to develop its approach in some more complex and sensitive sectors such as agriculture, textiles and cars.

The points of view expressed by our GATT partners will be taken into account in the drawing up of trade policy and in the presentation of the second report on the Community, which is scheduled for the end of 1992.

2. The Commission agrees in future to send Parliament its reports on the Community's trade policy at the same time as it sends them to the GATT Secretary-General. It would not, however, be appropriate to ask Parliament for a formal opinion.

The document prepared by the Commission represents an explanation of the current trade policy and, therefore, contains no new trade policy proposals.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1932/91

by Mrs Christine Crawley (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(2 September 1991)

(92/C 162/17)

Subject: UK regional patents-collection

The UK Office of Arts and Libraries has recently cut its funding to the British Library which has, in turn, passed

on this cut by no longer supplying, as it has previously, US patents (the single most important collection of patents and widely used for reference) to five regional libraries; this will greatly disadvantage small and medium sized businesses in the UK which will have to travel to London for information. Does the Commission not feel this centralization of information is contrary to its policy of strengthening regions and would it comment on the disadvantage this creates for the UK as against, say, France and Spain, which are strengthening regional support for patent information?

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

(5 February 1992)

Most of the larger Member States, including the United Kingdom, have a patent information network linking the national patent office to regional offices and/or patent libraries. Such networks not only provide information concerning the rights conferred by national patent legislation, but also provide a wealth of world-wide technological information, most of which is not available in books or periodicals. The Commission therefore fully understands the Honourable Member's concern following the cut in funding of the British Library.

However, a direct comparison in this respect between the United Kingdom and France or Spain does not seem entirely justified because the starting points are quite different. The UK has for many years had an extensive network of local patent libraries, whereas such a network has only quite recently been created in France, and is now in the process of being set up in Spain.

According to the Commission's sources of information, the availability in the UK of copies of the national patent documents will not be affected, but the collections of microfilm copies of American patent specifications and of documents issued under the PCT (Patent Cooperation Treaty) as well as the microform issued by the former INPADOC, which is now a part of the European Patent Office, will be discontinued in several regional patent information centres. While it must be hoped that local or regional authorities will appreciate the importance of the availability of this documentation to local trade and industry, the steps which they might take must, in keeping with the Community's subsidiarity principle, remain an internal matter for the United Kingdom.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 1970/91
by Mr Elio Di Rupo (S)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(15 September 1991)
(92/C 162/18)

Subject: Community programmes and networks for the education and training of young people

The programmes for young people in the Community (Erasmus, Lingua and Comett etc.) satisfy a real need in terms of education and training and they are appreciated by all.

However, many young Europeans complained that the programmes are on the whole intended for groups, that they are restricted to specific schools and universities, etc., and that they really only affect a limited number of students.

Does the Commission agree that all students and young workers in the Community should be given proper information on all the education and training programmes available? Does it realize that only the best informed can benefit from the opportunities on offer?

Answer given by Mrs Papandreou
on behalf of the Commission
(24 January 1992)

The Commission is aware of the problem raised by the Honourable Member. In this context, it has to be stressed that the purpose of the Community programmes is to act as a catalyst to stimulate complementary initiatives within the Member States. Given the dimensions of the target groups (i.e. more than 3 500 higher educated institutions and almost seven million students), the different programmes cannot give comprehensive coverage, but are designed to produce a multiplier effect.

The Commission attaches great importance to the provision of clear, concise information about its programmes in these fields. This is reflected in the measures the Commission has adopted to ensure well-targeted and comprehensive information, developed in full cooperation with the authorities designated by each Member State.

At Community level, for each programme, the Commission produces a Vademecum and special leaflets in all the official languages which explain in detail the conditions governing participation in the programmes. For most programmes, a newsletter is regularly issued to inform about developments and progress. Finally, the newsletter 'Education & Training', produced by the

Commission (Task Force Human Resources, Education, Training and Youth), gives a global overview of the initiatives undertaken by the Commission in the fields concerned.

The EURYDICE Network and CEDEFOP also contribute to the circulation of information on the Community programmes. Moreover, as each programme is managed in partnership with the Member States, they, also, have set up structures which serve as channels of communication to promoters.

On 26 June 1991, the Commission presented a communication entitled 'Informing Young People about Europe' to the first formal Council of Youth Ministers in Luxembourg.

The Commission wants to increase the quantity and quality of information about its programmes, its institutions and on Europe, destined for young people. In this context, a comprehensive set of actions is in preparation, which will be presented to the competent bodies according to the normal procedure.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2021/91

by Mr Elmar Brok (PPE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(23 September 1991)
(92/C 162/19)

Subject: Imports of birds caught in the wild

The EC is the largest market for birds caught in the wild. This trade, which is governed by the laws of free trade, cannot guarantee compliance with the principles of animal welfare and the protection of species. Legal imports into the EC of birds captured in the wild have been estimated at between 1 and 3 million per year. However, of all animals caught in the wild, only one in five survives. Almost all birds living wild which are traded in this way could also be bred in the EC.

Is the Commission aware of this state of affairs?

What does it propose to do about it?

Answer given by Mr Ripa di Meana
on behalf of the Commission
(18 March 1992)

The Commission should like to refer the Honourable Member to its reply to Written Question No 783/91 by Mrs Pollack (1).

The proposal for a Regulation on the possession of and trade in specimens of species of wild fauna and flora referred to in that reply was adopted by the Commission on 13 November 1991 ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 281, 28. 10. 1991.

⁽²⁾ COM(91) 448.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2142/91

by Mr Herman Verbeek (V)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(26 September 1991)

(92/C 162/20)

Subject: Internal market for postal services

1. Can the Commission confirm press reports (e.g. the *Financial Times*, 5 June 1991) that it intends, by virtue of its powers pursuant to Article 90 (3), to liberalize the EC market for postal services — without consulting Parliament or the Economic and Social Committee?

2. Does the Commission not believe that where changes in public services are involved which can have far-reaching effects for all EC citizens it is particularly important to involve all the parties concerned, including Parliament, in the decision-making process, and that changes in the status of public enterprises should therefore not be made on the basis of Article 90 (3) of the Treaty?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2185/91

by Mr Giuseppe Mottola (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 October 1991)

(92/C 162/21)

Subject: Use of Article 90 of the Treaty of Rome for the liberalization of postal services subject to a monopoly

It appears that the Commission of the European Communities is doing its utmost to use the powers existing under Article 90 of the Treaty of Rome to set in train within the EEC the progressive liberalization of postal services subject to a monopoly.

1. Is the Commission aware that the SILULAP-CISL trade union of Italian post and telegraph workers is extremely concerned at this turn of events which will have adverse consequences not only for all customers in the Community but also for the over 1,5 million workers employed in the postal sector?

2. Does the Commission realize that, by using the powers under Article 90 of the Treaty of Rome, an

attempt is being made to avoid consulting the European Parliament and employers and labour?

3.. Does the Commission not realize that destruction of the postal monopoly would certainly make it difficult to carry out the essential task of modernizing and restructuring the industry which has already been started in Italy and the legislation for which is currently passing through Parliament?

Joint answer to Written Questions Nos 2142/91 and 2185/91

given by Sir Leon Brittan
on behalf of the Commission

(7 February 1992)

The Commission is aware of the importance of the postal sector for EC citizens and, in particular, for the large number of employees of national postal services.

It considers, moreover, that it is essential to modernize and restructure the sector in question with a view to completion of the internal market in accordance with the Single European Act. To this end, it is preparing to publish a green paper on the market in postal services which will analyse the problems arising in the Community postal sector. This document will also propose a coherent set of measures for establishing a Community postal area which is compatible with a frontier-free Europe. After adoption by the Commission, the proposals contained in the document will be the subject of public consultations lasting four or five months.

These measures could be implemented by means of Community directives based on Article 100 or 100a of the EEC Treaty as regards general aspects of harmonization and on Article 90 (3) as regards competition aspects.

It should be stressed that the Commission has recourse to directives based on Article 90 (3) when preventive measures are necessary in order to avoid infringements of the Treaty's rules or where accompanying measures must consist in more than a mere finding of a failure to fulfil an obligation within the meaning of Article 169. It should also be pointed out that the only purpose served by such instruments is to clarify the obligations incumbent on Member States under the Treaty.

The Commission reaffirms its intention to conduct in the most appropriate manner detailed discussion with all interested parties, including of course Parliament, before adopting such directives.

However, it cannot evade its duty under Article 90 (3) of the Treaty to address, where necessary, appropriate decisions to Member States enacting or maintaining in force measures contrary to the rules contained in the Treaty, including in the field of competition.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2149/91**by Mr Ernest Glinne (S)****to European Political Cooperation***(4 October 1991)**(92/C 162/22)*

Subject: Admission of Israel to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

At its July session in Geneva the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) ratified the admission of Israel as a full member of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

Some 20 countries supported Israel's application, which was approved on 26 July by 32 votes to 14, with five abstentions.

1. How did the delegations representing the Member States of the Community vote?
2. Did EPC deliver an opinion prior to the vote? What was the Council's position?
3. Since Israel is currently unable to take its seat in Baghdad on the UN's Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), did the Member States giving their approval indicate that, should the conference to organize peace in the region prove a success, it would be more appropriate for Israel to be part of ESCWA rather than ECE?

Answer*(26 May 1992)*

Israel was admitted as a temporary member of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) during the session in Geneva in July 1991 and not as a full member, in recognition of the fact that she was unable to take her seat in Baghdad at the ECOSOC Commission for her own region, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA).

Israel's application was co-sponsored by the Member States of the Community, among other co-sponsors.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2194/91**by Mr Herman Verbeek (V)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(4 October 1991)**(92/C 162/23)*

Subject: Decision-making on authorizing the use of avoparcin in dairy cattle fodder

1. Why was there no political consultation with the European Parliament — as in the case of BST — on authorizing the lactation stimulant avoparcin?

2. Is it standard practice for the Member States to have to decide individually on the authorizing of this substance after the Standing Committee for feedingstuffs has given its approval, which may ultimately result in a situation in which avoparcin can be used in some Member States within the internal market and not in others?

3. In which Member States have decisions now been taken on the authorization of avoparcin as a fodder additive to stimulate lactation, and what decisions were taken?

4. What means of verification can be used to ensure that avoparcin, which has already been used in the EC for some time as a growth promotant for poultry, beef cattle and pigs, is not also used as a lactation stimulant?

5. Is the Commission prepared to make this issue the subject of political decision-making at EC level and, in this context, to inform Parliament without delay of the present state of affairs?

**Answer given by Mr Mac Sharry
on behalf of the Commission***(20 March 1992)*

1. In terms of general principle, the use of growth promoters in the form of additives is broadly permissible under Council Directive 70/524/EEC ('). For this reason the Commission has not felt it necessary to enter into a policy discussion with Parliament over the application to authorize the lactation stimulant avoparcin. It was, in any case, legally required to apply only the criteria laid down in the Directive as regards authorization of avoparcin.

As to comparing avoparcin with BST, this is not really possible because of the very different nature of the two substances in terms of both their action and their form of administration; moreover, the productivity gains obtained from BST are out of all proportion to those obtained from avoparcin.

2. The Community rules lay down two procedures for authorizing additives:

- 'Community' authorization, which involves the substance being added to Annex I to Directive 70/524/EEC when it is established that all the conditions for general authorization in the Community have been fulfilled, and

- 'national' authorization, which involves the additive being listed in Annex II to Directive 70/524/EEC in cases where Member States wish to verify the efficacy of the preparation in the local conditions under which it will be administered.

The latter case is designed to give Member States the option of temporarily authorizing use of an additive on their territory in order to verify its efficacy; it is natural therefore that each Member State should decide for itself whether or not to take up this option.

Given that this second option is extremely short-lived and that the Member States do, in the main, make very wide use of it, the procedure to ensure that Community authorizations are justified creates very little distortion in practice.

3. According to information obtained by the Commission, the use of avoparcin in feeds for dairy cows in currently authorized in all the Member States except Germany, Denmark and the Netherlands.

4. The nutritional requirements of poultry, beef cattle, pigs and dairy cows are so different that it is practically impossible for a feedingstuff to be used otherwise than for the originally intended purpose.

5. As stated before by the Commission, the use of productivity stimulants and the use of additives in general have both been subject to the official decision procedure. It will be recalled that Parliament itself, prior to delivering its opinion at the time, consulted its invited experts on the advisability of using various additives and, in particular, growth promoters.

The Commission recently commissioned a study on the impact on Community agriculture of the growth promoters authorized under Directive 70/524/EEC. It should be in a position, in the near future, to present a report on the conclusions of that study.

(¹) OJ No L 270, 14. 12. 1970.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2230/91

by Mr Victor Manuel Arbeloa Muru (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 October 1991)

(92/C 162/24)

Subject: Reduction of milk quotas

What short and convincing explanation are we to give our farmers for the decision of the Council of Agricultural Ministers to reduce milk quotas by 2%?

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

(22 January 1992)

In 1990 the intervention agencies bought in, with a view to withdrawing from the market:

— more than 250 000 tonnes of butter, or the equivalent of 5,5 million tonnes of milk, and

— more than 337 000 tonnes of skimmed-milk powder, or the equivalent of 3,7 million tonnes of milk.

The serious surplus situation on the market in 1990 led to the reduction in milk prices which adversely affected producers' incomes. The Council therefore had to end these unfavourable developments, which were giving rise to additional expenditure without any benefit to producers and, in line with the requirements of current budget discipline, to restore better market equilibrium by reducing the guaranteed total quantities of the Member States by 2%, i.e. the equivalent of about 2 million tonnes of milk.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2275/91

by Mr José Valverde López (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 October 1991)

(92/C 162/25)

Subject: Failure by Spain to comply with Council Directive 80/836/Euratom

Has the Commission sent reasoned opinions to the Spanish Government for failing to comply with Council Directive 80/836/Euratom on the environment (¹), by neglecting to notify it of national implementing measures, and what is the present situation as regards the infringement proceedings?

(¹) OJ No L 246, 17. 9. 1980, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2276/91

by Mr José Valverde López (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(18 October 1991)

(92/C 162/26)

Subject: Failure by Spain to comply with Council Directive 84/467/Euratom

Has the Commission sent reasoned opinions to the Spanish Government for failing to comply with Council Directive 84/467/Euratom on the environment (¹) by neglecting to notify it of national implementing measures, and what is the present situation as regards the infringement proceedings?

(¹) OJ No L 265, 5. 10. 1984, p. 1.

Joint answer to Written Questions Nos 2275/91 and 2276/91
given by Mr Delors
on behalf of the Commission
 (4 March 1992)

Infringement proceedings were initiated against Spain for failure to adopt proper national measures implementing Directives 80/336/Euratom and 84/467/Euratom.

The Spanish authorities partly rectified the situation. However, as the main points of the two Directives have not yet been properly incorporated in national law, a reasoned opinion has been sent to the Spanish authorities.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2351/91
by Mr Proinsias De Rossa (CG)
to the Commission of the European Communities
 (22 October 1991)
 (92/C 162/27)

Subject: Southern Cross route (Dublin) and related road proposals

The environmental impact study relating to the above indicates that there will be very high air pollution levels at Kilcross, which is adjacent to the route, and in particular that nitrogen oxides would be over twice the limits set down in Directive 85/203/EEC⁽¹⁾.

Will the Commission confirm that it will not support the project unless and until remedies are found for this situation? Will it also confirm that it will not provide support unless there is full and adequate local consultation which takes account of other legitimate concerns, some of which have been identified by the Kilcross Action Group as child safety, noise pollution, loss of privacy and open space, general disruption, etc.?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 87, 27. 3. 1985, p. 1.

Answer given by Mr Millan
on behalf of the Commission
 (5 March 1992)

The Commission has received a formal complaint against Ireland concerning the Dublin Southern Cross Motorway scheme. The complaint is being examined in the light of Community environmental law. If and when the Commission is of the opinion that an infringement has occurred, assistance from the European Regional Development Fund in respect of the project will be suspended.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2380/91
by Mrs Raymonde Dury (S)
to the Commission of the European Communities
 (22 October 1991)
 (92/C 162/28)

Subject: Marriage bureaux and consumer protection

On 29 April 1991 I asked the Commission about possible Community supervision of marriage bureaux (Written Question No 789/91⁽¹⁾). The Commission answered the question in terms of the point raised, namely the freedom to provide services. I now wish to know whether any measures are planned in the field of consumer protection. These bureaux engage in commercial activities giving rise to very specific contracts, which would therefore require specific rules going beyond the Commission's plans as regards ordinary contracts (reconsideration period, measures against unfair clauses, etc.).

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 214, 16. 8. 1991, p. 29.

Answer given by Mr Van Miert
on behalf of the Commission
 (26 March 1992)

The protection of persons who use the services of marriage bureaux may require special supervision given the particular nature of that business.

On the one hand, it of course falls to the Member States to take measures to prevent malpractice in this area and in particular to ensure that customers are properly protected.

On the other, in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, it must be stressed that new communication techniques have appeared in recent years which know of no frontiers and which are becoming so widespread that the Community authorities ought to examine whether a Community approach is needed to ensure consumer protection in the single market in respect of this type of service. Without wishing to question the jurisdiction of the Member States, the Commission has begun a survey of the relevant national measures and is at present observing and recording any malpractices which could cause harm to customers of such bureaux.

Be that as it may, the Commission would remind the Honourable Member of the existence of Council Directive 84/450/EEC of 10 September 1984 on misleading advertising⁽¹⁾, which enables persons or organizations with legitimate interests to take action to put an end to advertising or commercial offers of a misleading nature. In this respect, it will fall to the

marriage bureau in question to prove the accuracy of the facts contained in its offers or advertisements.

(¹) OJ No L 250, 10. 9. 1984.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2384/91

by Mrs Teresa Domingo Segarra (GUE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(22 October 1991)

(92/C 162/29)

Subject: Phytosanitary problems in oak plantations in various areas of the Community

Recent studies have detected, in plantations of *Quercus* species in the south-east of the Iberian peninsula, an increase in mortality of the 'sudden death' type, apparently caused by an epidemic of fungi of the *Pythophthora* genus. A number of competent official bodies, including the Spanish ICONA, as well as certain NGOs, are investigating the phenomenon; according to some of the published conclusions, the number of deaths of holm oaks and cork oaks in the Extremadura region alone may have already exceeded 100 000 since the syndrome was detected in the summer of 1990.

The further spread of an epidemic of these characteristics would have severe ecological consequences for the Mediterranean forests, especially for the pasturage systems commonly found in the regions concerned, which are characterized by extensive stockbreeding and forestry exhibiting high compatibility with the natural environment and its resources. It would also be likely to damage the cork industry, which obtains some of its highest-quality products from this area.

What measures has the Commission taken, and what measures does it intend to take, to ensure speedy action against this disease and to stop it from spreading to other regions?

In view of the social and environmental interest of extensification in the agricultural and forestry sectors, can the Commission state what aid schemes for Mediterranean plantations already exist in the Community legislation, and what schemes it intends to propose?

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

(12 February 1992)

The Commission has not been made aware of the phytosanitary problems experienced in oak plantations in

the south-east of the Iberian peninsula, nor of the results of the various investigations to identify the potential causes thereof, in particular in respect of a fungus of the *Phytophthora* genus. Information has therefore been requested from the Spanish authorities. When this is available the Commission will reply accordingly.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2408/91

by Mrs Maria Izquierdo Rojo, Mr José Vazquez Fouz, Mr Pedro Bofill Abeilhe, Mr Francisco Sanz Fernández and Mr Eusebio Cano Pinto (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(30 October 1991)

(92/C 162/30)

Subject: Policy to prevent and combat forest fires in the Mediterranean region

In the light of the tragic situation brought about by forest fires in many regions of various Member States, which have caused economic ruin, the deterioration of the countryside and the destruction of ecosystems, does the Commission consider it desirable to set up a centralized Community data system for the purpose of coordinating measures to prevent and combat forest fires?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2409/91

by Mrs Maria Izquierdo Rojo, Mr José Vazquez Fouz, Mr Pedro Bofill Abeilhe, Mr Francisco Sanz Fernández and Mr Eusebio Cano Pinto (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(30 October 1991)

(92/C 162/31)

Subject: Policy to prevent and combat forest fires in the Mediterranean region

Since the destruction of forests by fires in certain regions in the south of the Community is taking on alarming proportions, with 500 000 hectares or more than 1% of forest land in Mediterranean regions being destroyed each year as a result of fires, and since there is a need for a genuine policy to prevent such fires and to coordinate measures to combat them, does the Commission intend in the near future to establish such a policy at Community level?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2410/91

by Mrs Maria Izquierdo Rojo, Mr José Vazquez Fouz, Mr Pedro Bofill Abeilhe, Mr Francisco Sanz Fernández and Mr Eusebio Cano Pinto (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(30 October 1991)

(92/C 162/32)

Subject: Policy to prevent and combat forest fires in the Mediterranean region

Given the need for a genuine policy to prevent forest fires and to coordinate measures to combat them, what measures does the Commission intend to take to establish a Community-wide coordination plan for the prevention and control of forest fires?

Joint answer to Written Questions Nos 2408/91, 2409/91 and 2410/91

given by Mr Ripa di Meana
on behalf of the Commission

(18 February 1992)

Regulation (EEC) No 3529/86 on protection of the Community's forests against fire⁽¹⁾, as amended by Regulation (EEC) No 1614/89⁽²⁾, expired at the end of 1991.

Over five years these two Regulations have provided total funding of ECU 43 million for 224 forest fire protection projects presented to the Commission by the Member States.

In addition, as part of the work to coordinate these operations, the Standing Forestry Committee, set up by Council Decision 89/367/EEC⁽³⁾, set up a working party on the protection of forests against fire. The working party's remit was to examine the causes of fires and ways of fighting them, and to look into ways of improving forest protection measures.

The result was a number of proposals concerning the renewal and reinforcement of the two Regulations.

The Commission is therefore proposing to continue the current action, but concentrating the Community's efforts on high-risk areas. It will ask the Member States to put forward comprehensive plans to protect against fires and will finance projects, provided that they fit in with these plans. The Community contribution will nonetheless vary according to the degree of risk.

The Community's contribution would also help set up a decentralized Community system of information on forest fires. This would enable those operating in the field to analyse causes and thus tackle them more successfully and to improve measures to protect against fires.

As regards actual fire-fighting, the Commission's current initiatives are being made within the framework of the resolution on improving mutual aid between Member States in the event of natural or technological disaster, adopted in the Council on 8 July 1991.

As part of its initiative, the Commission has worked closely with experts from the national administrations to prepare the framework of a register of national capacity to provide forest fire assistance. This framework has been sent to the Permanent Network of National Correspondents for Civil Protection and the relevant information has been requested for 15 February 1992. A preliminary version of the register should therefore be ready before the summer of 1992, and this should result in improved Community cooperation.

At the same time, the Commission, in close cooperation with the French civil protection services, has recently offered the other national administrations its support in setting up 'early warning models' in certain strategic regions. It should therefore be possible to establish a truly Community-wide system with which to anticipate the development of high-risk situations and apply all the appropriate measures in advance.

In addition to developing these technical and strategic tools, the Commission is going to put a lot of work into training. It recently organized an initial self-training workshop for those in charge of forest fire fighting at national and regional level. The workshop included an assessment of the means and strategies employed in fighting forest fires during the summer of 1991, thereby ensuring a useful feedback of experience at Community level.

This first initiative is to be followed up by a broader training programme, to be finalized with the Permanent Network of National Correspondents and taking account of the principle of subsidiarity.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 326, 30. 11. 1986, p. 5.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 165, 15. 6. 1989, p. 10.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 165, 15. 6. 1989, p. 14.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2418/91

by Mr Proinsias De Rossa (CG)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(30 October 1991)

(92/C 162/33)

Subject: Funding of anti-poverty programmes

What is the position with regard to the future funding of the small anti-poverty networks such as ENOPF,

FEANTSA, ENOW, etc. and what if any proposals are under consideration for funding anti-poverty work outside the projects already included in the third poverty programme?

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

(9 January 1992)

In 1990 and 1991 the Commission supported several networks of projects, many of which were launched under the second anti-poverty programme. It also supported a number of Community activities to promote the exchange of ideas and experience, as well as supporting the new European network of non-governmental organizations (anti-poverty network).

The Commission is currently assessing the work carried out by the networks and their connection with the anti-poverty network, a number of transnational activities under the third poverty programme (e.g. those related to one-parent families) and certain specific programmes (e.g. those concerned with women).

It intends to support the activities of FEANTSA in 1992, especially those related to a body for monitoring homeless persons.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2471/91

by Mr Ernest Glinne (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 November 1991)

(92/C 162/34)

Subject: Taxation of lottery wins

Are holders of winning lottery tickets obliged to pay income tax on their winnings? The rules in this respect appear to vary from one Community Member State to another?

What rules apply, particularly in cases where individuals win money in Member States other than their own?

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

(10 February 1992)

As part of the drive to complete the single market, the Commission asked the firm Coopers & Lybrand to

carry out a study on betting and gaming in the Community, which was completed early in 1991. The study deals concisely with taxation of gaming, and contains detailed analysis of taxation, or, where appropriate, exemptions of lottery winnings in most Member States.

Copies of this study may be obtained from the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities under the title 'Gambling in the single market — A study of the current legal and market situation' (⁽¹⁾), and may be consulted in the library of the European Parliament.

(⁽¹⁾) ISBN 92-826-2899/2900/2901.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2484/91

by Mr Jean-Pierre Raffarin (LDR)

to the Council of the European Communities

(4 November 1991)

(92/C 162/35)

Subject: Measures to assist families

The appropriation of ECU 3,8 million proposed by the Commission for measures to assist families was reduced by the Council to ECU 2,1 million, which is less than the appropriation of ECU 2,9 million entered for 1991.

The European Family Movement, which is concerned with measures to assist the elderly and preparations for the European Year of the Elderly in 1993 and the International Year of the Family in 1994, is endeavouring to introduce greater solidarity both within the Community and with the fledging democracies of Central and Eastern Europe. The development of relations with family organizations in these countries requires a special effort which the European Community cannot shirk.

In view of this, would the Council be prepared to reconsider its decision and reinstate the budget appropriation proposed by the Commission?

Answer

(25 May 1992)

Compared with the 1991 financial year the general budget of the European Communities for 1992, which was adopted on 19 December 1991 (⁽¹⁾),

- entered ECU 1,5 million in commitment appropriations for measures to assist families, and
- introduced a new budget heading 'Measures for elderly persons', with commitment appropriations amounting to ECU 4 339 million.

The budget for 1992 has therefore responded to the problem raised by the Honourable Member in a generally satisfactory manner.

(¹) OJ No L 26, 3. 2. 1992, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2498/91
by Mr Peter Crampton (S)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(4 November 1991)
(92/C 162/36)

Subject: Agricultural competition from Eastern Europe

Can the Commission say whether or not the East European countries have the same standards in respect of pesticides and residue levels as EC farmers do? If the standards are less stringent, is the Commission concerned about the import of such produce, and it being in direct competition with EC food which costs more to produce?

Answer given by Mr Mac Sharry
on behalf of the Commission
(4 March 1992)

The Commission is not in a position to comment on the standards applied by East European countries in respect of pesticides and their maximum residue levels in foodstuffs. However, all important foodstuffs of both Community and third country origin are subject to controls by Member States to ensure compliance with maximum pesticide residue levels established in accordance with Community legislation.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2549/91
by Mr Terence Wynn (S)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(8 November 1991)
(92/C 162/37)

Subject: Rugby Union sponsorship

How much money has the Commission given to the Rugby Union World Cup organizers to have the European Flag symbol displayed on ground perimeter advertising hoardings?

From what budget line was this taken?

Answer given by Mr Dondelinger
on behalf of the Commission

(3 March 1992)

The Commission's contribution was made in response to a request from the Rugby Union World Cup organizers. It consisted of ECU 10 000 and the 18 European flags used to decorate the grounds.

More than a million spectators watched the matches, which were broadcast to 58 countries for over 1 800 hours of viewing time and reached an audience of two billion television viewers.

The cost was charged to budget item B3-3030.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2569/91
by Mr John Cushnahan (PPE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(14 November 1991)
(92/C 162/38)

Subject: Community funding for transport infrastructures

In view of the importance of access transport to the economies of the peripheral regions of the Community, does the Commission have any additional proposals to extend structural funding to include investment in transport infrastructures, such as cargo planes and ships?

Answer given by Mr Millan
on behalf of the Commission

(6 February 1992)

The assistance of the European Regional Development Fund for the purchase of mobile assets has been given in a very restricted number of cases, in which grant aid was necessary to ensure the provisions of essential transport services. Any proposal by a Member State to allocate resources available to a region under its Community Support Framework to the purchase of mobile assets will be examined on its merits and in the light of Community law, notably competition law. The Commission does not have any additional proposals in respect of funding for these types of investments.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2572/91**by Mr John Cushnahan (PPE)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(14 November 1991)**(92/C 162/39)**Subject: Banking scandals*

In view of recent banking scandals in the Community, will the Commission consider proposing legislation which would require a central bank to compensate investors in the event of the bankruptcy of a commercial bank within its jurisdiction?

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

(5 February 1992)

The question of compensation for depositors in the Community is one the Commission is presently considering. As the Honourable Member is aware, there has been a Commission recommendation since 1986 on this subject and, to date, 10 Member States have established deposit protection schemes. In the light of the internal market proposals for the banking sector, this recommendation should be changed to take account of the new framework that will come into effect on 1 January 1993. The Commission is accordingly preparing a draft directive which will propose that deposit protection schemes should be operated in all the Community countries, and that there should be a minimum level of cover for all depositors in the Community.

In line with the procedures envisaged under the Second Banking Directive, it will be proposed that the responsibility for such schemes should now lie with the home Member States where the relevant banks have their head office, and where they will be supervised by the competent authorities. It is up to the Member States to decide which body should be vested with the responsibility of monitoring such deposit protection schemes.

The Commission would not favour making central banks responsible for compensatory deposits. To the best knowledge of the Commission, neither within the EC countries where deposit protection schemes are already in function, nor in any other major financial centres in the world, is the central bank required to compensate investors in the event of the bankruptcy of a commercial bank within its jurisdiction. Only in exceptional cases, either in the Community or elsewhere, have central banks provided liquidity to banks in difficulty, not with the purpose of ensuring the investor's protection, but to maintain the stability of the financial system as a whole.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2574/91**by Mr John Cushnahan (PPE)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(14 November 1991)**(92/C 162/40)**Subject: Eurobarometer survey*

Will the Commission consider including a question in the Eurobarometer survey asking Community citizens for their views on economic and social cohesion and on Community funding for its weaker regions?

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

(4 March 1992)

Public opinion has periodically been tested over recent years regarding attitudes towards Community regional policy in general. A series of specific questions concerning regional identity and regional development were included in the Eurobarometer survey No 36 of Autumn 1991. Raw data was produced in December 1991 and a comprehensive report, based on refined data, will be ready in March/April 1992.

An attitude research report, based on regional development questions in Eurobarometer surveys 1973—1980 and the 1991 survey concerning evolving socio-political attitudes to regional development, will be ready in April/May 1992.

In the light of this latest survey, a decision will be taken on the usefulness of maintaining a regular regional element in Eurobarometer survey.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2577/91**by Mr Pol Marck (PPE)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(14 November 1991)**(92/C 162/41)**Subject: Protection of wild birds*

Why does the Commission entrust all specialist studies on birds exclusively to the Belgian Royal Wildlife Institute?

Is there any particular reason for excluding institutes from other Member States?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2587/91
by Mr Jaak Vandemeulebroucke (ARC)
to the Commission of the European Communities
 (14 November 1991)
 (92/C 162/42)

Subject: Specialist studies on birds

Is it true that all specialist studies on birds are entrusted to the Belgian Royal Wildlife Institute?

If so, is there any reason for this? Is consideration being given to commissioning similar organizations in other countries to carry out such studies? If so, which organizations and for which studies?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2610/91
by Mrs Raymonde Dury (S)
to the Commission of the European Communities
 (19 November 1991)
 (92/C 162/43)

Subject: Protection of wild birds — studies

I understand that the Commission entrusts all bird studies exclusively to the Belgian Royal Institute of Science. Is this true? If so, how can this be justified? Is there any particular reason for excluding other institutions from other Member States?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2638/91
by Mr Fernand Herman (PPE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
 (19 November 1991)
 (92/C 162/44)

Subject: Protection of wild birds

Can the Commission say why it requests experts opinion on birds exclusively from the Belgian Royal Institute for Natural Sciences? Are there any particular reasons for ignoring other institutions in other Member States?

Joint answer to Written Questions Nos 2577/91, 2587/91, 2610/91 and 2638/91
given by Mr Ripa di Meana
on behalf of the Commission
 (28 February 1992)

The Commission is in contact with a large number of institutes and organizations. However, the Belgian Royal

Institute of Natural Sciences is now managing the 'ORNIS' database on the conservation and management of wild birds. It is for this reason that this institute often takes part in assessments concerning the situation applying to species.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2578/91
by Mrs Hedwig Keppelhoff-Wiechert (PPE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
 (14 November 1991)
 (92/C 162/45)

Subject: Unemployment benefits for cross-border workers resident in the German-Netherlands border area

Unemployment benefits are paid to cross-border workers in accordance with the legal provisions of the Member States in which they are resident. They are calculated and paid by the executive authority of the place of residence. A German national working in Germany and resident in the Netherlands must, during his first five years of residence, renew his residence permit annually and prove that he is in employment. If he loses his job, he is entitled to unemployment benefit in the Netherlands.

Is the Commission aware that an application for renewal of residence permits is rejected if the applicant is unemployed at the time and therefore unable to furnish proof of employment?

The person concerned must return to Germany and become dependent on state assistance.

What will the Commission do to remedy this unacceptable situation?

Answer given by Mrs Papandreou
on behalf of the Commission
 (6 March 1992)

1. Under Article 2 (1) of Regulation (EEC) No 1251/70 on the right of workers to remain in the territory of a Member State after having been employed in that State (¹), German workers resident in the Netherlands but employed in Germany have a right of residence in the Netherlands based on Community law only after three year's continuous employment and residence in the Netherlands, failing which only Dutch law applies. This also holds true in the case of unemployed persons. The Commission will give thought to presenting an appropriate revision of the terms of Regulation (EEC) No 1251/70.

2. In this connection, the Commission draws the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that, by

1 July 1992, the Member States were required to bring into force the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with Council Directive of 28 June 1990 on the right of residence ⁽¹⁾. According to Article 1 (1) of this Directive, Member States who do not enjoy this right under other provisions of Community law and to members of their families provided that they themselves and the members of their families are covered by sickness insurance in respect of all risks in the host Member States and have sufficient resources to avoid becoming a burden on the social assistance system of the host Member State during their period of residence.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 142, 30. 6. 1970.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 180, 13. 7. 1990.

3. no health inspection of the slaughtered animals was carried out as stipulated in Law No 829/78 on public health protection; and
4. small children were present at the slaughter, which is against the law (in the case of children aged under 16),

does the Commission intend to make strict recommendations to the national authorities to comply with Community legislation and does it intend to take steps to prohibit similar barbaric behaviour practised in the name of 'cultural events' and 'local custom'?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 49, 25. 2. 1991, p. 8.

⁽²⁾ OJ No L 316, 26. 11. 1974, p. 10.

⁽³⁾ OJ No L 194, 22. 7. 1988, p. 28.

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

(10 March 1992)

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2632/91

by Mr Mihail Papayannakis (GUE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(19 November 1991)

(92/C 162/46)

Subject: Slaughter of animals on open ground

A year ago I submitted Written Question No 1138/90 ⁽¹⁾ on infringement of Council Directive 74/577/EEC ⁽²⁾ on the stunning of animals before slaughter. I return to this subject today prompted by complaints by the Greek Animal Welfare Fund that many cattle and sheep were slaughtered en masse on 27 June 1991 by the Spata Folk and Festival Society for the Feast of St Peter and St Paul.

The Athens Police Headquarters (APH) was informed by the Greek Federation of Animal Welfare Organizations of the impending slaughter of animals on open ground and warned the Spata police to take the necessary steps to ensure that proper procedures were followed and that the law was enforced. Unfortunately, the Spata police ignored the orders of the APH and displayed utter disregard for the complaints of the representatives of animal welfare organizations.

In view of the fact that:

1. the animals were not stunned before slaughter as required by Directive 74/577/EEC which was incorporated into Greek legislation by means of Law No 1197/81;
2. the animals were slaughtered on open ground and not in slaughterhouses or in other places under veterinary supervision, as stipulated in Directive 88/409/EEC ⁽³⁾ and Prime Ministerial Decree No 562/88;

As the Honourable Member states in his question, the Greek authorities have transposed the relevant Council Directives into national law, the details of which were given in the Commission's answer to Written Question No 1138/90.

The Commission has held discussions with the Greek authorities about the difficulties which those authorities have encountered in enforcing this legislation, in the face of long established traditional practices. Despite these difficulties, the Greek authorities have been successful in preventing or in prosecuting persons responsible for some such occurrences.

Council Directive 91/497/EEC amending and consolidating Directive 64/433/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat to extend it to the production and marketing of fresh meat ⁽¹⁾, which enters into force on 1 January 1993, requires all meat which is sold for human consumption to have been obtained in a slaughterhouse meeting certain hygiene and inspection rules laid down in the Directive.

In addition, the Commission has made a proposal for a Council Regulation on the protection of animals at the time of slaughter or killing, COM(91) 136 final ⁽²⁾, which would replace Directive 74/577/EEC with detailed rules on the movement, lairaging, restraint, stunning, slaughter or killing of animals for food, skin, fur or other products, based on the European Convention on the same subject.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 268, 24. 9. 1991.

⁽²⁾ OJ No C 314, 5. 12. 1991.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2661/91**by Mr Hugh McMahon (S)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(19 November 1991)**(92/C 162/47)**Subject: Euroform/Horizon/NOW*

Can the Commission confirm that the financial envelope estimated for the above initiatives was insufficient?

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

(27 January 1992)

The three Community initiatives, Euroform, NOW and Horizon, were approved by the Commission on 18 December 1990 with a budget of ECU 600 million for the period up to 1993.

It was the Commission's view that this amount reflected the need for financial support for actions under these initiatives while giving due consideration to the availability of budgetary resources.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2662/91**by Mr Hugh McMahon (S)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(19 November 1991)**(92/C 162/48)**Subject: Euroform/Horizon/NOW*

Can the Commission advise how much the ERDF will contribute to the existing Euroform/Horizon/NOW initiatives?

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

(6 March 1992)

The operational programmes Euroform, NOW and Horizon were approved in December 1991 (with the exception of the Irish programme under the Horizon initiative which is expected to be approved in the near future).

Among the 41 programmes approved, 16 asked for European Regional Development Fund assistance:

- three Member States for Euroform: Greece, Portugal and Spain, with a total amount of ECU 8,4 million,
- seven Member States for NOW: Greece, Portugal, Spain, Ireland, UK (Northern Ireland), Italy and France with a total amount of ECU 6,94 million,
- five Member States for Horizon: Greece, Greece (refugees), Portugal, Spain and Italy with a total amount of ECU 18 million (to which the ERDF contribution for Ireland will have to be added: more or less ECU 1,4 million).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2666/91**by Mr Ernest Glinne (S)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(19 November 1991)**(92/C 162/49)**Subject: 'Enterprise for the Americas' initiative'*

In June 1990 President Bush launched a programme for the development of Latin America and the Caribbean known as the 'Enterprise of the Americas initiative', based on free trade schemes, measures to promote foreign investment and the adjustment (though on barely intelligible terms) of the region's external debt. The long-term objective is nothing less than the creation of a single market extending from the north of Canada, through Mexico, to the south of Chile, despite the fact that the United States gross national product is no less than six times that of the Caribbean and Latin America put together.

1. Does the Community continue to support the formation of regional entities in Latin America (for example the Andean Pact signed by Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia, the agreement between the five Central American countries, which is potentially promising, particularly with regard to their relations with the European Community, and the 'common market' agreement between Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina), which will become operational as of next year, given that the United States obviously prefers to deal with each of its partners individually, on a case-by-case basis?
2. Is it acceptable for the Americas to belong to the Americans, Europe to the Europeans and the Far East to the Japanese, as part of a new international disorder at the expense of the Third World, which is continuing to export raw materials and 'tropical products' following traditional patterns, in exchange

for manufactures, mainly from the United States in the case of the Americas?

3. Is the investment envisaged by Washington intended to develop the 'maquiladoras', that is to say marginal and technically obsolete industries with behind-the-times conditions of employment in terms of both wage levels and labour relations, which are unable to compete with the 'First World'? Should the Community not reaffirm its relations with the abovementioned regional groups, rather than giving into the temptation of a piecemeal approach?

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

(17 January 1992)

1. Support for regional integration is a key element of cooperation between the Community and the Latin American countries. The Community already has a cooperation agreement with the Andean Pact — which it is proposing to renew next year — and it continues to follow with interest moves towards integration within Mercosur.

The Commission is linked to the Central American countries by the San José Agreement (1985), while relations with the Rio Group countries were put on an official footing with the signing of the Rome Declaration of 20 December 1990.

One of the priority areas of cooperation referred to in both the Rome Declaration and the Luxembourg joint ministerial communiqué was indeed support for regional integration.

2. The Community has emphasized the need for economic reforms aimed at boosting production of manufactures and semi-manufactures, and reviving trade.

In the Luxembourg joint ministerial statement, Ministers of the Community and the Rio Group unanimously agreed to the need for structural adjustment designed to modernize and strengthen the Latin American countries' economies.

3. The Commission shares the concern of the Honourable Member. An expression of this concern is the fact that the development policy that the Community built up in the ACP context has now been extended to all the developing countries.

Furthermore, the Community's efforts in the Uruguay Round have been fuelled by the same concerns as expressed by the Honourable Member.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2686/91

by Mr Carlos Robles Piquer (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(19 November 1991)

(92/C 162/50)

Subject: Simplification of administrative procedures with regard to aid provided under the Structural Funds

Both the Community Structural Funds and national incentives for regional development are intended to enable the least-favoured regions of the Community to tackle infrastructure deficiencies, but many potential beneficiaries believe that the bureaucracy surrounding such aid is still excessively complicated and difficult to deal with, especially for smaller undertakings which lack the human and financial resources to deal with all the procedural requirements.

Can the Commission say whether, following the provisions of the Council recommendation concerning the application of a policy of administrative simplification in favour of small and medium undertakings in the Member States — COM(90) 58 final, simplification of Community and national aid procedures can be expected, so that more small businesses in the Member States have access to such aid?

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

(30 January 1992)

The Commission started to consider procedural improvements and simplifications as soon as the first annual report on the implementation of the structural Funds in 1989 had been approved.

Specifically, it has already taken measures to make the management procedures for the structural Funds more flexible and to shorten its own financial circuits. It is also considering with each Member State whether the transfer of assistance from the structural Funds to the final beneficiaries can be speeded up.

A study for the Commission on how small businesses in all the Member States use the structural Funds was launched recently.

The Commission will certainly take the conclusions of this study with regard to access by small businesses to Community structural finance and the document COM(90) 58 referred to by the Honourable Member into account in preparing its considerations on the future of the Funds after 1993.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2718/91
by Mr Gijs de Vries (LDR)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(21 November 1991)
(92/C 162/51)

Subject: German packaging regulations

The Dutch entrepreneurs belonging to the employers' organization for the logistics and transport sector, EVO (General Association of Shippers and Own-Account Carriers), fear that German regulations on packaging (the Regulation on the Avoidance of Packaging Waste and the Packaging Regulation, published in the Federal Law Gazette (Bundesgesetzblatt) of 20 June 1991 will hamper intra-Community trade.

They firmly believe that the regulation is in breach of Articles 7 and 30 of the EEC Treaty.

Does the Commission share this view?

Answer given by Mr Bangemann
on behalf of the Commission
(27 March 1992)

The Commission's departments are currently examining the German Regulation in question to determine whether it infringes Community law, and in particular Articles 30 to 36 (restrictions on the free movement of goods) and 85 (distortion of competition) of the EEC Treaty.

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

Without wishing to anticipate the eventual decision, the Commission would draw the Honourable Member's attention to the judgment of the Court of Justice of 20 September 1988 in Case 302/86 (ECR 1988, page 4607 'containers for beer and soft drinks'). The Court found that a national regulation establishing a compulsory deposit-and-return system for empty containers must be regarded as necessary for the protection of the environment, so that the resulting restrictions on the free movement of goods cannot be regarded as disproportionate.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2726/91
by Mr John Cushnahan (PPE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(21 November 1991)
(92/C 162/52)

Subject: Environmental protection

Will the Commission consider proposing a new Community initiative, along the same lines as the

'Envireg' initiative, to assist private sector organizations, such as agricultural cooperatives, in their efforts to minimize the damage caused to the environment by their activities?

Answer given by Mr Millan
on behalf of the Commission
(2 March 1992)

The Commission has no plans to propose a new Community initiative along similar lines to Envireg before the expiry of the present programme in 1993. At the appropriate time, it will be necessary to consider whether new Community initiatives should be introduced for the post-1993 period.

Community regional policy already makes a considerable contribution to environmental improvement through its direct participation in financing productive investments and infrastructures that relate to environmental protection and that have an impact on economic development. Between 1989 and 1993 over ECU 3 500 million of the ERDF is earmarked for programmes and projects directly related to the environment, and private sector organizations located in Objective 1 regions can benefit from this assistance.

Amongst the specific objectives of the Community initiative Envireg are the reduction of pollution in coastal areas and to contribute to the better control of industrial waste. Hence in Ireland, for example, the Community support framework includes some ECU 86 million specifically for the control of farmyard pollution. Investment in productive activity on farms and in the food industry is accompanied by appropriate measures to minimize pollution.

In addition, in the context of the reform of the common agricultural policy, the Commission has proposed that a number of accompanying measures be taken. These include the creation of an agri-environmental instrument which will aim to preserve the environment and promote extensification and environmentally friendly production methods.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2740/91
by Mrs Cristiana Muscardini (NI)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(21 November 1991)
(92/C 162/53)

Subject: National Security Act adopted on 18 June in Romania

Is the Commission aware of the 'National Security Act' adopted on 18 June 1991 by the Romanian Parliament,

under which the organization of, or support for, extremist actions of communist, paramilitary, fascist, racist or revisionist origin is considered to be a threat to State security? Does the Commission not consider this to be an infringement of human rights and the rights of association, since it may be used to prosecute anyone opposing the present Government of Romania, and given that such a measure was not adopted even under the unlamented Ceausescu dictatorship? Will the Commission review the Community's promised programme of aid to Romania until this country takes steps to introduce genuine freedoms, making such aid dependent on the abolition of this Act?

**Answer given by Mr Andriessen
on behalf of the Commission**
(3 March 1992)

The Community and its Member States are monitoring developments in Romania very closely. In their joint statement of 3 October 1991, they urged the Romanian authorities 'to continue on the path towards economic and political reform, which is indispensable for the full development of the EC's relations with this country'.

The Commission is aware that Bucharest is consulting the Council of Europe in the field of human rights with a view to ensuring that the country's legislative reforms are compatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. The consultation process may entail the Council of Europe commenting on the documents drafted by the Romanian authorities.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2767/91
by Mrs Mary Banotti (PPE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(22 November 1991)
(92/C 162/54)

Subject: Habitats directive

Could the Commission inform me why the habitats directive is still languishing in the Council of Ministers and are they not aware that the cost of delay in adopting this directive has been enormous, as critical habitats have been lost to development, urban expansion, road construction, etc.? Therefore, is there no way they can expedite matters and end this unnecessary delay?

**Answer given by Mr Ripa di Meana
on behalf of the Commission**
(31 March 1992)

The Commission has done everything in its power to speed up the discussions on the directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

The directive is due for final adoption in the spring of 1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2774/91
by Mrs Mary Banotti (PPE)
to the Commission of the European Communities
(22 November 1991)
(92/C 162/55)

Subject: EC foodstuffs for the underprivileged

The Commission has granted an initial supply of foodstuffs for the underprivileged in four Member States. Does it propose to provide similar food stocks to Ireland in the near future and what conditions does the Commission follow in order that such foodstuffs reach the truly needy in each Member State?

**Answer by Mr Mac Sharry
on behalf of the Commission**
(25 March 1992)

Every year since 1988, the Commission has drawn up a plan allocating appropriations to the Member States for the products they wish to remove from intervention as part of the 'free food scheme' for the benefit of the Community's underprivileged.

Ireland's share in this allocation is as follows:

	ECU (millions)	Products (tonnes)	
		Butter	Beef
1988	3 688	24	850
1989	3 833	50	1 450
1990	4 316	50	1 600
1991	4 586	50	1 569

The plan for 1992 was introduced in December 1991.

The choice of distributing organizations and the manner in which distribution is carried out are the responsibility of the Member States which must present the Commission with a detailed report on the implementation of each annual distribution scheme.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2781/91

by Mr Ben Visser (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(22 November 1991)

(92/C 162/56)

Subject: Delays at German-Czech border posts

According to the Koninklijk Nederlands Vervoer (Royal Dutch Transport), cross-border traffic has recently been seriously hindered by congestion and delays at a number of border posts between Germany and Czechoslovakia.

At the Waidhaus/Rozvadov crossing, for example, drivers must reckon with a delay of at least 48 hours. One reason for these long delays is staff shortages at the German customs.

1. Can the Commission confirm that the delays at the German-Czech border are unacceptably long?
2. Is the Commission prepared to request the German authorities to appoint more staff in places where this can help to shorten the delays?
3. Is the Commission also prepared to approach the Czech Government, on this problem?

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

(29 January 1992)

1. The Commission has already been informed of the difficulties to which the Honourable Member's question refers. The recent very rapid growth in trade between Western and Eastern Europe has placed considerable strain on customs infrastructures at crossing points that were not designed to cope with such a level of traffic. The situation has been aggravated by the diversion through Czechoslovakia of some consignments which would normally have been routed via Yugoslavia.

2 and 3. The Commission has already been in touch with the German authorities and has been informed of a programme of rapid upgrading of customs border posts,

jointly planned by the German and Czechoslovak customs services. As regards the Waidhaus-Rozvadov crossing point, it is one of a number at which a fast clearance lane has recently been introduced, enabling empty vehicles, vehicles carrying goods in transit covered by a TIR carnet, and vehicles not requiring the intervention of customs clearance agents, to be pre-sorted on each side and to cross the border with a predicted waiting time of one hour. This arrangement is expected to facilitate crossing for some 40% of vehicles. The German and Czechoslovak customs authorities are moreover engaged in discussion of a more general agreement on border formalities, which should lead in due course to the normalization of the situation.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2790/91

by Mr William Newton Dunn (ED)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(22 November 1991)

(92/C 162/57)

Subject: EAGGF applications

Can the Commission say what proportion of total applications for funding from the EAGGF are successful:

1. from the United Kingdom, and
2. from the Community as a whole?

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

(17 March 1992)

The Commission assumes that the Honourable Member is referring to the Guidance Section of the EAGGF.

As financial assistance from the Guidance Section varies in accordance with the types of measures funded, it is useful to distinguish between the aims laid down by the 1988 reform of the structural policies in the implementation of which the EAGGF Guidance Section participates.

For measures funded under Objective 1 (regions whose development is lagging behind) and Objective 5 (b) (rural areas outside Objective 1 whose development is lagging behind), the Member States have submitted their development plans to the Commission. These plans were the subject of negotiations within the partnership with a view to determining the priority areas and adjusting the financing proposals in line with available funds. A certain

number of measures were thus necessarily eliminated, either because they did not correspond to the priorities determined by the partnership or because their scope exceeded the possibilities of funding. The position differs from country to country depending on how rigorously selective or otherwise the Member States were before submitting the plans to the Commission.

For Objective No 1, EAGGF Guidance applications amounted to a total of ECU 13 844 million for the seven Member States eligible in whole or in part under this Objective, while the amount provided for the CSFs amounted to ECU 5 427 million, equal to an acceptance rate of 39,2%. For the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland), the amounts are ECU 145 million and ECU 130 million respectively, equal to an acceptance rate of 89,7%.

For Objective 5(b), EAGGF Guidance Section applications from the Member States concerned amounted to ECU 2 183 million, while the amounts provided for in the CSFs were ECU 1 068 million, equal to an acceptance rate of 49%. For the United Kingdom the amounts are ECU 31,7 million and ECU 24,9 million respectively, equal to 78% acceptance.

As regards horizontal measures funded under Objective 5 (a) (measures relating to production, processing and marketing in agriculture and forestry), this mainly involves part-financing under which the Commission is responsible for a percentage of total eligible expenditure fixed by the regulations which varies depending on the Member State or the region. As long as the applications for reimbursements submitted by the Member States do not include measures at variance with the eligibility criteria, the Commission does not refuse reimbursement.

There is, however, one particular measure under Objective 5 (a) which applies procedures similar to those of Objectives 1 and 5 (b), namely Regulation (EEC) No 866/90 and (EEC) No 867/90 on improving the processing and marketing conditions for agricultural and forestry products. The total requested in the sectoral plans amounts to some ECU 1 400 million and available appropriations stand at about ECU 975 million. The acceptance rate is 69,7%. For the United Kingdom, the amounts are ECU 97,03 million and ECU 59,61 million respectively, equal to an acceptance rate of 61,5%.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2795/91

by Mr Jean-Pierre Raffarin (LDR)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(22 November 1991)

(92/C 162/58)

Subject: Telelearning

At the request of the European Parliament the Commission has studied the present situation in respect of distance learning or telelearning.

Since Europe is moving towards increased use of this potential facility, what are the Commission's conclusions and what proposals can it make for the future of telelearning?

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

(11 March 1992)

Following the report on open and distance higher education in the European Community⁽¹⁾, the Commission presented to the Council, on 25 November 1991, a memorandum⁽²⁾, which has been transmitted for information to the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee.

This memorandum suggests a number of priority fields for Community action and proposes a development strategy for open distance education and training in Europe, as requested by the Honourable Member.

Taking into account the views expressed by the Council and the Ministers of Education at their recent meeting held on 22 November 1991, the Commission is currently examining the most effective ways of making further progress in this field.

The European Parliament will be kept informed of the Commission's intentions in this regard.

⁽¹⁾ SEC(91) 897 final.

⁽²⁾ COM(91) 388 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2800/91

by Mrs Ana Miranda de Lage (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(22 November 1991)

(92/C 162/59)

Subject: Relations between the European Community and Bolivia

In November 1990 Bolivia submitted an alternative development plan to the EEC aimed at grubbing up 38 000 hectares used for cocoa cultivation.

Can the Commission say what progress has been made on this project?

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

(21 February 1992)

Following submission by the Government of Bolivia, at the end of 1990, of a national plan of alternative development, the Commission sent out a mission for the

purpose of identifying and elaborating, in collaboration with the competent services of the Bolivian Government, a project to be financed by the EC within the framework of that programme.

A project, which is to comprise small actions to be designed and executed with the direct participation of the beneficiaries, has been identified within the framework of the 'Emergency programme' of the national plan of alternative development, which aims at reducing the social and economic cost of the process of reduction of cocoa crops, while the long-term investments of the National Programme develop.

The Commission is in the process of preparing a proposal for the approval of funds for this project. In the meantime, three new projects amounting to ECU 1 million were approved under the 1991 budget.

Bolivia is the major beneficiary of the EC North-South cooperation programme against drugs, which was launched in 1987 following requests for a special cooperation programme by producing countries and on the recommendation of the European Parliament.

Total aid allocated to Bolivia during the 1987 to 1991 five-year period has exceeded ECU 5 million.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2818/91

by Mr Ian White (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(5 December 1991)

(92/C 162/60)

Subject: Definition of a region

Regions vary from nation State to nation State according to both size and population. Does the Commission have any general view as to what should comprise a region and has it undertaken any study or survey about this?

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

(6 March 1992)

The definition of the regions is standardized under a system known as the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) which attempts to provide a single, uniform regional breakdown of the Community. This system is based on the political and administrative units already existing in Member States. This is consistent with the principle of subsidiarity whereby it is a matter for Member States to determine the way in which their territory is organized and responsibilities delegated to the

regional and local levels. Member States also use these areas for the collection of statistics and for national policies of assistance to the regions. At the Community level, they are similarly used for the production of regional statistics on a harmonized basis and for the purposes of Community policies under the Structural Funds in support of regional development.

Further details of the principles underlying the regional breakdown used in the Community, and how it applies in individual Member States, may be found in the explanatory document produced by the Statistical Office of the European Communities and entitled 'Regions: Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics' (Eurostat, Luxembourg, April 1990 and Note Rapide, 1991, 1).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2823/91

by Mr Gérard Deprez (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(5 December 1991)

(92/C 162/61)

Subject: Completion of the European internal market after 1992 — monopoly of State lotteries

What measures, if any, have been taken to protect the rights of consumers in Europe against the unauthorized, and hence illegal, organization of lotteries in the context of a free and open market?

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

(5 February 1992)

The question of the necessary and appropriate degree of consumer protection in connection with lottery ticket sales within the European Community is currently under consideration in the context of the general examination of the gambling sector being undertaken by the Commission. Also under consideration is the conformity with the EEC Treaty of different national or regional prohibitions or restrictions concerning lottery ticket sales.

This general examination follows the publication of the report on 'Gambling in the single market', copies of which have been deposited with the library of the European Parliament. The last general stage in this examination was the hearing with operators held on 16 and 17 December 1991. The exact timetable and content of the following stages of the work of the Commission will depend on the results of the consultations and related work still in progress.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2840/91**by Mr Peter Crampton (S)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(5 December 1991)**(92/C 162/62)**Subject: Industrial fishing*

There are reported figures of 1,5 million tonnes of young fish being taken out of the North Sea by Denmark and neighbouring countries.

It has also been reported recently that the Grindsted power station in Denmark is continuing to burn oil from sand eels.

Can the Commission say how much financial assistance from Community funds fish meal factories in Denmark have received over the past five years?

Does the Commission have any plans to put a stop to this kind of industrial fishing which is depleting the North Sea of valuable stocks?

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

(10 February 1992)

Some Danish power stations are still burning oil from sand-eels. Usually sand-eel oil is used in the production of margarine and cosmetics and as a supplement to feed for domestic and agricultural animals. In recent years, the market for sand-eel oil has been disrupted by the increased availability of equivalent products from soya beans and rape seed. Because of this, the market for sand-eel oil has been poor and, rather than dump this product, it has been sold to power stations. The fish meal produced in conjunction with the oil from sand-eels has been sold for conventional purposes.

There has been no Community financial assistance for fish meal factories in Denmark in the last five years. Fish meal factories were outside the scope of the specific programmes under Council Regulation (EEC) No 355/77 ⁽¹⁾ by Commission Decision 86/382/EEC of 23 July 1986 ⁽²⁾ and more recently, they have been explicitly excluded from funding in Article 10 (3) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 4042/89 ⁽³⁾ on the improvement of the conditions under which fishery and aquaculture products are processed and marketed.

Some large fish stocks (notably sand-eels and Norway pout) have little or no market for human consumption, and they may constitute a major resource to be exploited for reduction purposes, particularly for fish meal and oil production. Regarding fishing as an economic activity on renewable resources, the Commission's view is that

industrial fishing does not need to be banned, except in cases where other fisheries for human consumption are severely affected. In order to protect these latter fisheries, a number of measures concerning mesh sizes, by-catch regulations and seasonal closures of some fishing grounds are in force.

As regards the depletion of valuable North Sea stocks, whilst it is recognized that poor enforcement of the measures for industrial fishing could play a role, it is also well documented and demonstrated that the main agent in the process of deterioration of those stocks is simply overfishing by the traditional fleets for human consumption.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 51, 23. 2. 1977.⁽²⁾ OJ No L 226, 13. 8. 1986.⁽³⁾ OJ No L 388, 30. 12. 1989.**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2841/91****by Mr Peter Crampton (S)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(5 December 1991)**(92/C 162/63)**Subject: Fisheries: Enforcement of regulations*

Will the Commission consider withdrawing financial assistance for the construction of new vessels from those countries which persistently break European Community fishing rules?

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

(18 February 1992)

The Commission is not aware that any Member State is persistently breaking European Community fishing rules. As guardian of the Treaty, the Commission is assuring the respect of the Community law by various measures and, in some cases does not hesitate to apply the infringement procedure of the Treaty against the Member State concerned.

Financial assistance for new boat building is granted, only if all the conditions laid down by Regulation (EEC) No 4028/86 ⁽¹⁾ are fulfilled, which include, among others, that the construction of all new vessels in conformity with the multiannual guidance programmes adopted by each Member State, and approved by the Commission.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 376, 31. 12. 1986.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2857/91**by Mr Ernest Glinne (S)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(5 December 1991)**(92/C 162/64)**Subject: Impending ecological disaster along the Pacific coast of Central America*

Following the disappearance of the dense forests on the Pacific coast of Central America, the land has been used for non-environment-friendly forms of cultivation, in particular cotton-growing, which involves the excessive and unselective spraying of increasingly effective pesticides, particularly from aircraft. Organochlorines, DDT, heptachlor and parathion are particularly dangerous. Organochlorines, which are prohibited in the United States, may remain active for up to 15 years in the contaminated soil and the American Food and Drug Administration has been known to refuse to allow consignments to enter the North American market on public health grounds.

Concern for quick and substantial profits is leading the country's large landowners to neglect the medium- and long-term future of the areas concerned, of plant and animal species, and of the local inhabitants and to disregard the safety and health of workers. These landowners are supplied in particular by multinational undertakings based in Europe (Bayer, Ciba-Geigy and Shell) or elsewhere (Chevron, Stauffer, Hooker etc.). The results are bordering on the disastrous, as evidenced by the fact that between 1960 and 1970 Central America alone absorbed 40% of North American insecticide exports which gave it the distinction of being the largest per capita pesticide consumer in the entire world!

Will the Commission look into this matter contribute to an international programme for the elimination of dangerous insecticides, the introduction of balanced crop-farming with a view to achieving self-reliance, particularly by using alternative means to protect the land under cultivation.

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

(31 March 1992)

On 20 December 1990 the Commission put forward a proposal for a Regulation concerning export from and import into the Community of certain dangerous chemicals (⁽¹⁾), which is aimed at ensuring the application of the international notification and prior informed consent procedure laid down in the UNEP Guidelines on the Exchange of Information on Chemicals in International Trade and the FAO Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides. This position was the subject of political agreement within the Council (Environment) on 12 December 1991.

Furthermore, environmental protection is one of the priority objectives of cooperation between the Community and the developing countries in Asia and Latin America.

The Commission would therefore be prepared to consider possible participation in programmes or projects to promote ecologically rational agricultural practices in Central America and to re-establish the equilibrium of the ecosystems affected by the inappropriate use of pesticides. However, the Commission has not yet received any specific proposal in this field.

⁽¹⁾ COM(90) 591 final.**WRITTEN QUESTION No 2864/91****by Mr John Cushnahan (PPE)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(5 December 1991)**(92/C 162/65)**Subject: Perifra programme*

How would the Commission assess the importance of the funding provided under the Perifra programme to date? Would the Commission agree that Perifra should be established on a permanent basis in order to help tackle the specific needs of the Community's peripheral regions which the existing Community support frameworks and initiatives are inadequate to address?

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

(12 March 1992)

The inclusion of the Perifra programme in the 1991 budget was done on the initiative of the European Parliament. The Parliament considered that the exceptional events of 1990 demanded a special response from the Community. These exceptional events included the accession of the new Länder, new trade concessions to countries benefiting from the Phare programme, the conversion of military installations in connection with disarmament agreements and the energy crisis.

The Perifra actions apply in all the Member States. It is clear that with a budgetary allocation of ECU 40 million, the Commission was only able to co-finance a limited number of demonstration projects whose lessons could be applied in other areas of the Community facing similar problems. The Parliament has repeated the Perifra action in the 1992 budget. The appropriations have been increased to ECU 50 million, but the nature of the programme remains essentially the same.

As far as the longer-term future is concerned, the Commission has set out in COM(92) 2000 its proposals

for modifying and making more flexible its structural policies. The Commission is proposing, amongst other things, the creation of a reserve within the Community initiatives financial allocation which would be used during the period to meet special ad hoc problems. However, if Perifra were continued, the Commission would of course try to ensure that the allocations were used as effectively as possible and in accordance with the wishes of Parliament.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2871/91

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

(5 December 1991)

(92/C 162/66)

Subject: Pilot scheme in the fisheries and aquaculture sector

Commission Decision 91/417/EEC (1) of 19 July 1991 establishes a concerted measure for the implementation of a socio-economic pilot scheme in the fisheries and aquaculture sector in Spain. The project is being carried out in Barbate, Puerto de Santa Maria and Sanlucar de Barrameda (Andalusia) and should have started in early August 1991 to finish at the end of January 1992.

Has the Directorate-General for Fisheries of the Junta de Andalucia submitted any justification for expenditure occurred so far?

What is the deadline for submitting such information on expenditure?

(1) OJ No L 231, 20. 8. 1991, p. 22.

Answer given by Mr Marín
on behalf of the Commission

(4 February 1992)

In line with Commission Decision 91/417/EEC of 19 July 1991, to which the Honourable Member refers, an advance of ECU 20 000 was paid to the responsible body. The balance in a single instalment will not be paid until all operations have been completed and the Commission has approved a full report on management of the funds and the results obtained.

As the work was not due to be completed until the end of January 1992 the responsible body has not been under any obligation to submit any interim statement of expenditure.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2874/91

by Mr Thomas Megahy (S)
to the Commission of the European Communities

(5 December 1991)

(92/C 162/67)

Subject: Purchase of right-hand drive vehicles in Member States other than the UK

The consumer magazine *Which?* recently reported that car manufacturers and distributors are continuing to obstruct attempts by UK citizens to exercise their right to buy right-hand drive vehicles in Member States with significantly lower prices. Is the Commission aware of this and, if so, what action does it propose to take to enforce this right?

Answer given by Sir Leon Brittan
on behalf of the Commission

(10 February 1992)

The Commission is aware of the problems that may occur for UK citizens in connection with the purchase of right hand drive vehicles in other Member States.

In so far as barriers to trade within the common market result from undertakings engaging in anti-competitive agreements, concerted practices or abusing dominant positions, the EEC competition rules provide the Commission with considerable powers to remove such barriers. With special regard to the car sector, the Commission endeavours to ensure that the exclusive and selective distribution systems, which are universally practised in this sector, comply with the provisions of Regulation (EEC) No 123/85 on motor vehicle distribution and servicing agreements (1). This Regulation provides *inter alia* for the availability in each Member State of cars made to the specifications required in all other Member States, even if understandably, right hand drive cars are not readily available from continental car dealers.

In this respect, the Commission formally and informally intervenes wherever necessary. To date, in 1991 it received about twenty complaints from consumers having encountered difficulties in acquiring right hand drive cars outside the UK and Ireland. In the majority of cases a satisfactory solution could be found.

Furthermore, the Commission has commenced an initiative to have all leading car manufacturers issue a letter to their dealers informing them of their rights and duties in order to facilitate cross-border trade.

Finally, the European consumer can use the assistance of an intermediary to overcome the various problems

(language, different technical requirements, etc.) in relation to parallel imports. The Commission expects that its decision in the Peugeot/Eco System case, as well as its notice concerning the activities of an intermediary in the car sector, will clarify the role of the intermediary and further contribute to the creation of a single market for cars.

(¹) OJ No L 15, 18. 1. 1985.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2879/91

by Mr Adrien Zeller (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(5 December 1991)

(92/C 162/68)

Subject: Reduction of the areas receiving the regional planning grant in France and reform of Community regional policy

In reply to a previous question H-0499/91 (¹), the Commission said that it had asked the French Government to abolish the 'Primes à L'Aménagement du Territoire' (regional planning grant) for a certain number of departments because these areas were not eligible according to the method of assessment currently in force.

According to department statistics, Alsace can no longer be considered eligible for regional aid from the state. However, these statistics do not reflect the reality and the diversity of situations within the same department.

Following the general trend in France, and elsewhere in Europe, economic activity concentrates, within the same region, in a few urban centres. Rural areas, particularly those already disadvantaged from a geographical point of view such as the remote districts of Schirmeck, Saales, Villé and Alsace Bossue in Bas-Rhin and Sundgau and the valley of the Vosges in the department of Haut-Rhin, to mention Alsace alone, are unfortunately more and more neglected.

Relying on department-level statistics only reinforces the concentration of activities in urban centres, while this cannot be corrected through special grants to objectively disadvantaged regions, even in a region which overall is more advantaged, such as Alsace.

Therefore, as part of the reform of the structural funds and regional policy, could the Commission not take into consideration regional units smaller than departments, for example 'cantons' (districts) for which economic

statistics already exist, in order to establish a genuine regional planning policy.

(¹) Debates of the European Parliament No 3-405 (May 1991).

Answer given by Mr Christophersen on behalf of the Commission

(21 February 1992)

As part of the implementation of the reform of the structural Funds in 1988, the Commission took into account the socio-economic circumstances of inter-regional geographical units when it drew up the lists of areas eligible under Objective 2 and 5 (b).

In the case of France, the eligibility criteria for Objective 2 which targets declining industrial areas were applied at the level of employment areas (bassins d'emploi). Similarly, the rural areas eligible under Objective 5 (b) were determined at inter-departmental level on the basis of criteria and procedures decided upon by the Council.

As part of the mid-term review of the reform of the structural Funds, which must serve as the basis for a reflection on the future of the Funds after 1993, the Commission intends in particular to concentrate further on the definition of eligibility criteria for Community funding.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2899/91

by Mr Ian White (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(5 December 1991)

(92/C 162/69)

Subject: Application of EC competition rules to small breweries

In the Commission's press release on the EEC beer review dated 14 June 1990 (IP(19)472) it was reported that Sir Leon Brittan had reached the conclusion that it was sufficient for the restrictions on tying under EEC law to be confined to larger breweries. The release suggested that agreements concluded between a reseller and a brewer with an insignificant market share would not normally restrict competition or effect trade to an appreciable extent and would not therefore fall under Article 85 (1).

Having regard to the judgment of the European Court of Justice in *De Limitis v. Hennenger Brau*, will the

Commission indicate the level at which this 'de minimis' principle should apply and also the progress which it has made in preparing a notice dealing with the subject of small breweries to which it referred in the press release?

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

(7 February 1992)

Sir Leon Brittan's conclusion⁽¹⁾, that exclusive beer supply agreements entered into by small brewers could not be considered to fall under Article 85 (1) of the EEC Treaty, has been confirmed by the judgment of the Court of Justice in case C 234/89 'Delimitis/Henninger Bräu', of 28 February 1991.

On that basis, the Commission is currently preparing a notice which is to be published in the Official Journal. This notice will specify the conditions under which exclusive beer supply contracts of small breweries would come under the 'de minimis' rule and therefore be outside the scope of Article 85 (1).

A draft notice has been submitted to the Member States and will be discussed with them soon. In this draft notice, the Commission concludes that an exclusive beer supply agreement, by application of the 'de minimis' rule, will not fall under Article 85 (1), if the individual brewer's:

- market share is not more than 1% of the national market for the resale of beer in on-licensed premises,
- annual production of beer is not higher than 200 000 hl, and
- tying contracts do not exceed the time-periods as set out by Regulation (EEC) No 1984/83 by more than 50%.

The interested associations have also received the draft for comments.

⁽¹⁾ Press release IP(90)472.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2901/91

by Mr James Ford (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(9 December 1991)

(92/C 162/70)

Subject: Export licences for livestock

Will the Commission make provision, in the forthcoming Directive relating to the protection of animals during transport, for export licences not to be granted to Member States where EC legislation on slaughterhouses is not fully implemented?

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

(7 February 1992)

The Council has recently adopted Directive 91/628/EEC on the protection of animals during transport⁽¹⁾, which does not contain provisions for licences to be issued for the transport of animals from one Member State to another.

The Commission will continue to take the appropriate action in respect of breaches of Community legislation on slaughterhouses, if and when details of such breaches are brought to its attention.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 340, 11. 12. 1991.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2913/91

by Mrs Astrid Lulling (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(9 December 1991)

(92/C 162/71)

Subject: Promotion of Commission officials in the A5-4 career bracket

If officials in the A5-4 career bracket have been recommended by their Director-General, this affects the ratings awarded in their staff reports. Does the Commission not consider that this leads to double standards being applied?

Do Directors-General apply objective criteria in recommending officials for promotion within the A5-4 career bracket?

Is the Commission able, where necessary, to verify the objectivity of the criteria used? If not, the Court of First Instance of the European Community is, unfortunately, the only channel through which an official can ascertain, and obtain redress for any abuse of authority which may have occurred.

What steps will the Commission take to remedy this situation and compensate any officials who have suffered from abuse of authority?

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

(18 February 1992)

Staff reports are drawn up every two years for all established officials of the Commission. The promotion committees as a matter of course consider the cases of all officials, whether recommended or not, who are eligible for promotion.

Promotion recommendations are drawn up on the basis firstly of the comparative merits of staff eligible for promotion and in the light of objective criteria such as length of service in a grade, category or department and age. These objective criteria are set out in lists distributed to the departments prior to every promotions exercise.

Before promotion recommendations are issued by the Director-General, they have to be discussed with representatives of the Staff Committee. Any official concerned then has three weeks from the publication of the promotion recommendations in which to lodge an appeal with the Chairman of the Promotions Committee. In the case of category A, appeals are examined by a special joint committee, which reports to the Promotions Committee meeting in plenary session.

Furthermore, the official has administrative redress under Article 90 of the Staff Regulations. Should his complaint be rejected, the official concerned finally has the right to lodge an appeal with the Court of First Instance of the European Communities.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2935/91

by Mr Herman Verbeek (V)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(9 December 1991)

(92/C 162/72)

Subject: Recycled paper in the European Communities

1. I was pleasantly surprised to receive the Dutch version of document PE 156 809 (Bulletin Written Questions 19/C-91) on recycled paper. Could the Commission consider using recycled for documents circulated in and by the various EC institutions as standard procedure?

2. Will the Commission take steps to introduce recycled envelopes with the names of the various institutions printed on them together with, or instead of, the existing white and yellow envelopes?

3. The Dutch environmental body 'De Kleine Aarde', issues blank address labels which can be stuck onto serviceable envelopes, enabling them to be used several times. If such a scheme were introduced on a larger scale at Community level it would save enormous quantities of envelopes each year. Will the Commission consider the possibility of introducing such a measure?

4. Does the Commission not consider that, if the EC institutions, which are among the largest consumers of paper within the Community, switched to recycled paper this would set an extremely good example, encouraging large numbers of individuals and undertakings to follow suit?

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

(28 February 1992)

The Commission can speak only for its own departments

1. The current rule is that recycled paper has to be used for any document for internal use. Thus the Staff Courier, telephone directories, administrative notices, the SCAD documentation bulletin, some of the publications issued by DG X (Audiovisual Media, Information, Communication and Culture), the weekly press review and the Staff Regulations are already printed on recycled paper.

Since recycled paper is often considered to be unattractive and of poor quality, the Commission's departments are continually reminding staff of the rule; they are now drawing up a stricter internal recommendation based on the experiences of national civil services.

Photocopying, which consumes more than 700 tonnes of paper a year, is where there is greatest scope for using the recycled variety. New types of 'ecological' paper are now appearing on the market and one can only hope that all the technical, psychological and economic arguments against using recycled paper for photocopying will soon be quite unjustified.

2. While the Commission uses about 100 tonnes of envelopes a year, 85 tonnes are already made from recycled paper (large brown Kraft envelopes). When the contracts are next renewed, the Commission intends to use recycled paper for the 15 tonnes of ordinary envelopes it uses as well (with or without the Commission's name printed on them).
3. Yes, the Commission is willing to consider this possibility. It should be said though that it already uses multi-purpose envelopes made from recycled paper for its internal mail (3,3 tonnes a year) and which can be addressed up to 11 times. Assuming each envelope is actually used 11 times, this represents a saving of 33 tonnes (10 × 3,3) of paper. Most people in the Commission automatically reuse envelopes anyway unless prevented by labelling machines.
4. The Green Paper on the ecological aspect of the Commission's activities recommends increasing the proportion of recycled paper used from its current level of 10 to 30% by 1993 for printing paper. If this objective could be achieved, it would certainly qualify as setting the kind of example recommended by the Honourable Member.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2944/91

by Mr Arturo Escuder Croft (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(9 December 1991)

(92/C 162/73)

Subject: ESF investment in the Canaries

In November 1990, the Commission approved ESF-funded projects to combat youth unemployment in the Canaries to a value of Ptas 2 708,5 million.

How many jobs has this programme created?

What were the figures for registered unemployment in the Canaries on 31 December 1990?

What is the corresponding figure for 30 June 1991.

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

(11 March 1992)

As pointed out by the Honourable Member, the Commission did, indeed, approve an operational programme for the Canary Islands entailing ECU 20,8 million in ESF aid to combat youth unemployment for the years 1990 to 1993 (inclusive).

Under the programme, ECU 11,4 million in recruitment aid was earmarked for the direct creation of 4 157 jobs for the period 1990—93 (872 jobs in 1990). The remaining ECU 9,4 million for the period 1990—93 was allocated to young people's vocational training schemes.

The balance sheet for the year 1990 shows that 770 jobs were directly created by means of recruitment aid and that 1 806 young people completed vocational training courses in the same year.

In the same year 1990, 495 young people were also trained with ESF aid under the 'Upgrading of human resources' operational programme.

As regards the figures requested by the Honourable Member, the available Community statistics will be sent to him direct as well as to Parliament's Secretariat.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2984/91

by Mr Luciano Vecchi (GUE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(13 January 1992)

(92/C 162/74)

Subject: Problems affecting the implementation of the 'Youth for Europe' programme in Italy

On the eve of the entry into force of the second stage of the 'Youth for Europe' programme the management of the programme in Italy is still totally disastrous, inefficient and paradoxical and causes serious problems for youth organizations and youth workers, making it impossible to achieve the aims of the programme.

Can the Commission say:

1. what it thinks of the programme's management in Italy?
2. what measures it will propose and implement in order to guarantee that, despite the inefficiency and slowness of Italian public administration, the programme is properly carried out and its objectives achieved in Italy too?

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

(11 March 1992)

The Commission is aware of the difficulties the Italian national agency has had in implementing the first stage of the 'Youth for Europe' programme and has tried to overcome the most serious of these difficulties, in particular by managing centrally certain measures under the programme.

However, the relevant Italian authorities have just confirmed that, in line with the Commission's advice, they have taken all the requisite steps to ensure proper implementation of the 'Youth in Europe' programme in Italy as soon as the second stage is launched.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2985/91

by Mr Joan Colom I Naval (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(13 January 1992)

(92/C 162/75)

Subject: Transfers of appropriations to Community initiatives

At its meeting of 6/7 November 1991 the European Parliament's Committee on Budgetary Control, in

accordance with the Rules of Procedure, approved proposal for transfer of appropriations No 20/E/91 on the rapporteur's recommendation and on the basis of information supplied by the Commission. At my request the Commission stated that following the approval of the transfer, Community initiatives would account for 16% instead of 9% of the total of budget appropriations for 1991 in category 2 of the Financial Perspective.

Can the Commission confirm these figures?

Can the Commission give precise figures showing the effect of this transfer on the sums to be committed in 1991 for Objective 1 regions?

How does the Commission intend to achieve the doubling of funding for Objective 1 regions in 1992?

Does the Commission intend to recover, in 1992, the sums which were budgeted for Objective 1 regions in 1990 but were not used up, as well as those which are now being transferred to other Objectives?

Can the Commission indicate how the available funding will be distributed among the various Objectives under the heading of Community initiatives?

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

(27 February 1992)

In the 'Notenboom' transfer (No 20/E/91), the Commission did indeed propose to the budgetary authority that ECU 935 million be transferred from Item B2—1200 'ERDF-CSF-Objective No 1' to Article B2—142 'ERDF-Community initiative programmes, transitional measures and innovation schemes'.

The budgetary authority adopted the proposal but reduced the amount from ECU 935 million to ECU 735 million.

On that basis, the Commission's replies to the Honourable Member's five questions are set out below.

The Commission can confirm that, in the 1991 budget, Chapter B2—14 'Community initiative programmes, transitional measures and innovation schemes' accounted for 9,4% of the total structural fund budget. However, it should be pointed out that this figure was calculated as a percentage of the total appropriations for the Funds and not of the total appropriations under heading 2. The transfer proposal presented by the Commission would have increased this percentage to 16,3%; the final decision increased it to 14,9%.

Taking into account the budgetary authority's adjustment to the transfer, the Commission estimates the impact of the transfer on the distribution of appropriations for Objective 1 regions to be of the order of ECU 100 million. In this connection, the Honourable Member is informed that ECU 100 million was restored to Item B2—1200 by internal transfer in December.

Appropriations totalling ECU 4 084 million at 1988 prices are estimated to have been diverted to Objective 1 regions in 1987; doubling them in 1992 would therefore require ECU 8 168 million, or rather, ECU 9 937 million at current prices. Like the 1991 budget, the 1992 budget does not break down total appropriations by objective; however, the CSF for Objective 1 has been allocated ECU 9 288 million and Community initiative programmes have been allocated ECU 1 880 million, some of which will go to Objective 1 regions. If the breakdown by objective for these programmes is the same as for the CSF, a total of around ECU 10 500 million will be devoted to Objective 1 regions, which is well above what is required to meet the doubling target.

One outcome of the reform of the structural Funds was to introduce the programming of intervention in the form of multiannual CSFs and indicative annual schedules. Whatever changes have to be made to these schedules because of the conditions of execution — and they may well entail transfers between Funds to optimize use of the appropriations — the Commission can confirm that the commitments it has made to the various types of region will be respected and that the calculation of annual appropriations takes due account of this.

Since the implementation of Community initiative programmes is gradual and depends on the preparation and progress in Member States of the various measures involved, the Commission is not able to say at present how programme funds will be allocated among the various Objectives (Chapters B2—14, 15, 16 and 7).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2986/91**by Mr José Valverde López (PPE)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(13 January 1992)**(92/C 162/76)*

Subject: The Spanish Government's failure to comply with Council Directive 80/836/Euratom

Failure on the part of the Member States to incorporate Community directives into national law is a reliable indicator for assessing the willingness of governments to offer effective backing for Community law and for judging the efficiency of their administrative machinery. It also jeopardizes what is the most effective way of preserving the Member States' common interests, the obligations of the industrial and social sectors and, more generally, the rights and duties of the citizens.

What reasons did the Spanish Government give for delaying the incorporation of Council Directive 80/836/Euratom ⁽¹⁾ on radiation protection? Has the Commission already issued the relevant 'reasoned opinions' concerning the letters of notice sent out in response to Spain's failure to notify it of the national implementing provisions?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 246, 17. 9. 1980, p. 1.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2987/91**by Mr José Valverde López (PPE)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(13 January 1992)**(92/C 162/77)*

Subject: The Spanish Government's failure to comply with Council Directive 84/467/Euratom

Failure on the part of the Member States to incorporate Community directives into national law is a reliable indicator for assessing the willingness of governments to offer effective backing for Community law and for judging the efficiency of their administrative machinery. It also jeopardizes what is the most effective way of preserving the Member States' common interests, the obligations of the industrial and social sectors and, more generally, the rights and duties of the citizens.

What reasons did the Spanish Government give for delaying the incorporation of Council Directive 84/467/Euratom ⁽¹⁾ on radiation protection? Has the Commission already issued the relevant 'reasoned opinions' concerning the letters of notice sent out in response to Spain's failure to notify it of the national implementing provisions?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 265, 5. 10. 1984, p. 4.

Joint answer to Written Questions Nos 2986/91 and 2987/91**given by Mr Delors
on behalf of the Commission***(4 March 1992)*

Annexes I and III and certain provisions of Council Directive 80/386/Euratom of 15 July 1980 amending the Directives laying down the basic safety standards for the health protection of the general public and workers against the dangers of ionizing radiation were amended by Directive 84/487/Euratom of 3 September 1984.

The Spanish authorities notified the Commission of national measures implementing these Directives in 1987 and 1988 respectively.

After considering the measures, the Commission initiated infringement proceedings for failure to comply with the Directives; these proceedings involved the issuing of a reasoned opinion. Meanwhile the Commission has been sent notice of a draft royal decree which solves the problems in the way the Commission suggested. According to the information available, the decree is due to come into force in the near future.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 2996/91**by Mrs Dagmar Roth-Behrendt (S)****to the Commission of the European Communities***(13 January 1992)**(92/C 162/78)*

Subject: Irrigation plans to Spain

Irrigation planned around El Payuelo, in Castilla-Leon, Spain, is included in the operational programme of common action for agricultural development in certain less-favoured areas. Has a full socio-economic study been carried out of the full potential profitability and wider economic benefits of the project, taking into account current agricultural surpluses and plans for CAP reform, the costs to farmers of adopting the new technology and farming methods, the attitudes of local farmers, etc.?

Is the Commission satisfied that this project will be of genuine long-term economic benefit to the region?

**Answer given by Mr Mac Sharry
on behalf of the Commission***(18 March 1992)*

Irrigation projects in specific regions are only undertaken once the general plans have been approved. These plans

contain a detailed analysis of the different aspects — technical (e.g. soil classification, water quality and availability), ecological and socio-economic — and of the intended production, which must be compatible with CAP requirements. These plans specify three criteria by which a planned irrigation project in a given region will be assessed: an economic criterion (cost/benefit etc.), market-ability (excluding products liable to increase the financial burden on the EAGGF Guarantee Section) and a social criterion determined by job-creation prospects.

As far as the 'El Payuelo' project is concerned, the plan drawn up by the Spanish authorities concerned has yet to be finalized. In view of the time-lag between approval of the plan and its execution, it is unlikely that the irrigation project could be financed under the common measure provisions of Regulation (EEC) No 1118/88 since these are due to lapse on 31 December 1992 ⁽¹⁾.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 107, 28. 4. 1988, p. 3.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3006/91

by Mr Gerardo Fernandez-Albor (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(13 January 1992)

(92/C 162/79)

Subject: Celebration of 'Europe Day' as part of local festivities

It has become usual for some towns and cities in Member States to devote one day of their annual local fairs and festivities to a celebration of Europe through events, exhibitions and other popular activities which help to remind citizens, through recreational and leisure activities, that they are members of a community of European countries.

It would therefore be in the interests of the European Community to propose, on a semi-official basis, that member countries recommend to their municipalities that 'Europe Day' be celebrated during their local festivities as a means of refreshing their citizens' awareness of our common cause.

Could the Commission indicate whether it considers it appropriate to develop some form of initiative in this respect and whether it has any service from which councils in the Community can request assistance, in terms of resources and material, for celebrating 'Europe Day' as part of their local festivities?

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

(5 March 1992)

The Heads of State and Government, meeting in Milan in 1985, decided that 9 May would be celebrated as 'Europe Day'.

Ever since, the Commission has been involved in organizing events on that day to promote the image and the idea of the Community among the public at large.

The Directorate-General for Audiovisual, Information, Communication and Culture (and in particular its offices in the Member States) is responsible for examining with the public and private sponsors of such events what form the Community's cooperation may take. In 1992, for example, 'Europe Day' will be marked by special celebrations at Expo-92 in Seville.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3052/91

by Mr Carles-Alfred Casòliba I Böhm (LDR)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(13 January 1992)

(92/C 162/80)

Subject: Inclusion of Catalan in the Lingua programme

In view of the resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 11 December 1990 (A3-169/90 ⁽¹⁾) calling for the inclusion of Catalan in the Lingua programme and the fact that the programme is to be reviewed in 1992, what steps will the Commission take to ensure that Catalan is included in it in July 1992?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No C 19, 28. 1. 1991, p. 42.

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

(6 March 1992)

Following the resolution adopted by Parliament on 11 December 1990 and in response to a request from the Catalan Government, President Delors sent a letter to the President of the Generalitat restating the main rules governing the use of Community languages. According to Article 217 of the Treaty and Regulation No 1 of 15 April 1958 it is for the Council to take any decision regarding the official languages of the Community, that is to say, any decision to increase the number of official languages would have to be taken unanimously by the Member States.

The question of whether to include Catalan in the Lingua programme is directly bound up with the question of the official languages, since Council Decision 89/489/EEC of 28 July 1989 establishing the Lingua programme⁽¹⁾ makes provision only for the Community's official languages and for Irish and Letzeburgesch. The official languages are those recognized in the Treaties whereas the other two are languages spoken throughout the territory of the Member States concerned.

The Commission would draw the Honourable Member's attention to the fact that it supports measures to promote the Catalan language under the budget heading introduced at Parliament's suggestion for the protection and promotion of the less widely used languages.

(¹) OJ No L 239, 16. 8. 1989.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3076/91

by Mr José Vázquez Fouz (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(13 January 1992)

(92/C 162/81)

Subject: Problems in Afghanistan

There have been recent reports in the media concerning a possible embezzlement of international funds intended for Afghan refugees. As a member of Parliament's delegation for relations with the countries of South Asia, I have been able to observe for myself the horrendous living conditions of Afghan refugees in north-eastern Pakistan. Is the Commission aware of this possible embezzlement of funds?

If it is established that the embezzlement actually occurred, what does the Commission intend to do to rectify matters?

Does such an embezzlement affect one or several of the Member States of the Community or the Commission itself?

Is the Commission aware of the precarious conditions in which the refugees in question live?

Has the Commission any intention of promoting programmes for the resettlement of the refugees in Afghanistan?

Has the Commission also any intention of setting up and financing cooperation programmes with the government currently in power in Kabul?

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

(10 March 1992)

A recent internal audit of UNOCA (the United Nations Humanitarian and Economic Assistance Programme

relating to Afghanistan) showed evidence that some external assistance furnished by a Member State (France) which was initially foreseen for UNHCR, had been registered by mistake on UNOCA's books. Suggestion that UNOCA was subject to bad management and misuse of funds have appeared subsequently in the press.

Given the fact that Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the former Coordinator of the UNOCA, was one of the candidates for the post of UN Secretary General, it seemed to some observers more than coincidental that these press stories emerged only a week before the election took place. An inquest was therefore ordered by Mr Perez de Cuellar, to find out why this internal report was published, and at the same time to undertake further investigations into UNOCA's accounts. The Commission has so far not received information on the conclusions of this second report.

In the meantime, external donors organized a meeting to clarify their contributions to the 1992 UNOCA programme, which was constrained by a serious lack of resources. Most of the participants, and more specifically South Korea, Finland and Switzerland, confirmed their financial commitments. The Twelve then met again separately and also stated that they would continue to support UNOCA.

As regards the Community assistance to the Afghan refugees, the EC may in fact provide the most significant and prolonged external effort, both in terms of financial involvement (about ECU 30 million annually in the last three years), and in the variety of the instruments deployed: food aid in the refugee camps, through UNHCR and WFP, as well as for the unregistered refugees, through NGOs; prepositioned stocks of wheat to facilitate repatriation; support to the education, health and income generating programmes of UNHCR; projects entrusted to NGOs in a number of fields (health, education, training, income generation) in Pakistan, and also within Afghanistan (health, rural development, in addition to the mine awareness programme initiated by UNOCA) in order to speed up the reconstruction and resettlement process.

On a few occasions, the Commission was also able to provide relief assistance to the populations controlled by the Kabul Government (e.g. food aid via Licross). There are, however, limitations in developing this kind of cooperation:

- the Kabul regime is not recognized by a number of Member States;
- new initiatives, especially long-term programmes, would have to be carefully tested, so as to avoid negative effects (including insecurity) on the other ongoing or future projects launched in favour of the refugees in Pakistan, or in the areas controlled by the Mujahiddin inside Afghanistan; working under the umbrella of the UN system would be a possibility;
- the assessment of the needs and the monitoring of the project activities in this part of the country are

difficult, because *inter alia* only the cities seem so far to be really under the control of the Kabul Government.

Given on the one hand, the withdrawal of Soviet aid, and on the other, the better prospects for a peace settlement in Afghanistan, the Commission and its partners in implementing EC sponsored programmes, are presently exploring further the possibilities for supporting those areas of the country in need but insufficiently covered until now.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3078/91

by Mrs Raymonde Dury (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(13 January 1992)

(92/C 162/82)

Subject: Application of Article 122 (2)

Under Article 122 (2) of the EEC Treaty, the European Parliament may invite the Commission to draw up reports on any particular problems concerning social conditions. How many times since 1984 has this right been exercised, and what have been the topics concerned?

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

(6 March 1992)

The Commission has not been asked by Parliament under Article 122 (2) to produce any reports on particular problems concerning social conditions.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3080/91

by Mr Jesús Cabezón Alonso (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(13 January 1992)

(92/C 162/83)

Subject: Social policy and the agreement with the EFTA countries

In view of the new agreement with the EFTA countries, what in future will be the legal framework for the development of Community social policy in those countries? In what way is Community social law to be made binding on the EFTA countries?

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

(9 March 1992)

It is envisaged that, under the EEA Agreement, the relevant Community acquis in the fields of health and safety at work, labour law and equal treatment for men and women, as it has been jointly identified during the negotiations, will become binding upon the EFTA countries, and be, or be made, part of their internal legal order.

The decision making procedures envisaged for the EEA would allow the annexes containing the relevant acquis to be amended as appropriate by decision of the EEA Joint Committee, to take account of the future evolution of Community acquis in these fields.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3102/91

by Mrs Anita Pollack (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1992)

(92/C 162/84)

Subject: VAT on home care services

Is the Commission aware that some countries, e.g. Italy, exempt community care services from VAT yet in the UK these services are subject to VAT, which imposes a severe burden on carers? Are there any plans to harmonize this to the best (i.e. lowest) level?

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

(5 March 1992)

Under Article 13 of the Sixth VAT Directive⁽¹⁾, the supply of services and of goods closely linked to welfare and social security work, including those supplied by old peoples' homes, by bodies governed by public law or by other organizations recognized as charitable by the Member State concerned, is exempt from VAT. The same Article specifies that Member States should lay down conditions for the purpose of ensuring the correct and straightforward application of such exemptions and of preventing possible evasion, avoidance or abuse.

The definition and recognition of charities in national legislation can differ from one Member State to another, as may, therefore, the way in which charities are treated for tax purposes.

⁽¹⁾ Council Directive 77/388/EEC of 17 May 1977 (OJ No L 145, 13. 6. 1977).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3113/91

by Mr José Valverde López (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1992)

(92/C 162/85)

Subject: Failure by the Spanish Government to implement Council Directive 89/369/EEC

Failure to incorporate Community directives into national law is a continuing reflection on a government's willingness to uphold Community law effectively and on the efficiency of its administration. Other issues at stake are the effectiveness with which the Community patrimony is secured, the obligations of economic and social operators and, more generally, citizens' rights and duties.

What reasons have been given by the Spanish Government for its delay in implementing Council Directive 89/369/EEC (1) on the prevention of air pollution from new municipal waste incineration plants?

Have the Commission's 'letters of formal notice' been accompanied by 'reasoned opinions' for failure to notify it of national measures implementing the directive?

(1) OJ No L 163, 14. 6. 1989, p. 32.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3116/91

by Mr José Valverde López (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1992)

(92/C 162/86)

Subject: Failure by the Spanish Government to implement Council Directive 89/429/EEC

Failure to incorporate Community directives into national law is a continuing reflection on a government's willingness to uphold Community law effectively and on the efficiency of its administration. Other issues at stake are the effectiveness with which the Community patrimony is secured, the obligations of economic and social operators and, more generally, citizens' rights and duties.

What reasons have been given by the Spanish Government for its delay in implementing Council Directive 89/429/EEC (1) on the reduction of air pollution from existing waste incineration plants?

Have the Commission's 'letters of formal notice' been accompanied by 'reasoned opinions' for failure to notify it of national measures implementing the directive?

(1) OJ No L 203, 15. 7. 1989, p. 50.

Joint answer to Written Questions Nos 3113/91 and 3116/91

given by Mr Delors

on behalf of the Commission

(4 March 1992)

Until now, the Spanish Government has not communicated to the Commission any national legislation to implement:

- Council Directive 89/369/EEC of 8 June 1989 on the prevention of air pollution from new municipal waste incineration plants. As stated in Article 12 (1) of the Directive, Member States had to enact implementing legislation by 1 December 1990;
- Council Directive 89/429/EEC of 21 June 1989 on the reduction of air pollution from existing municipal waste-incineration plants. As stated in Article 10 (1) of the Directive, Member States had to enact implementing legislation by 1 December 1990.

The Commission started two infringement procedures against Spain for the lack of transposition of Directives 89/369/EEC and 89/429/EEC into Spanish law. The answer of the Spanish authorities to the letter of formal notice from the Commission indicated that, due to the multiple administrations involved in this process, the new legislations were still being reviewed before their final approval. In view of the fact that no implementing Spanish legislation has yet been communicated, the Commission decided to continue these infringement procedures under Article 169 of the EEC Treaty.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3122/91

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1992)

(92/C 162/87)

Subject: Protection of domestic animals

A few years ago a convention was drawn up by experts from member countries of the Council of Europe providing for the protection of domestic animals, with a view to harmonizing the laws of the member countries and achieving closer links between them. What steps will the Commission take to encourage the Community Member States to ratify the convention?

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

(5 March 1992)

The European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals was opened for signature by the Member States of the Council of Europe on 13 November 1987. All Member States of the Community are Member States of the Council of Europe. The Convention does not contain a provision allowing the European Community to become a contracting party.

The involvement of the Commission in the health and welfare of pet animals is confined to instances where differences in national rules could affect the functioning of the internal market. In such cases, the Commission would take the necessary action depending upon the particular circumstances.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3125/91

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1992)

(92/C 162/88)

Subject: Protection of vertebrate animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes

A convention has been drawn up by experts from member countries of the Council of Europe containing common provisions for the protection of vertebrate animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes, with a view to harmonizing the laws within the member countries within a reasonable period and forging closer links between them. What view does the Commission take of this convention and does it consider that it should be ratified by all the Community Member States?

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

(11 March 1992)

In November 1986 the Council adopted Directive 86/609/EEC on the protection of animals used for experimental purposes⁽¹⁾. The Directive was based largely on the corresponding Council of Europe Convention.

It is important that this convention be signed and ratified by all the Member States, and by the Community for those areas in which it has jurisdiction. That is why in

1989 the Commission sent the Council a proposal for a Council decision on the conclusion of the convention in question on behalf of the Community⁽²⁾.

The draft decision is still before the Council.

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 358, 18. 12. 1986.

⁽²⁾ COM(89) 302 final.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3127/91

by Mr Adrien Zeller (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1992)

(92/C 162/89)

Subject: Brussels Convention of 27 September 1968

What progress has been made in implementing the Convention of 27 September 1968 on Jurisdiction and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters.

Is it applicable:

1. to relations between the five new German Länder and the remainder of the European Community?
2. to relations between Portugal, Spain and the remainder of the Community?

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

(31 March 1992)

1. On acceding to the Federal Republic of Germany in accordance with Article 23 of the Basic Law, the five new Länder became an integral part of Germany and *ipso facto* of the European Communities without there being any need to apply the procedure provided for in Article 237 of the EEC Treaty. Accordingly, the Brussels Convention of 27 September 1968 on jurisdiction and the enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters, which was ratified by Germany on 30 October 1972, applies fully to the new Länder.

2. After Spain and Portugal joined the European Communities, the Member States concluded the San Sebastian Convention of 26 May 1989⁽¹⁾ on the accession of those two countries to the Brussels Convention. In accordance with Article 32 (1), the San Sebastian Convention was to enter into force on the first day of the third month following the date on which two signatory States, one of which must be Spain or Portugal, deposited their instruments of ratification.

The Convention thus entered into force on 1 February 1991 after ratification by the Netherlands (11 January 1990), France (17 October 1990) and Spain (22 November 1990).

In accordance with Article 32 (2), the Convention is to take effect in relation to any other signatory State on the first day of the third month following its ratification. This rule already applies to Ireland (ratification on 31 July 1991), the United Kingdom (13 September 1991), Italy (5 October 1991) and Luxembourg (7 November 1991).

The other Member States intend to ratify the Convention shortly.

(¹) OJ No L 285, 3. 10. 1989.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3134/91

by Mr Stephen Hughes (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1992)

(92/C 162/90)

Subject: Free movement of pets in the EC

Following on from the Commission's reply to Written Question No 746/91 (¹) could the Commission give some indication as to the success to date of the Community's financially aided rabies eradication scheme?

(¹) OJ No C 259, 4. 10. 1991, p. 27.

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

(11 March 1992)

The Community's financially aided rabies eradication scheme is progressing satisfactorily.

The disease has been eradicated from the Netherlands and Italy (although three infected foxes crossed the border from Slovenia in late 1991). In Belgium, the number of cases has been reduced from 842 in 1989 to 22 in 1991 (until November). In Luxembourg, the number of cases has been reduced from 64 in 1990 to 12 in 1991. The density of cases per square kilometer has fallen in the vaccinated areas of Germany and France, and by as much as 90% in the latter.

During 1992, all infected areas of the Community will be vaccinated.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3140/91

by Mrs Caroline Jackson (ED)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1992)

(92/C 162/91)

Subject: Trade in birds

What studies have been carried out to demonstrate that imports into the Community from Indonesia of species of birds cited in Annex C2 of Regulation (EEC) No 3626/82 (¹) are not detrimental to the survival of the species concerned?

(¹) OJ No L 384, 31. 12. 1982, p. 1.

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

(3 March 1992)

In view of the opinion of the CITES Committee and its Scientific Working Group that trade in wildlife from Indonesia is not in accordance with the provisions of Article IV of the Convention and of Article 10.1 (b) of Regulation (EEC) No 3626/82, all imports of specimens of species included in Annex C, part 2, have been suspended as of 24 September 1991.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3145/91

by Mr Gérard Monnier-Besombes (V)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1992)

(92/C 162/92)

Subject: Techniques for clearing undergrowth

In its reply to my Written Question No 1864/91 (¹), the Commission rightly recalled that inappropriate methods of clearing undergrowth can have disastrous effects on ecosystems in certain cases.

In view of the above, since the Commission helped to fund operation 'SCORPIO' (involving heavy equipment for clearing vegetation) in the Provence-Alps-Côte d'Azur region, can it now say whether it considers that equipment of this type is appropriate to clearing methods compatible with the preservation of the environment?

Does it have at its disposal any studies enabling it to assess the impact of this technique and is it aware of the publications of the phytosociology laboratory of the St Charles Science Faculty in Marseille, which conclude with a call for a ban on these techniques?

Finally, if the Commission backs these conclusions, what will it do to publicize its position and implement it accordingly?

(¹) OJ No C 55, 2. 3. 1992, p. 40.

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

(11 March 1992)

As the Honourable Member points out, the Commission did, at the beginning of the eighties, contribute as part of a research programme to the cost of a heavy machine for clearing undergrowth in south-eastern France for use as biomass.

The purpose was to study the feasibility of marketing the cleared undergrowth for fuel use and so reducing the overall cost of clearance.

It was found that the machine was far too cumbersome to work selectively and could cause considerable damage to standing timber. Further, the selling price of the broken undergrowth depends on the price of oil and this makes investment in this type of machinery risky, since the income from marketing the undergrowth ought to offset part of the cost of running it.

It appears that there was no follow-up to the operation and that this type of machine is unsuitable for use in the region, both in economic terms and on environmental grounds.

The Commission knows the publications the Honourable Member mentions and also various other studies on this subject. It maintains an interest in the subject and considers that the use of machines to clear the undergrowth can be a valid way of reducing costs provided that the clearance of the machines, which can vary very considerably, is compatible with the need to work selectively and avoid damaging standing timber of whatever type encountered.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3147/91

by Mrs Anita Pollack (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1992)

(92/C 162/93)

Subject: Unemployment of women in the Community

The Commission's Employment in Europe 1990 report states that the number of women out of work in the

Community rose by over 400 000 between 1985 and 1988, yet the Social Fund has ceased to prioritize women for training schemes. Why is this and when is it proposed to take the problem seriously by earmarking 50% of the Social Fund for the over 50% of the population which most needs skills training — i.e. women?

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

(9 March 1992)

The Commission recognizes the magnitude of the problem of unemployment among women and has already planned specific measures to reduce the rate of unemployment among women, particularly through the European Social Fund.

For example, the equality clause incorporated into all Community Support Frameworks (CSF) following the reform of the Structural Funds has made it possible for greater numbers of women to take part in schemes co-financed by the European Social Fund; indeed, of the total number of people who took part in schemes implemented in 1990, an average of 42,1% were women.

The worsening of unemployment among women has also prompted the Commission to emphasize the need to devise specific measures for women: one of the priority areas for action under the CSFs relating to Objectives 3 and 4 is the promotion of measures reserved for women in such fields as the vocational training and occupational reintegration of long-term unemployed women and women wishing to return to work after a long absence from the employment market and measures to promote the employment of women in occupations in which they are seriously under-represented. However, the Commission has observed that the Member States have made only very limited provision for measures in this priority area, especially in the least-developed regions where women face particular problems of a structural nature.

To demonstrate how seriously it takes women's employment difficulties and to improve the effectiveness of measures to assist women in the least-developed regions of the Community, on 18 December 1990 the Commission adopted the NOW Initiative (¹), which is designed to promote the training and employment of women through the implementation of transnational measures leading to exchange of experience between the least-developed regions and regions which have long practical experience of innovative methods in this field. Complementary measures in the area of child-care are also planned in order to enable women with children to reconcile their family and occupational duties.

By developing all these specific measures in favour of women, the Commission is taking practical action to promote their integration or reintegration into the employment market but without imposing a system of quotas which might not be acceptable to all the Member States.

(¹) OJ No C 327, 29. 12. 1990.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3157/91

by Mr Christos Papoutsis (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1992)

(92/C 162/94)

Subject: Inclusion of the Thriasion plains in the Recite programme

The Thriasion plain, including the towns of Elefsina, Aspropirgos, Mandra and Magoula, is one of the most polluted areas in Europe. This has major implications for public health not only in the Thriasion plain but in the entire plain of Attica. To what extent does the Commission intend to include the Thriasion plain in the various Community environmental protection programmes and, in particular, the Recite programme?

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

(27 March 1992)

The Commission has completed the evaluation of the 229 proposals received under the Recite programme. Each proposal was scrutinized with the help of an independent committee of experts so that the final selection would be transparent and objective.

Unfortunately, the project to which the Honourable Member refers is not one of those adopted for financing. The resources for this programme, limited in comparison with the number of proposals received, explain why only 21 projects, about 10% of the total, have in the end been selected.

However, this project is included in a list of proposals for which a follow-up will be proposed this year under the more limited exchange of experience programme (heading B2-6001 in the Community budget).

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3159/91

by Mrs Christine Oddy (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1992)

(92/C 162/95)

Subject: Pensioners' concessions

What concessions are available for pensioners in the Member State:

1. Concessions on TV licences?
2. Concessions on rail travel?
3. Concessions on coach travel?
4. Concessions on buses?
5. Concessions on telephones?
6. Concessions on electricity and other forms of heating?

What other types of pensioners' concessions exist in Member States and what progress is being made in the implementation of the Seniors Pass?

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

(6 March 1992)

The Commission does not have full information on the concessions available to pensioners in Member States. The situation is quite complex, with concessions varying not only between Member States but often from region to region and sometimes, even, from town to town.

The European over-sixties card, contained in the Commission recommendation of 10 May 1989 (¹), envisaged publication of information on pensioners' concessions in each Member State, linked to introduction of the card. Member States, however, have not yet implemented the recommendation and the Commission is in contact with the national authorities on this matter.

(¹) OJ No L 144, 27. 5. 1989.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3167/91

by Mrs Brigitte Ernst de la Graete (V)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1992)

(92/C 162/96)

Subject: Peace programme — Relations between the European Community and Palestine

A Belgian university review contains a reference to an exchange programme similar to Erasmus, known as Peace

(Palestinian European Academic Cooperation in Education).

Can the Commission provide information on the substance of this programme, the appropriations earmarked for it and the date on which it was or will be implemented?

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

(20 March 1992)

The Commission would like to state that it is well aware of the inauguration of the Peace programme, which aims at reducing the prevailing situation of academic isolation of Palestinian universities in the occupied territories. The Commission would like to point out that it was not involved in organizing Peace, nor has the Commission awarded any funds for this purpose. The Peace initiative was formulated in the framework of the Coimbra group, an association of some of Europe's oldest universities.

The initial Peace agreement was signed on 1 November 1991 in Jerusalem bringing together an initial group of 12 European universities with the six Palestinian universities in the occupied territories. This programme with a budget of ECU 200 000 is aimed at enhancing mutual academic exchange and support involving 25 students and 20 professors. It will start in September 1992.

The European universities involved in the Peace programme are the following: Barcelona, Coimbra, Grenada, Leiden, Leuven, Napoli, Namur, Pisa, Salamanca, Siena and Vitebo.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3176/91

by Mr John Cushnahan (PPE)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1992)

(92/C 162/97)

Subject: The future of the 'IRIS' network of training schemes for women

In view of the valuable role played by the 'IRIS' network of training schemes for women, is the Commission prepared to give a firm commitment regarding its future after 1992?

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

(9 March 1992)

The Commission recognizes the important role the IRIS network has been playing in disseminating information on women issues as well as in promoting innovative training

schemes for women. In particular, in areas where women are under-represented, in promoting contacts between training projects and in giving to projects a transnational dimension.

Concerning its future: it is intended to pursue this action after 1992, as one of the means of implementation of the third action programme on equal opportunities for women and men (1991 to 1995).

An evaluation of the overall operation of the network is currently in progress in order to better define the activities to be carried out in the future. The final report of this evaluation is expected to be available in April 1992. On the basis of the results of the evaluation, the network activities will be reorganized to pursue its main role: promoting the skills of women to respond to the needs of the labour market.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3182/91

by Mr Stephen Hughes (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1992)

(92/C 162/98)

Subject: CEN

Can the Commission indicate the following:

1. How many CEN technical committees are currently involved with standards developments related to the Machinery Directive and Personal Protective Equipment Directive and how many trade union representatives are members of each respective technical committee?
2. How many CEN working groups are currently involved with the Machinery Directive and Personal Protective Equipment Directive and how many trade union representatives are members of each respective working group?
3. Is the Commission satisfied that the proportion of trade union representatives reflects a 'balanced participation' of social partners in the development of CEN Harmonized Standards with the Machinery and Personal Protective Equipment Directives? If not, what is the Commission proposing to do to achieve balanced participation at the national and European level, with CEN?

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

(18 March 1992)

1. 40 Technical Committees are currently involved with standards developments related to the Machinery

Directive. The following work on the basis of a mandate: CEN TC 114, 122, 123, 143, 144, 146, 148, 149, 151, 153, 186 and 231.

The following are involved with personal protective equipment: CEN TC 79, 85, 158, 159, 160, 161 and 162.

Technical Committees are composed of representatives of national standardization bodies. These latter will assure that all interests at national level are represented. Members of national delegations can be representatives of trade unions. However, trade unions as such are not represented in Technical Committees.

2. The number of Working Groups active within these Technical Committees amount to about 200 for the Machinery Directive, out of which 60 in the mandated area, and a further 38 for the Directive on personal protective equipment.

Membership of such working groups is open to the national standardization organizations and legitimate European-based interest groups, like the European Trade Union Technical Bureau for Health and Safety (TUTB). In these delegations, membership is open and varied. The Commission is, therefore, not in a position to give a detailed reply.

3. Participation of interested parties in European standardization is a key issue in the Commission's Green Paper on the development of European standardization and in its communication on standardization in the European economy, which is a follow-up to the Green Paper. In these communications, the Commission sets out in detail how it views the issue of direct participation and what kind of measures it suggests. As regards machinery, the Commission has submitted a programming mandate, asking the European standardization organizations to secure the participation of interested parties in this discussion of standardization of strategic importance to the machinery area. On behalf of workers, the TUTB is participating.

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

(18 March 1992)

The Machinery Directive contains a provision in Article 6 according to which the Commission or a Member State, where it considers that a harmonized standard does not entirely satisfy the essential requirements, shall bring the matter before the Committee set up under Directive 83/189/EEC. This Committee must deliver an opinion without delay. Upon receipt of the Committee's opinion, the Commission informs the Member States whether or not it is necessary to withdraw these standards from the list of harmonized standards referred to in the *Official Journal of the European Communities* and from the list of national standards transposing harmonized standards published by Member States.

In addition to this formal procedure, the Commission maintains a dialogue with the European standardization organizations on ongoing standardization activities. Commission officials attend some of the technical discussions organized by the standardization organizations and for the large work programmes, independent experts are appointed by the Commission, who are responsible for ensuring that questions of interpretation of the essential requirements with which Technical Committees are faced are being dealt with in an appropriate way. In addition, the Commission has asked the European standardization organizations to develop a transparent and coherent programme for standardization in the machinery area, which should give information as to the type of standards that are being developed.

Finally, as indicated in its Green Paper on the development of European standardization and its recent communication on standardization in the European economy, the Commission advocates the participation of European-based legitimate interested parties in the standardization process. These mechanisms should contribute to achieving high-quality standards.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3183/91

by Mr Stephen Hughes (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1992)

(92/C 162/99)

Subject: CEN

Will the Commission provide details on the procedures which exist between the Commission and CEN for resolving problems when a CEN harmonized standard does not comply with the basic health and safety requirements of the Machinery Directive?

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3184/91

by Mr Stephen Hughes (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(24 January 1992)

(92/C 162/100)

Subject: CEN

Can the Commission list, for each Member State, the financial assistance specifically given to trade unionists in order to facilitate their participation in the various technical committees and working groups of CEN?

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

(4 March 1992)

The Commission is not in a position to indicate for each Member State the financial assistance given to trade unionists in order to facilitate their participation in the various technical committees and working groups of CEN. Nor does it know how much trade unions dedicate to standardization from their own budget.

The Commission gives financial assistance to the European Trade Unions Confederation in order to allow it to participate in European standardization. In addition, in its communication on standardization in the European economy, the Commission draws attention to the fact that increased participation of trade unions in standardization may require supplementary efforts at national level.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3204/91

by Mr Max Simeoni (ARC)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(28 January 1992)

(92/C 162/101)

Subject: Opening of an information centre by the European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages

In view of the 1991 increase in Community appropriations to assist the Community's smaller languages and cultures, the European Bureau in Dublin submitted to the Commission a plan for an information centre in Brussels. There is no doubt that an office of this kind would be beneficial in providing public information about Community action to assist smaller languages and cultures. It would also satisfy a unanimous request by the national and regional committees of the European Bureau in Dublin.

Premises have been made available to the European Bureau by the French community in Belgium. Serious applications have been received for the two posts necessary to run the information centre.

Against the background of this information, it seems possible that the centre might open in January 1992.

When does the Commission expect to be able to make a decision on the opening of the information centre and release the necessary appropriations (approximately ECU 200 000)? Will these appropriations come out of the Community budget for 1991?

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

(11 March 1992)

The Commission, which shares the view of the Honourable Member as to the value of promoting the exchange of experience and information in this field, granted a subsidy of ECU 231 000 for the setting up of an information system for the European Bureau for Lesser-Used Languages under the 1991 budget.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3209/91

by Mr Jean-Pierre Raffarin (LDR)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(28 January 1992)

(92/C 162/102)

Subject: Freshwater fishing

Freshwater fishing associations in France with more than 2,5 million members are faced by pollution from chemicals, heat sources and infections that attack the aquatic environment and its surroundings.

How could the Commission ask France to organize consultation with anglers' associations on Community directives and European operations stemming from the reform of the structural funds (particularly in 5b areas)?

What procedures must European anglers' associations follow in order to be heard by the Commission?

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

(13 March 1992)

The Honourable Member raises the question of the participation of freshwater fishing associations in the formulation of Community policy on fishing, rural development and the protection of the environment.

When drawing up these policies, which often respond to widely differing needs, the Commission follows very strict procedures involving all the departments concerned within the Commission and in the Member States by means of a committee process whereby users are consulted.

In the case of freshwater fishing, mainly in the fisheries and aquaculture measures in the development plans for rural areas (DPRA) under Objective 5 (b) presented by France, there are many references⁽¹⁾ which show that leading officials in anglers' associations have certainly had access to the bodies responsible for drawing up the DPRAs.

Although there is no actual official structure for consultation between the Commission and European anglers' associations it has at least been possible for them to make their views known at national level in France since many of the concerns they have expressed were included in the programmes for the development of rural areas presented to the Commission by the French authorities.

The Commission has regular contacts with the most representative European professional organizations in the sector concerned via meetings at Community level whenever this is necessary for the application of Community policies.

These contacts take place at the initiative of the Commission or of the European professional organizations.

(¹) These will be sent direct to the Honourable Member and to the Parliament secretariat.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3255/91

by Mr Sotiris Kostopoulos (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(29 January 1992)

(92/C 162/103)

Subject: Marketing of olive oil

Have the problems in marketing olive oil and the high yield expected in the European Community impelled the Commission to speed up measures to introduce private stocking? Does it intend to amend Regulation No 136/66/EEC (¹) which lays down the period of validity of intervention in order to deal with this problem more effectively?

(¹) OJ No 172, 30. 9. 1966, p. 3025/66.

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

(12 March 1992)

In January 1992, in view of developments on the olive oil market since the beginning of the 1991/92 marketing year, the Commission adopted Regulation (EEC) No 46/92, which offers producer groups and associations thereof the opportunity of concluding private storage contracts pursuant to Article 20d of Regulation No 136/66/EEC (¹).

Such contracts may be concluded only by groups or associations recognized pursuant to Commission Regulation (EEC) No 1360/78 (²).

In view of the special circumstances of Greece, Spain and Portugal, where such groups or associations have not yet been set up in sufficient number, the Council recently adopted the Commission proposal which derogates from Article 20d of Regulation No 136/66/EEC to permit such contracts to be entered into in those countries by groups and associations, within the meaning of Regulation No 136/66/EEC, which have appropriate facilities.

That measure, together with others taken in the olive oil sector since the beginning of the marketing year, particularly the substantial increase in export refunds, will help support and stabilize the sector.

Accordingly the Commission does not consider it necessary to amend the period of intervention.

(¹) OJ No 172, 30. 9. 1966.

(²) OJ No L 166, 23. 6. 1978.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 3268/91

by Mr Jesús Cabezón Alonso (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(29 January 1992)

(92/C 162/104)

Subject: Impact of the single market on the Cantabrian coast

Does the Commission have any studies analysing the beneficial and adverse effects of the single European market on the industrial sectors along the Cantabrian coast in Spain (Basque country, Cantabria and Asturias)?

Does the Commission have any information concerning the beneficial or adverse effects which the single European market is expected to have on jobs in industry along the Cantabrian coast?

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

(13 March 1992)

The Commission has undertaken a study on the socio-economic consequences of the completion of the internal market for the traditional industrial regions of the Community. One of the case-study regions examined in more detail was the Pais Vasco. The study does not provide a detailed assessment of the impact of the completion of the internal market on the development of employment, but identifies a number of handicaps (e.g. industrial structure, RTD capacity, endowment in infrastructures) which need to be tackled to enable the

region to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the single market. A summary of the main conclusions of the study is being sent directly to the Honourable Member and to the Secretariat General of the European Parliament.

At present, the Commission is carrying out a study on the development prospects of the Community's lagging regions and the consequences of the internal market. Asturias is covered by this study. The results of this study will be available by mid-1992.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 11/92

by Mr Virginio Bettini (V)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 February 1992)

(92/C 162/105)

Subject: European civil service

On 18 October 1991, the Commission sounded out its staff in what it chose to term a 'referendum' on the 'working compromise' proposed by the Netherlands Presidency of the Council. Is it true that the Commissioner responsible for personnel, Mr Cardoso e Cunha himself called upon the staff to support this compromise? Can the Commission justify its modification of the initial proposal already endorsed by Parliament on 19 April 1991, given that there appears to be no objective reason for it, apart from the obvious desire of the Netherlands Presidency to reduce the remuneration of European civil servants, using the results of this 'referendum' which it heavily influenced? Is it true that Mr Delors requested Mr Cardoso to organize this poll because the trade union organization, with which he has excellent relations, admitted that it was unable to do so itself, as it had done in the Council secretariat, since the value of such a poll would be even more dubious if it was organized by the union?

Is it true that, of the six European civil service trade union and professional organizations, four opposed this 'working compromise'? If so, why does Mr Cardoso e Cunha refer to 'an agreement between the Council and the Trade Union and Professional Organizations', as he did on 23 October 1991 when addressing Parliament? Is it true that one of the principal negotiators with the Council, who is of German nationality and belongs to a European civil service trade union organization and is behind the 'crisis levy' contained in the 1981 to 1991 method is now being considered for promotion to a post of Director-General?

Does the Commission consider that its initiatives are helping to resolve the conflict?

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

(18 March 1992)

The questions put by the Honourable Member refer to a dossier debated by the European Parliament at its part-session on 9 December 1991, on the basis of a report drawn up by Mrs Vayssade on behalf of the Committee on Legal Affairs and Citizens' Rights (Vayssade report A3-344/91), on which a resolution was adopted on 12 December 1991 setting out Parliament's position on the Commission's proposals notably on detailed rules for adjusting the remuneration of European civil servants.

Mr Cardoso e Cunha presented the Commission's position on the points raised in this written question.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 32/92

by Mrs Carole Tongue (S)

to the Commission of the European Communities

(4 February 1992)

(92/C 162/106)

Subject: Policy initiatives in the car industry

The EC Commission has a number of policy initiatives to assist the car industry. Please could you give details of all of these initiatives and the person responsible for each one in the Commission?

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

(4 March 1992)

The Commission will continue to apply all its relevant instruments to accompany the on-going modernization of the sector. A communication on the latest developments in this regard is presently under preparation.

Given the size of the sector, its economic, social and regional importance to the Community, and its connections with virtually all fields of Community policy, almost all of the Commission's services deal with issues relevant to the EC car, car components and car distribution industries on an occasional or continuous basis.

It is the aim of the Commission to integrate the legitimate interests of the sector in its policy making as much as possible.

Given the variety of points of contact between the sector and the Commission, it is not possible to indicate in advance one civil servant responsible for each and every

subject of possible interest to the industry. However, the services of the Directorate-General for the Internal Market and Industrial Affairs will continue to mediate between industry and the Commission's services, thus helping to find competent interlocutors on all aspects.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 300/92

by Mrs Raymonde Dury (S)

to the Council of the European Communities

(24 February 1992)

(92/C 162/107)

Subject: Health and safety: information to the Luxembourg Committee

Commission Decision 88/383/EEC of 24 February 1988 ⁽¹⁾ requires the Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work (known as 'the Luxembourg Committee') to be periodically informed of any national provisions concerning health and safety and any draft provisions proposed by the Member States in this field.

Has this Decision had any effect? If so, what? If not, why not, and what measures have been taken to remedy this failing?

⁽¹⁾ OJ No L 183, 14. 7. 1988, p. 34.

Answer

(21 May 1992)

It is not for the Council to comment on the implementation of a Commission Decision.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 346/92

by Mr Carlos Robles Piquer (PPE)

to the Council of the European Communities

(27 February 1992)

(92/C 162/108)

Subject: Keeping on course for HDTV: a task for the Community

A few days after Japan celebrated HiVision Day, launching eight hours a day of HDTV (high-definition television), the Council of Telecommunications Ministers appears to have rejected the Commission proposal whereby an adaptation phase was due to begin on 1 January 1992 with a view to introducing the HD-MAC

standard. The USA, for its part, which entered the race late, believes that its choice of the digital system will win, since, in the long run, it will prove itself superior to the analog systems.

HDTV will obviously remain nothing more than unmarketable technology as long as production costs are not reduced. But how long does the Council think it can continue to defend the interests of this or that European country while postponing the introduction of a Community standard?

Answer

(21 May 1992)

1. On 10 February 1992 the Council adopted unanimously and in agreement with the Commission a common position with a view to the adoption of a Council Directive on the adoption of standards for satellite broadcasting of television signals.

2. Under Article 2 (1) of that common position only the HD-MAC standard may be used in the Community for any transmission of an HDTV service that is not completely digital.

3. With a view to the Council's adoption of a common position the Commission submitted to it a proposal based on Article 100a of the Treaty on 15 July 1991. On 20 November 1991 the European Parliament delivered an opinion, to which no fewer than four Parliament committees contributed, further to which the Commission amended its proposal in accordance with Article 149 (3) of the Treaty in order to take account of the modifications proposed by the Parliament. The Council took account of the European Parliament's opinion by incorporating in its common position most of the modifications proposed by the Parliament, either literally or in substance.

4. Further to the European Parliament's approval on 11 March 1992 of the Council's common position, the latter will shortly adopt the Directive on the adoption of standards for satellite broadcasting of television signals.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 369/92

by Mr Juan Gangoiti Llaguno (PPE)

to the Council of the European Communities

(27 February 1992)

(92/C 162/109)

Subject: Customs conversion and border towns

The single market of 1993 is likely to entail the loss of 100 000 jobs in the customs sector, as well as additional

unemployment in associated occupations, resulting in unemployment levels in border towns which are likely to be among the highest in the EEC.

In view of this problem originating in Community policy and affecting the Community as a whole, is the Council willing to initiate an internal debate with a view to devising a serious, responsible and specific conversion programme aimed at creating alternative employment for those working in the customs sector in the towns concerned?

Answer

(21 May 1992)

While not holding an internal debate, the Council is following developments in the situation in the sector referred to by the Honourable Member very closely. In fact, at its meeting on 25 February 1992, the Council held an exchange of views further to a Commission communication on the adjustments to be made by customs agents as a result of the internal market. At that meeting the Commissioner responsible, Mrs Scrivener, in particular reported on a sectoral study financed by the European Social Fund, the results of which are expected in April 1992 and which should make it possible to envisage the measures likely to be taken at Community level to assist these economic operators. The main measures to be used are those of the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund and the Community initiative concerning border areas (Interreg). It is for the Commission, in partnership with the Member States and regions concerned, to take any necessary measures to deal with problems which may arise in this context, in compliance with the rules governing the Structural Funds. For its part the Council is willing to examine closely any communication or proposal which the Commission considers appropriate to send it in this sector.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 489/92

by Mr Sérgio Ribeiro (CG)

to the Council of the European Communities

(9 March 1992)

(92/C 162/110)

Subject: Protection of highly endangered species

A network of small rivers in the municipality of Ourém in the Santarem district of Portugal provide a habitat for rare and endangered species of animals and plants.

Four years ago, the natural protection along the Caxarias river was 'cleared away' in order to clean the irrigation channels, giving rise to the danger of overflow and soil erosion. Now similar measures are being taken along the Olival river, where poplars and alders are being 'cleared'

over a distance of five kilometres, thereby placing otters and lampreys in the river creeks at serious risk.

This has led to vigorous protests from environmental bodies such as Quercus, which regard this a failure to learn from past mistakes and fear that compatible measures will be taken along the Seiça river, along which similar similar clearing operations are planned, together with the removal of industrial waste and residues, resulting in the extinction, without any benefit to farmers in the process, of rare species existing in this network of waterways.

Since these associations have already exhausted all means of petition and protest in Portugal, and having regard to the Berne Convention, is it true that we can but wait for these assaults on the environment and on rare species to proceed without Community bodies being able to take any action?

Answer

(25 May 1992)

As the Honourable Member will be aware, the Council is anxious to protect the environment in general and preserve rare species, particularly those in danger, and has already adopted numerous decisions to that end, such as the LIFE Regulation, the Habitat Directive and the Decision on the Community's accession to the Berne Convention, to which the Honourable Member rightly refers.

It is, however, for the Commission to ensure that Member States comply with those decisions and it is therefore in the first instance to the Commission that comments relating to possible failures on the part of Member States to comply with those decisions should be addressed.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 562/92

by Mr Ernest Glinne (S)

to the Council of the European Communities

(19 March 1992)

(92/C 162/111)

Subject: Danger of nuclear disasters in Bulgaria

Captain Jacques-Yves Cousteau, who is currently studying the ecology of the Danube Basin, has issued a warning to a large number of official organizations and contacts following the publication of a very disturbing report by the International Atomic Energy Agency on the need for the Bulgarian Government to take immediate measures, given the deplorable state of four of the six reactors of the Koslodui nuclear power station. A vast area is threatened by a catastrophe commensurate with the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

What steps has the Commission taken to avert, if possible, the impending disaster?

Answer

(21 May 1992)

1. The Council is aware of the serious problems for nuclear safety posed by the Kozlodui nuclear power stations.

2. For this reason, following the conclusions of the European Council in Rome (14 and 15 December 1990) — and without prejudice to any bilateral aid given by the Member States, or to long-term cooperation undertaken or to be undertaken in the context of the European Agreements with the countries of Central and Eastern Europe — programmes for supplying technical assistance to those countries have been established or provided for.

3. The Council has repeatedly stressed the importance and urgency it attaches to improving nuclear safety in the nuclear power stations in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe.

It has noted, in particular, that this is a matter of priority in the context of the provision of technical assistance to those countries.

4. In accordance with the approaches outlined and the decisions taken by the Council in this respect, a major programme for the renovation of the Kozlodui nuclear power stations is under way in the context of the Phare programme of Community aid. The programme is managed by the Commission (in close collaboration with the IAEA) and also fits into the international framework of G-24 aid coordination, the purpose of which is *inter alia* to implement the conclusions of the G-7 summit in London in respect of nuclear safety. It is financed by Community funds (ECU 11,5 million for the 1991 financial year) and is directed towards improving nuclear safety in those power stations and strengthening the role of the competent Bulgarian authorities. In addition, an overall economic and technical study is under way to enable options to emerge regarding what should happen to those power stations in the future.

WRITTEN QUESTION No 617/92

by the following members: Rinaldo Bontempi (GUE),
Mauro Chiabrando (PPE) and Tullio Regge (GUE)

to the Council of the European Communities

(23 March 1992)

(92/C 162/112)

Subject: Border checks between France and Italy

A little over 300 days from the abolition of internal borders in the Community, border checks have, for some time been carried out only at random or for specific reasons at most border crossing points (for example, between France and Germany and Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg), thereby anticipating developments after 1 January 1993.

At other crossing points, however, border checks have become more numerous, painstaking and punctilious causing major traffic hold-ups and interminable queues.

This applies particularly to the border between France and Italy at Monginevro where throughout the winter months travel to the two ski resort areas has been discouraged, if not prevented, by checks resulting in long queues of traffic stretching back for several kilometres causing great inconvenience to the public.

Since such a state of affairs clearly runs counter to the legitimate expectations of the public concerning freedom of movement and to the Community's own policies, does the Council not consider that it should take steps to remedy matters?

Answer

(21 May 1992)

With due regard for the Treaties establishing the European Communities and the acts adopted pursuant thereto, it is for the Member States to define the procedures for carrying out checks at their borders.